

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Public Advisory Council

Wednesday, December 16th – 5:00-7:00

Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Claire called the meeting to order at 5:04 and welcomed the new members from Friends of River Canard and Friends of Turkey Creek. Round-table introductions followed (*see Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*). Ian added a topic to the agenda (*see 4e*). The amended agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of September 9, 2015 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

3. Overview of DRCC Mandate, Committee Structure & Purpose

Claire gave an overview of the Detroit River Area of Concern and the DRCC. Sarah described the Education and Public Involvement Work Group and Public Advisory Council, highlighting differences between the two.

Meeting record from September 9, 2015 was approved by consensus.

DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

4. EPI Update since September 9, 2015

- a) 2015/16 budget and project review – Claire reviewed the projects that have been/will be conducted within the 2015/16 fiscal year. She noted that Peche Island Day was cancelled due to a lack of volunteer boats. Claire also noted that the 2016 film screening is tentatively scheduled for February 18th and the film will be, “PROJECT: ICE.” The director/producer will attend to participate in a panel discussion following the film. Ian noted that, in addition to the Little River sign that will be installed in 2016, he would like to see signage installed in the Canard River and Turkey Creek watersheds. Claire mentioned that the Wastewater advertisement is scheduled to run from December 2015-February 2016. As requested by the EPI, she had explored other options (e.g. CBC) and decided CTV was the best option. Caroline reported that tree plantings were on track for the 2015/16 fiscal year and noted several highlights: Lil’ Reg’s 25th anniversary planting will take place in 2016; ERCA’s partnership with the public school board has resumed; a new partnership has been formed with the Windsor Essex Community Garden Collective.
- b) Set date for 2016/17 budget discussion – Claire suggested that the 2016/17 budget discussion take place in January at the Ojibway Nature Centre or Riverdance (date TBD). She noted that some ideas have already been suggested, including: another video, possibly on habitat; paying boat owners to participate in Peche Island day; a more permanent Detroit River display at the Ojibway Nature Centre; interpretive displays around Lakeview Marina; promotional material related to habitat protection, including information on Ojibway Shores. Claire encouraged others to e-mail her ideas prior to the meeting so that she can get quotes for a more accurate budget discussion.

ACTION: Claire will send out a list of potential dates for the 2016/17 budget discussion to the EPI.

There was discussion surrounding previous years’ funding and how long it has been at the current level. There was also discussion around obtaining additional grants. Claire noted that grants would have to be applied for by other organizations (e.g. Field Nats, CEA, or ERCA) that the DRCC EPI could partner with.

Steve Marks and Tom Preney suggested the Gosling Foundation could be a potential source of funding for Peche Island Day.

- c) Lil' Reg's 25th anniversary tree planting – Lil' Reg will plant 25 trees along the Ganatchio Trail next spring. Ian mentioned that Forests Ontario usually holds an event at Lakeshore Woods the first Saturday in May, but he hasn't received any information yet. If Forests Ontario is holding an event that weekend, the Lil' Reg anniversary planting could take place on April 30th. The plaque has been ordered.
ACTION: Ian will check with Paul Giroux (City of Windsor) to see if Forests Ontario has contacted him about a date for planting in spring 2016. He will also ask Paul about the possibility of having the City auger 25 holes.
- d) 2017 = Canada's 150th birthday – Ian suggested planting 150 trees to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday in 2017. Phil Roberts suggested Twin Oaks Nature Park as a potential planting site. There was interest expressed in planting 150 trees in each of the Detroit River's subwatersheds: Little River, Turkey Creek and River Canard. It was also noted that ERCA may need a new Earth Day planting site in 2017 for approximately 2000 trees.
ACTION: Sarah will add, "Canada's 150th birthday tree planting," to the next EPI agenda.
- e) U-Haul tree planting – U-Haul has purchased the former Wickes bumper plant. Ian asked the EPI if he could approach U-Haul on behalf of the DRCC to enquire about the possibility of planting trees on the property. The work group gave Ian permission.
ACTION: Ian will approach U-Haul about the possibility of planting trees on their newly purchased property (former Wickes bumper plant).

A break followed the EPI portion of the meeting and the meeting resumed at 6:15.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

