

## MEETING RECORD

### DRCC Public Advisory Council

Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</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 4:40. Introductions were held (see Appendix 1 for meeting attendance). Agenda was approved by consensus.

#### 2. Approval of December 3, 2014 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

**ACTION: Tom Henderson and Phil Roberts will meet with Hilary Payne and Tom Hunt to discuss a question to be brought forward to administration regarding Ojibway Shores and how best to formulate it.** Tom met with Hilary, who suggested we wait to approach administration on this issue. He suggested that if we approach too quickly, the City might not be interested and then the Port Authority would question why they should change zoning. Alternatively, if the City does support the zoning change on their property, the Port Authority might question why they need to change the zoning on their property too. Tom agreed it's a good idea to approach the City at a later date.

**ACTION: Tom will send the PAC recommendations to Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change regarding algae bloom in Lake Erie.** Tom sent the PAC recommendations to Environment Canada and MOECC. He received a response that the Ministry is doing all they can to alleviate the problem.

#### PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

#### 3. PAC Update since December 3, 2014 (T. Henderson)

- a) Kennette Property - Tom informed the group that Mr. Kennette has applied to infill 22,500 cubic metres to create a dock to accommodate freighters on his property adjacent to Ojibway Shores. Everyone Tom has spoken to agree that the proposed project is unprecedented in scale and could set a bad precedent for infilling water lots on the Detroit River. Kennette has been granted a permit from DFO, but has to wait until fish spawning has ended. It appears that there is little ERCA and WPA can do to stop this project and will likely be forced to issue permits as well. Tom e-mailed US Congressman John Conyers and US PAC Chair, Mary Bohling, to notify them of the situation. Tom noted he also e-mailed MP Brian Masse twice expressing concern but hasn't received a response. Phil suggested contacting Jared Macbeth at Walpole Island First Nation. Discussion ensued about involving the Environmental Commissioner, Dr. Spellman and The Windsor Star.

#### ACTIONS:

- **Phil will send Jared Macbeth's contact information to Tom. Tom will contact him to make sure he is aware of the issue.**
  - **Tom will contact the IJC with information regarding the Kennette property**
- b) Ojibway Shores - Tom has tried to contact the new bridge CEO, Mike Cautillo, but hasn't received a response. He noted that this year's BioBlitz will take place on July 18 and 19.

## DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

### 4. Project Updates

- a) Tree Planting at Lauzon Parkway-EC Row Cloverleaf (Lil' Reg) (P. Roberts) - Phil noted that the City of Windsor wants to minimize mowing on the EC Row Expressway therefore the Parks department is keen to support a substantial naturalization program in the Lauzon Parkway/ EC Row cloverleaf. Pearl suggested adding some flowering bushes, which Phil said was possible, though noted that we need to be cognizant of attracting wildlife. Phil noted that the City wants to include signage to identify this as a restoration project since the planting will take place at a fairly high profile intersection. He also suggested that there is a lot of potential for future projects including 2.5 acres on Banwell that are usually mowed, which won't be mowed this year. Phil noted that the City doesn't have funding for trees and needs to partner with the environmental community and would also like input from the environmental community regarding when these projects should occur. Claire suggested the DRCC might be able to help with the communications side of thing.

**ACTION: Claire will pull together a meeting with Phil Roberts, Caroline Biribauer, Paul Giroux, and the Field Naturalists' Club for the tree planting at Lauzon Parkway-EC Row Cloverleaf project**

- b) 2014/15 Project Updates & 2015/16 Budget Planning (C. Sanders) - Claire noted that the 2014/15 budget is on track. Shortly after starting with the DRCC, Claire recognized a significant need to redo the DRCC website and make it into a more easily editable Word Press site so this has project has been initiated. Once content is transferred from the old site, the new site will be sent to the committee to be reviewed. This should take place over the next couple of weeks. The 2015 Detroit River evening will take place June 17, 18, or 19.

**ACTION: Claire will let the EPI know when the new website is complete and request feedback from the Work Group.**

Claire noted that we will likely receive the same amount from Environment Canada and MOECC for our 2015/16 outreach budget and reviewed the work plan with the group. Discussion ensued regarding additional ideas for outreach projects. Caroline noted that she chatted informally with Sheila Wisdom about working with the Windsor Symphony Orchestra to put on an event that incorporates the use of our Detroit River song, though this may be more appropriate in 2016/17 as their schedule for 2015 is already set. Claire agreed that this would be an interesting project and wants to hold more events at the riverfront and, such as guided bike rides. Phil mentioned the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan (CRIP) and offered to bring the plan to the next meeting.

**ACTION: Phil will bring the Central Riverfront Implementation Plan to the next meeting for discussion.**

Claire noted that she accounted for hosting of the DRDIS website in the 2015/16 budget but it is likely that hosting will be transferred to GLIER for free. There was discussion surrounding what the money could be used for if it was no longer needed for DRDIS and Claire said she will bring it back to the committee at that point. Patricia asked if it could be used for some water quality testing around the Kennette property. Claire suggested that it probably wouldn't be appropriate as this funding is for education and outreach but she'd look into it.

There was general consensus to bring the 2015/16 budget to EC and MOECC for approval.

**MOTION: The DRCC EPI received and approve the 2015/2016 budget as presented.**

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

Claire informed the group there there was nothing to report from the SIC as they haven't met for a while since the co-chairs are on assignment in other positions. She noted that the M&R Work Group (Environment Canada) is doing another season of Snapping Turtle work so we are looking for turtle nests along tributaries and possibly the Detroit River, with a focus on Turkey Creek.

**ACTION: Claire will update Pathway to Delisting after the 2015/16 projects have been confirmed, and will present the document at the next PAC meeting and have copies available.**

Claire said she attended the US AOC workshop this past week and noted that there was a session on AOCs in Recovery. She said that she could give a presentation to the PAC on this in the future, after the GLWQA task team has released their report on AOCs in Recovery for comment.

**6. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting**

Tom thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was adjourned at 6:20. Next meeting date is TBD.

Meeting record taken by Sarah Baldo.

# APPENDIX 1

## Attendance

Tom Henderson            Public Advisory Council Chair

Caroline Biribauer

Ralph Benoit (*arrived at 4:50*)

Derek Coronado

Rick Coronado

Gord Harding

Steve Marks

Dave Munro

Patricia McGorman

Pearl Bradd

Pete Thomas (*left at 5:25*)

Phil Roberts

Claire Sanders            RAP Coordinator

Sarah Baldo                RAP Assistant