

## MEETING RECORD

### DRCC Public Advisory Council

### DRCC Education and Public Involvement Work Group

Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4:30-6:30  
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

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#### 1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Tom called the meeting to order at 4:39 (see Appendix 1 for meeting attendance). He welcomed and made introductions for Sarah Baldo, new RAP Assistant, and Patricia McGorman. Agenda approved by consensus.

#### 2. Approval of September 24, 2014 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

Meeting record approved by consensus.

**ACTION: Tom will remind MP Watson of his offer to approach the new Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority CEO to request a meeting.** Tom has phoned Watson's office to put in a request to meet with him and is on the list.

#### PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### 3. PAC Update since April 30, 2014

- a) Ojibway Shores (T. Henderson/P. Roberts) - Tom wrote a letter to The Windsor Star about rezoning the city-owned 30 acre property between Ojibway Shores and Black Oak Heritage Park. Tom went to see the property with Star columnist, Anne Jarvis. Jarvis contacted the City Planner, Tom Hunt, and wrote a column about the city changing the zoning of this piece of property from port industrial to natural heritage conservation. Phil clarified the issue for the PAC. The City of Windsor can only change the zoning on their property (not Ojibway Shores). The city made a land swap with the Windsor Port Authority over 20 years ago and the city now has an obligation to service Ojibway Shores for the WPA. However, both properties have since received Provincially Significant Wetland designation. While this has no bearing on federal land (Ojibway Shores), PSW considerations are being incorporated into the city plan. So, the question is, are the city's obligations to the WPA still valid? Without services, the WPA wouldn't be able to develop Ojibway Shores.

Shortly after the municipal election, Tom received a call from re-elected Windsor Councillor Hilary Payne, who had previously expressed interest in supporting the PAC's bid to protect Ojibway Shores. Payne has offered to bring the motion to rezone forward to council at the right time but doesn't think it's time to act yet. He argued that, if it's brought to council and not supported, the Windsor Port Authority may question why they should protect Ojibway Shores if the city isn't in support of protecting this adjacent property. Tom opened this up for discussion. Mike agreed and suggested that if the city rezones the property adjacent to Ojibway Shores it might force the hand of the WPA and the WPA might push back and want the city to honour its obligation.

Phil suggested we ask Hilary Payne to ask a question of city administration to the effect of: given that the City of Windsor-owned property and WPA-owned property, known locally as Ojibway Shores, are now designated as Provincially Significant Wetlands, is the city still obligated to service the WPA

property? Gord said that he didn't see any damage in having Payne bring the question to administration. Phil said we need to develop something to give Payne and other councillors explaining this situation. Phil also mentioned that, as we continue to promote protection of Ojibway Shores, the PAC might suggest to the DRCC SIC that this is important criteria for delisting the Detroit River AOC.

**ACTION: Tom Henderson and Phil Roberts will meet with Hilary Payne and Tom Hunt to discuss a question to be brought forward to administration and how best to formulate it.**

Tom mentioned that they have now clearcut the property adjacent to Ojibway Shores in preparation for the new bridge plaza. Tom e-mailed Mike Caitillo, the new bridge CEO, and offered to discuss Ojibway Shores and give him a tour but he has yet to receive a response.

Claire played Meg Roberts' YouTube video of Phil speaking on Ojibway Shores.

- b) IJC Public Forum Report (M. Walsh) - On November 12, Mike attended the IJC public meeting on Lake Erie Algae in Leamington. He gave an overview of the Lake Erie algae issues and the IJC publication *A Balanced Diet for Lake Erie: Reducing Phosphorus Loadings and Harmful Algal Blooms* (2014). Mike specified several recommendations that he felt the PAC could address.

*Recommendation #1:*

*Be it resolved that the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) endorses the recommendations of the International Joint Commission (IJC) with regard to reducing phosphorus loadings and ending harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie and urges each level of government to act quickly to implement the appropriate recommendations, in particular the adoption of new targets for maximum acceptable loadings in Lake Erie.*

Tom noted the following amendment: add 'Public Advisory Council', following 'DRCC'.

Discussion: Patricia attended the meeting. Her concern was that they didn't have any standard of measurements and she would like to see standards in place to help the recommendations be enforced. Phil said that 3m buffers are now mandatory around municipal drains in Leamington.

*Recommendation #2:*

*Be it resolved the DRCC contact the Federal Department of Environment and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment to ask immediately to "establish a monitoring system at the outlet of the Detroit River that measures critical nutrient parameters", as recommended by the International Joint Commission (IJC).*

The following amendments were noted: 'ask' should be 'act', 'Federal Department of Environment' should be 'Environment Canada', 'Ministry of the Environment' is now 'Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change'.

