

DRAFT MEETING RECORD

DRCC Public Advisory Council

Wednesday, September 9th – 4:30-6:30
Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Tom called the meeting to order at 4:30. Tom welcomed new attendee, Amanda Polewski (*see Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*).

Agenda approval: Moved by Naresh Pal Manku, Seconded by Gord Harding; approved by consensus.

2. Approval of June 24, 2015 Meeting Record and Review of Action Items

The meeting record from June 24, 2015 was approved by consensus. Tom asked if anyone had any updates on the Kennette property. Phil informed the group that the City had been contacted by someone associated with the Kennette project regarding potential habitat compensation work but didn't have further information as to who was overseeing that work. Claire said she was under the impression that they weren't required to do compensation offsite of the project but said she'd follow-up.

ACTION: Claire will try to follow up with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and ERCA to see if Mr. Kennette was required to do compensation for the infill project on his property.

PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

3. PAC Update since June 24, 2015

- a) Twin Oaks Little River Nature Park – Tom noted that the Twin Oaks area at Little River is currently zoned as parkland but it is not yet a designated City of Windsor park. Tom said that he and Ian will present to the City's Standing Committee, highlighting the value of designating it a park. Ian gave the proposed presentation to EPI/PAC (*see Appendix 2*).

- b) Update on Phase 3, Windsor Airport YQG Habitat Restoration Project – Tom informed the group that he, Ian, Kate Arthur (ERCA), and Hilary Payne were slated to present to the Windsor Airport Board of Directors on September 29th on Phase 3 of the restoration project. Tom noted that, since there is a new Director of Operations at the airport, it was decided to rename the planting 'Phase 2b' instead of 'Phase 3', and simplify the project to a 7.5 acre tree planting to connect the two existing woodlots. Tom proposed that it would be best to push to complete the planting (machine planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasses) and perhaps a connection to the City's Environmental Master Plan could be made at a future date.

Phil noted that he felt it would be a missed opportunity to not link the two woodlots hydrologically. He provided some background on the original plan for the site, including the creation of 6-10 inch depressions, which would hydrologically connect the woodlots. Phil also noted that the Samsung solar project, which is adjacent to these woodlots, would be erecting a security fence in the near future and said that this would also double as a wildlife exclusion fence for the airport. Phil is currently writing a report that will be presented to the YQG Board that explains the reasoning behind his previous decisions (when he was the Director of Operations) for approving this type of habitat creation on airport lands. He

noted that the new YQG Director of Operations was not part of former decisions and doesn't have expertise in habitat restoration so there is an on-going concern about attracting wildlife that could be hazardous to aircraft. Claire noted that Kate Arthur has expressed to her that she is still supportive of a restoration project but wants to ensure that the current YQG Director of Operations is supportive of the process and there will be sufficient on-the-ground management from airport staff, if it's required.

Motion – That the DRCC PAC and Lil' Reg not attend the September 29th meeting, but instead request the former Director of Operations be made available to explain his report to the YQG Board. Moved by Ian Naisbitt, Seconded by Pearl Bradd.

Discussion ensued on the motion. Derek felt that it should be assumed that Phil would not be allowed to be present at that meeting. Ian suggested we postpone the project and noted that once the Samsung security fence is in place, our goal of creating additional habitat may be easier to achieve. Others agreed. Ian withdrew his motion.

Motion – Whereas the Public Advisory Council, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup and the Little River Enhancement Group understand the complications of creating habitat within the airport property, be it resolved that we postpone our request to plant trees between the middle and eastern airport woodlots in light of our understanding that future development (i.e. the Samsung Project) could potentially aid in excluding wildlife from the airport. Such postponement would afford better opportunity to develop a more detailed consideration for hazardous wildlife mitigation in this project. Moved by Ian Naisbitt, Seconded by Pearl Bradd. Passed by consensus.

Tom noted that, as a result of this motion, he sees no need to present to the YQG Board on September 29th, 2015.

- c) Meeting with WD Bridge Authority – Tom noted that he and Claire met with Heather Grondin (communications) and Jake Renaud (engineer) at the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority in August. Claire outlined for them the history of the partnership and current work plan. Tom explained some of the current PAC issues, and offered the Bridge Authority an opportunity to become more involved with the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup as the new bridge project proceeds. Claire noted that she will follow-up and keep in touch with them.
- d) Grand Marais Drain EA Amendment – Dave reported that he followed up on a notice in the Windsor Star that outlined an amendment to the Grand Marais Drain Study and Environmental Assessment at Dougall Avenue and Walker Road. Dave explained some of the changes to the project. The primary concern is that there is some PCB contaminated sediment in existing culverts. The City will be allowed to use Geotubes to contain this sediment and bury it on the same property that it is removed from. He noted that Geotubes can contain most contaminants, including PCBs. However, he is concerned that allowing the creation of another toxic waste site may be creating a slippery slope and hopes that Geotubes won't replace taking dredgeate to confined land sites just because they are less expensive. Dave noted that if anyone has any concerns, they should write to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change before September 18th and ask for a Part 2 order which would require a full Environmental Assessment. Based on his discussions with Landmark Engineering, he said that he will not be asking for a Part 2 order.

- e) Nuclear Waste near Kincardine – Tom wanted to make the PAC aware that Ontario Power Generation is planning to bury low and intermediate level nuclear waste into limestone, which has never been done before. One hundred and sixty-eight municipalities on both sides of border have raised objections and are doing a good job of making their voices heard.
- f) Questions for MPs – Tom informed the group that he will go to candidate meetings and ask two questions surrounding the protection of Ojibway Shores (as outlined on the agenda). He noted that the Conservative government has not mentioned Ojibway Shores for months. The last direct contact Tom had with Jeff Watson was in July 2014, when Tom Henderson, Tom Preney and Phil Roberts had a conference call with Jeff.

