

## MEETING RECORD

### DRCC Public Advisory Council

Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup> – 4:30-6:30  
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

---

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

Tom called the meeting to order at 4:31. Tom welcomed new attendee, Jane Johnston, and roundtable introductions took place (*see Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*).

Agenda approval: Moved by Ian Naisbitt, Seconded by Pearl Bradd; approved by consensus.

#### 2. Approval of March 17, 2015 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

The meeting record from March 17, 2015 was approved by consensus.

#### PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### 3. PAC Update since March 17, 2015 (T. Henderson)

- a) Request from WPA about research on Ojibway Shores - Tom received an e-mail in May from David Cree (WPA) requesting a report on the surveys that took place at Ojibway Shores in 2014. Tom forwarded the request to Jesse Gardner-Costa (ECFNC Chair), Phil, Derek and Claire. Tom followed up with Jesse and the Field Naturalists are preparing a report. David Munro noted that he would like the PAC to see the report before it is submitted.

**ACTION: Claire will ask the Field Naturalists' Club to send the Ojibway Shores 2014 Monitoring Report to the PAC before submitting it to the Windsor Port Authority.**

- b) Update: Kennette plan for property adjacent to Ojibway Shores - Tom contacted US Congressman John Conyers, John Hartig, MP Brian Masse, and the IJC about the infill project but hasn't received a helpful response. As far as Tom is aware, Mr. Kennette now has all of his permits and is close to being able to proceed with the project.

- c) Campaign to establish the Twin Oaks Little River Valley as a Windsor Park - Tom reported that Councillor Hilary Payne asked him for a tour of possible tree planting sites in his ward so Tom and Hilary went to Twin Oaks Business Park. Ian noted that part of the area was a restoration project with Environment Canada many years ago and could serve as a good demonstration site if it was designated as an official City of Windsor park. Dave showed photos of the destruction being caused by ATVs and it was suggested that bringing it into the City park system would bring attention to the property, and bylaws could be enforced.

**ACTION: Phil Roberts will formulate a question for Councillor Payne regarding designating the Twin Oaks Business Park as a City of Windsor park so Hilary can ask it at the next Council meeting.**

- d) Detroit River issues for the October federal election - Gord noted that he would like to see a small portion of the tolls generated from the new bridge dedicated to resolving Detroit River issues. Tom has talked to local MPs about this but no one has committed to anything. Tom requested that anyone with ideas for issues for candidates bring them forward at the next meeting.

- e) Little River 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree Planting - Tom noted Lil' Reg is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. To celebrate, on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 24 trees will be planted at the intersection of Ganatchio Trail and Riverside Drive. The 25<sup>th</sup> tree will be planted during a ceremony in the spring of 2016. Dave and Tom are in the process of getting the plaque made.

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

Ian noted that he is currently serving as the co-chair for the EPI Work Group with Marcia but Tom noted that Marcia is likely away for another year. Tom suggested that an acting co-chair for EPI be appointed by the Work Group and Gord and Ian agreed.

**ACTION: Add discussion of a co-chair for the EPI Work Group to the agenda for next meeting.**

#### **4. 2015/16 Project Updates**

- a) DRCC Sign along Little River facing Canadian Tire (I. Naisbitt) - As discussed during the last EPI meeting, Ian noted that he would like a sign put at the Little River site near Canadian Tire on Tecumseh Road. He suggested a 4' by 8' aluminum/ plywood sign, like the cloverleaf sign on Lauzon.

**ACTION: Claire will contact the City of Windsor to get permission for a sign along the walking trail at Little River and facilitate a draft design of the sign.**

- b) Spring Planting Update (C. Biribauer) - Caroline was unable to attend the meeting so this item was deferred until next meeting.

**ACTION: Caroline will give a 2015 spring planting update at the next EPI/PAC meeting.**

- c) New DRCC Website (C. Sanders) - Claire noted that the DRCC website has been redesigned and is currently online. She asked the group to review it and send her any comments or questions. She also noted that the DRDIS website is now being hosted and updated by GLIER, which could free that money up from the budget.

If there are any changes to the budget, Claire will present them at the next meeting. She noted that most projects haven't gotten underway yet as the MOECC just approved the outreach budget.

**ACTION: Claire will present an overview of spending at the next EPI/PAC meeting.**

- d) Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (P. Roberts) - Phil noted that the plan for Festival Plaza is currently being reviewed. The plaza is fairly big and used for concerts and events, so there is a need to block people from accessing the plaza without paying. This creates the need to re-route the trail and sidewalk. There is also a berm that is settling and other logistics that need to be addressed, including the lack of shade. Phil suggested that there might be an opportunity to showcase the Detroit River and what the DRCC is doing. ERCA has approached the City and wants to be involved in tree planting. Some of the work may be done prior to 2016. Phil suggested the group to review the plan, which is on the City of Windsor's website.

- e) Reminder: CEA Boat Tour July 11 (D. Coronado) - Derek noted that tickets are moving quickly and the tour is more than 85% sold out. There is some concern about accessibility and parking and Derek would like to see this addressed in the City of Windsor's implementation plan. There was some discussion regarding the City relocating the tour boat dock and the 3-hour time limit for parking (which makes a 4-

hour boat tour difficult).

**ACTION: Phil will talk to the City about parking in the RTB lot for the CEA Boat Tour.**

**5. Steering Committee & Work Group Updates – Pathway to Delisting (C. Sanders)**

Claire presented an updated version of the Pathway to Delisting, which is a living document updated each year before the Detroit River Evening. She noted that GLIER is doing a lot this year surrounding fish consumption advisories. The University of Michigan is conducting a mercury isotope tracking study to see if the source of mercury in fishes can be determined. The DRCC is looking for more restoration opportunities (e.g. fish habitat, coastal wetlands).

**Additional Items:**

Claire noted she met with Phil, Derek, and Karen about Peche Island Day and it will be held on either September 12<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>, depending on when the boat drivers are available. The University of Windsor has committed two boats and Claire is waiting to hear from BASF and MNRF.

Claire asked for feedback about the Detroit River Evening and noted that, so far, the feedback has been positive and everyone seemed to enjoy the wide range of speaking topics, especially the locally-based speaker. Claire noted that we saved money on the venue and speaker costs so she printed a poster displaying information from the DRCC's museum exhibit. That exhibit was removed from Windsor's Community Museum earlier this year but some of the exhibit pieces are now displayed at the Ojibway Nature Centre.

**6. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting**

Al motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:10pm, Derek seconded the motion; approved by consensus. Next meeting will be in the fall at the call of the chairs.

Meeting record prepared by S. Baldo.

# APPENDIX 1

## Attendance

Tom Henderson      PAC Chair  
Ian Naisbitt        EPI Co-Chair

Ralph Benoit  
Pearl Bradd  
Derek Coronado  
Rick Coronado  
Dave Munro  
Gord Harding  
Jane Johnston  
Al Stephens  
Pete Thomas (*arrived at 4:43*)  
Phil Roberts (*arrived at 4:45*)

Claire Sanders      RAP Coordinator  
Sarah Baldo        RAP Assistant