5. PAC Update since September 9, 2015

- a) New government and Ojibway Shores – Tom noted that the federal Transport Minister, Marc Garneau visited Windsor this week for the opening of the Herb Gray Parkway and the Mayor of Windsor briefed him on Ojibway Shores and advocated for its protection. Marc Garneau also met with the Windsor Port Authority where it was discussed. Additionally, Public Works and Government Services Canada have approached the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club requesting data on endangered species on the property. Phil mentioned that he will be meeting with Gerry Waldron on Thursday, December 17, to discuss writing a formal report that would incorporate data collected in 2014. Mike suggested Tom Henderson write a letter suggesting that Ojibway Shores be protected as part of the bridge plaza compensation work.
Motion – That Tom Henderson write a letter to the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority, on behalf of the PAC, urging that Ojibway Shores be protected. Moved by Ian Naisbitt, Seconded by Pearl Bradd. Carried.
ACTION: Tom Henderson will write a letter to the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority suggesting that Ojibway Shores be protected as part of the compensation work they will be required to complete.
Derek offered to help write the letter.
- b) Dainty Foods Drain – Dave and Tom Henderson went out to take photos of the clear cutting that recently took place behind the Dainty Foods plant. Phil informed the group that the incident is under investigation by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and internally by the City of Windsor. One issue noted is that the drain will continue to dewater a nearby Provincially Significant Wetland. Phil informed the group that City of Windsor Public Works has plugged and removed two culverts, after being approached by Karen Cedar (Ojibway Nature Centre). The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is looking at laying charges against Dainty Foods (who ordered the work), the contractor, and the City of Windsor. Tom Preney mentioned that the disturbance may facilitate the invasion of invasive species. It was agreed that corrective action needs to be demanded. Phil explained that this is not part

of the City's Environmental Master Plan and that it was undertaken by a public entity to improve drainage on their property.

- c) Kennette property activity – Mr. Kennette has now obtained permits from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and ERCA to infill 200 feet out into the Detroit River. Phil explained that the City was approached by Mr. Kennette and Dillon Consulting regarding offsetting (compensation) work that DFO is now requiring of the project. The City agreed to entertain the idea but stated that it was going to be very discerning and wouldn't give up the opportunity to potentially infill their water lots in order to accommodate this compensation work. Phil also explained that the City doesn't have a way to assess what would be meaningful compensation and suggested that DRCC's Habitat Work Group would be better suited to do so. Mike suggested that Tom Henderson write a letter to the DFO, asking them to review their decision to allow the infill based on the dangerous precedence being set. Tom Henderson explained that he has reached out to many in the past, including Congressman John Conyers and the International Joint Commission. Steve echoed Mike's suggestion, feeling that the new ministers should be made aware of the planned project. Steve mentioned that when compensation is assessed, the volume of habitat that Mr. Kennette would be destroying should be considered, not merely area. Derek noted that there is potential damage to adjacent lands that needs to be considered as well. Depending on the materials used for the infill, nearby areas could be contaminated as well. The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change should also receive a letter. **The letter should also mention the amount of time and resources that have been dedicated to remediating the Detroit River and the extent of the damage this project could cause. The letter should be sent to Citizens Environment Alliance, Unifor, and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club for endorsement.**

ACTION: Tom Henderson will write a letter to Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and cc Environment Canada and the MOECC, asking them to revoke Mr. Kennette's permit to infill his water lot because of the dangerous precedence this project will set, which is already being realized by other water lot owners.

- d) Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority focus group – Tom Henderson, Dave, Ian, and Mike attended the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority open house where Tom volunteered to participate in a focus group. Derek informed the group that he, along with Jesse Gardner-Costa and Karen Cedar, is part of an environmental advisory group and that there are multiple focus groups.
- e) Monitoring new bridge plaza – Tom Henderson asked that this topic be deferred in the interest of time.
- f) Twin Oaks Industrial Park – Ian informed the group that the PAC was successful in its attempt to have this City-owned property designated as a park. The land was already zoned as parkland but it was not officially a park. The next step will be to name the park. Lil' Reg will meet in the New Year to discuss a name for the park. Everyone is welcome to submit suggestions.
ACTION: Claire will book a room at the Essex Civic Centre for Thursday, January 7th, for discussion of the naming of the new Twin Oaks park.
- g) Samsung Solar Farm on the Windsor Airport property – Phil noted that it was prudent to hold off on the next phase of the airport restoration project and that the solar farm construction should begin soon. A number of antennas have already been relocated and wildlife fencing will have to be erected. He noted that the new Director of Operations at the airport does not want to create more habitat on the airport property because he is afraid that it will attract wildlife, which poses a safety risk. Phil explained that once the wildlife exclusion fencing is erected, it will isolate the woodlot and mitigate the wildlife concern. After the wildlife fencing is in place, approval for the rest of the planned restoration work should be easier to obtain.

6. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting

Tom thanked everyone for attending, especially first-time attendees. The next meeting will be at the call of the Chairs. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10.

Meeting record prepared by S. Baldo and C. Sanders.

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

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| Tom Henderson | PAC Chair |
| Ian Naisbitt | EPI Co-Chair |
| Caroline Biribauer | EPI Co-Chair |

Pearl Bradd
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Adela Emery
Ken Emery
Steve Marks
Dave Munro
Andy Paul
Andy Paling
Amanda Polewski
Tom Preney
Pete Thomas
Mike Walsh

Resources:

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| Phil Roberts | City of Windsor |
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| Claire Sanders | RAP Coordinator |
| Sarah Baldo | RAP Assistant |