DRCC EDUCATION & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT WORK GROUP

4. Discussion of Co-chair

Ian stated that we want to keep Marcia on as a co-chair but in her absence would like someone to take her place. Ian asked Caroline to co-Chair the group with him and Caroline agreed.

5. EPI Update since June 24, 2015

- a) Planting projects update & Lil' Reg anniversary planting – Caroline informed the group the public school board has put a halt on schoolyard greening so fewer projects took place in the spring. She noted that stewardship agreements have been presented to the school board but the board doesn't know how to incorporate them into their EcoTeam program yet. ERCA can't conduct work without these agreements in place so projects are on-hold until this is resolved. This past spring, plantings were completed with schools in the Catholic board. She also reported on several other plantings that took place that were not funded by DRCC, including a tree planting within the Little River watershed (funded by Forests Ontario). Caroline noted that she had been asked by Lil' Reg and PAC members to order 24 trees which will be planted at a site just south of Riverside Drive in commemoration of Lil' Reg 25th anniversary. Phil informed Caroline that she would need to get 'Consent to Enter' documentation from the City and she needs to send proof of insurance to Phil, as the project has been approved. Discussion took place regarding the recent challenges and onerous process of getting permission to conduct stewardship activities on City of Windsor properties.
- b) Sign at Little River – Ian reported that he and Claire proposed two locations for a sign at Little River and Tecumseh Road and visited the site with Dave Nicholls, area manager of the City of Windsor (see *Appendix 3 for map*). Claire said that Dave spoke with traffic control and the location closer to Tecumseh Road was approved. The sign will be 4' by 8' and double-sided. Once the EPI has approved of the sign design, Claire noted that the next step is to go back to the City and ensure they approve of the sign design and determine who might be willing to install it. Ian suggested to capitalize 'your' on the sign. Ian would also like signs placed within the Turkey Creek and Canard River watersheds, and would like Caroline's help in picking appropriate locations. Claire noted that she had allocated \$4500 for this project but it will only cost around \$2000 so there is \$2500 to re-allocate in the budget.
ACTION: Claire will capitalize 'your' on the sign and circulate the mock-up to PAC/EPI for final comments.
- c) DRDIS / Geodatabase update – Claire reminded the group that the DRDIS is an online database, separate from the DRCC's website and is a repository for information about the Detroit River AOC. She noted

that, until recently, it was being hosted and upgraded by the University of Windsor's Centre for Smart Community Innovation, but they recently increased the cost. Earlier this year, GLIER offered to host it for free and it was a smooth transition but the content now needs updating. Claire reported that GLIER received a GLSF grant last year to develop a geodatabase. The geodatabase differs from the DRDIS in that there are geographically linked data points with associated raw data. The pilot phase of the geodatabase is currently being used to address the Restrictions on Fish Consumption BUI. Some of the information from DRDIS is being transferred to the geodatabase and could replace it in the future. Claire reported that moving the DRDIS server to GLIER frees up \$2500 in the budget that was set aside for hosting with CSCI.

- d) Peche Island Day Update – Claire reported that the event has been cancelled this year due to a lack of available boats. The Windsor Essex Canoe Club and GLIER were able to participate but BASF, the police, and MNRF were unable to participate this year. Derek suggested we may need to set aside money in the budget to cover costs of boats in future years. Claire agreed and noted that the Windsor Essex Canoe Club is looking into engaging fishing boat charters.
- e) Budget Update and discussion of reallocation of funds – Claire presented the most recent budget. Due to the change in budget for the Little River sign and the transfer of the DRDIS, the DRCC EPI has to reallocate \$5500 for this fiscal year. Claire put forth various options noting that we no longer have any water bottles or DRCC brochures so purchasing more of these items would both be good options. Pete suggested the possibility of creating a documentary about our area to educate the public. Claire agreed that this was a good idea and suggested that a documentary might be something that the DRCC should make a priority in a future budget. She noted that we've gotten a lot of mileage out of our wastewater video on YouTube (95,000+ views) but the total cost was over \$20,000. Pearl suggested increasing the budget for the film screening and moving it back to Silver City, which is a more accessible theatre for Windsorites. Derek requested that the discussion about the EPI budget be deferred.
ACTION: Claire will e-mail a list of ideas for re-allocating funds from the 2015/16 EPI budget and request feedback from EPI and PAC.
- f) Communications Work Plan – Claire reminded the group that the Steering and Implementation Committee suggested creating a communications work plan. Claire has begun developing a communications plan with the help of Susanne Tomkins from the Essex Region Conservation Foundation. The communications work plan will help to focus DRCC's messaging. All members of DRCC will be asked a series of interview questions to help inform the plan. Members will be contacted via e-mail unless they would prefer to be contacted by phone.

6. Steering Committee & Work Group Updates – Pathway to Delisting

Claire presented some of the on-going monitoring and habitat activities taking place (*see Appendix 2*) and noted that the SIC hasn't met since June.

7. Meeting Adjournment & Next Meeting

Ian moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 pm. Tom thanked everyone for attending. The next meeting will take place in December.

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

APPENDIX 1

Attendance

Tom Henderson PAC Chair
Ian Naisbitt EPI Co-Chair

Ralph Benoit (*arrived at 4:34*)
Caroline Biribauer (*arrived at 4:46*)
Pearl Bradd
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Gord Harding
Naresh Pal Manku
Dave Munro
Amanda Polewski

Pete Thomas
Mike Walsh (*arrived at 4:33; left at 6:13*)

Resources:

Phil Roberts City of Windsor

Claire Sanders RAP Coordinator
Sarah Baldo RAP Assistant