Discussion: Claire reminded the group that, while we recognize that the Detroit River carries phosphorus into Lake Erie, eutrophication is not an issue in the Detroit River and it is not considered an impaired BUI. Phil said that Chitra Gowda was involved with nutrient monitoring when she was at ERCA but that this is outside the reach of the DRCC and has therefore been taken on by the water quality sub-committee of WECEC.

**Mike moved recommendations, Pearl seconded (with the above amendments). Carried**  
**ACTION: Tom will send the PAC recommendations to Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change.**

- c) Other PAC news - Tom mentioned he and Claire attended several events together in October. The Institute for Journalism in the Natural Resources held an event on October 24<sup>th</sup> on Belle Isle. The Institute was meant to inform journalists from around the Great Lakes about Detroit River issues and cleanup efforts. So far, a lot of good publicity has come out of the event.

#### **DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP**

Selection of new Chair and/or Co-chairs - Claire told the group that, while Marcia hasn't officially stepped down, Claire hasn't heard from her recently as she's been on sabbatical. The group agreed that Marcia has been a tremendous resource and we want her to continue to be involved if she's still interested. Phil suggested that the Work Group select a co-chair. **Ian Naisbitt agreed to serve as EPI co-chair with Marcia Valiante.**

#### **4. EPI Project Updates**

- a. Film Screening 2014/15 - Claire reported that the film screening usually takes place in the fall but it was delayed this year as Cineplex is no longer offering their 50% discounted charitable rate. However, Lakeshore Cinema's not-for-profit rate is \$600. While it's not within the Detroit River watershed, it is a local business.

**ACTION: Sarah to book the theatre and Claire will work on getting relevant speaker(s) for the evening.**

- b. Clearwater: Detroit's River Revival Documentary - Claire explained that a documentary about the Detroit River has begun filming and the producer is looking for sponsorship. The theme of the documentary is to tell the story of the Detroit River's environmental recovery, based on Hartig's book *Burning Rivers*. While it's currently very Michigan focused, Claire suggested that we could contribute \$5000-10,000 and it would encourage them to mention the Canadian cleanup efforts in the documentary as well. Claire has sent the information to her supervisory group and the co-chairs of SIC for approval and the EPI can discuss it further at the next meeting.
- c. Wastewater Video - Claire informed the group that there have been over 47,000 views on YouTube and it was recently requested by someone from Indiana to use as a training video. Claire informed the group that, because Peche Island Day was cancelled this year, there is money left over in the budget. The city is thinking about purchasing time at Cineplex (on Walker and at the mall) to play the 30-second wastewater video for 2-3 weeks around Christmas. The cost will be ~\$4000-\$6000. The group agreed that we could contribute \$1000 towards this.
- d. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Little River Enhancement Group - Lil' Reg will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. A site has been selected for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary planting of 25 trees at the top of the Little River Corridor Park. Caroline has been working with Ian and Caroline and has chosen October 17, 2015 for the planting date. Lil' Reg will provide the money for a plaque.

- e. Other - Tom announced that Elizabeth Munn recently passed away at the age of 56. She was a member of the EPI/PAC and represented Friends of Canard River. It was agreed that, if the Friends of Canard River hold a tree planting or event in her honour, the EPI/PAC should participate.

Bill Roesel, the City of Windsor Forester, is retiring on January 9<sup>th</sup>. His retirement party is on Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30-8:30. Cost is \$20 to attend and it will be held at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**5. Steering Committee & Work Group Updates (T. Henderson/C. Sanders)**

Claire informed the group that the Steering and Implementation Committee wants to establish a more focused communications plan in preparation for delisting. It was initially proposed that the DRCC should establish a Delisting Communications Work Group but there was a lot of overlap with the EPI so Claire is going to work on a communications document, with help from communications experts.

**6. Meeting Adjournment and Next Meeting**

Tom adjourned the meeting at 6:35. Next meeting TBA.

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

# APPENDIX 1

## Attendance

Tom Henderson          PAC Chair

Caroline Biribauer (*left at 6:05*)

Gord Harding

Ian Naisbitt

Mike Walsh

Patricia McGorman

Pearl Bradd

Pete Thomas (*arrived at 5:15*)

Phil Roberts

Claire Sanders          RAP Coordinator

Sarah Baldo              RAP Assistant