

## MEETING RECORD

### DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – 1:30pm – 4pm

The Waterfront Hotel, Ontario Room, 277 Riverside Drive West, Windsor ON

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

Jon Gee, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:53pm. (*Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1*)

#### 2) Review of Action Items; Approval of January 30, 2014 Meeting Record

##### Actions from December 5, 2013:

- Natalie and Peter to work together on drafting an Assessment for the Dredging BUI. **Pending.**
- DRDIS: Natalie will add the technical assistance and cost of \$5,000 to the 2014-2015 work plan, when it is developed DRDIS – A meeting is scheduled for this Friday with University of Windsor, Claire and Richard.  
**ACTION: Claire to report on this at the next SIC meeting.**
- Ask Ken if we can use his model to address the dredging BUI Use Ken's model to address the dredging BUI - **Pending**
- Email any suggested changes to the delisting document to Natalie between now and the New Year. Delisting document – **Complete.**
- Natalie is presenting the delisting document to the PAC on Monday and will give them the same timeline - **Complete.**

##### Actions from January 30, 2014:

- Natalie/New Coordinator will finalize the Aesthetics report and post it to the DRCC's website along with the PowerPoint presentation for a period of 30 days. Public Posting of Aesthetics Report – **Complete.**
- The SIC will conduct a thorough review of the written Aesthetics report and provide written comments/revisions to the new Coordinator. Aesthetics Report revisions received and submitted to COA for review/approval – **Complete.**
- Once all comments are compiled and addressed, the new Coordinator will submit the Aesthetics report to the COA Annex Implementation Committee Co-Chairs for review/approval of re-designation (as per BUI re-designation process; see June 2013 SIC meeting record). **John reported that a new COA is not anticipated until December, so they won't move forward on delisting any BUIs except special circumstances in the meantime**
- Natalie will finalize the Delisting Plan report and provide the final copy to the new Coordinator. Finalize Delisting Report – **Complete.**
- The new Coordinator will distribute (print and electronic) the Delisting Plan and update it regularly with each of the Work Groups – **Complete.**
- The New Coordinator will draft a Terms of Reference for a new Delisting Communications Work Group for review by the SIC. Coordinator to draft a Terms of Reference for a new Delisting Communications Work Group for review by the SIC – **ACTION: Move forward to next meeting.**

#### 3) Updates on Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) and the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA)

- a. COA - Jon Gee reported that the new COA looks similar to the old one; there are five Goal 1 AOCs but Detroit River is not one of the five. It does have a third new goal, which commits the provincial and the

federal governments to move forward with items after Areas of Concern are delisted. Tom added that PAC wrote a letter to the two respective ministers indicating the need for the revised COA to be signed promptly and received a response. They said that they are working to get the agreement signed; the PAC appreciated receiving a formal response / acknowledgement of the communication.

- b. GLWQA – Jon reported that the update, which came into effect last year, is more comprehensive with 10 annexes that cover all of the major threats to the Great Lakes. It is managed by the Great Lakes Executive Committee that meets twice a year (alternating between Canada and US) and a structure has now been established for each of the annexes. It is a more robust organization than before and it will put more focus on cleaning up the Great Lakes with more highly defined work plans. It includes the lake and its upstream connecting channel, so the Detroit River will become part of the Lake Erie LAMP. Ted added that the St Clair Detroit River Systems group focuses on the whole corridor, which will continue beyond the life of the AOC program.

#### **4) Four Agency Management Committee (FAMC) Update**

Sandra reported that the EPA, MDEQ, EC and MOE meet every three months and it is a forum to share information across AOC borders. It is also a forum for inter-agency coordination to ensure that all are making progress toward the goals. Ted added that next Tuesday there will be a call with the US, looking at the delisting criteria for AOCs. He also noted that the St. Clair River is starting to have bi-national symposiums. The St. Clair RAP is also working on their Aesthetics BUI and there may be a possibility for a Canadian Huron-Erie Corridor re-designation event.

#### **5) GL AOC Workshop Report**

Jon Gee reported that 102 people attended the conference and the theme of the workshop held in Burlington in February was advancing the re-designation of BUIs. One of the highlights was Natalie's presentation of the "Wastewater – Where Does It Go?" video.

#### **6) BUI Re-designation Process Update**

- a. Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour – Claire reported that a bi-national redesignation celebration was held on Fighting Island on May 7. The event was very successful and it attracted a lot of media attention, most of which was very positive. Jon Gee added that issues that arise with the media or public opinion are similar across AOCs. Peter Berry, from Windsor Port Authority, added that the Silver Bass season is growing every year; people are coming from far and wide to fish them here. Jon noted that they use sign boards in Toronto listing all of the fish you can catch at the waterfront and outlining what is safe to eat.
- b. Beach Closings – The report is with COA; no progress to report.
- c. Restrictions on Dredging Activities – Claire reported that no progress has been made since the last meeting but it was discussed at the DRCC's last Monitoring and Research Work Group meeting and it is the next BUI we will address. Peter Berry added that there is no need to hurry as Transport Canada's regulations relative to dredging has been stuck with a Parliamentary Sub-Committee for over 5 years. There are federal regulations relative to dredging for navigable transport and the Port Authority regulates commercial dredging within the regional boundaries of the City of Windsor. Jon noted that it is a really difficult one to deal with; originally it was an economic BUI. Peter noted that we may see a lot of dredging activity on the US side soon because of the release of Port Maintenance Tax monies. There was discussion regarding how this may affect our BUI assessment and how to track harbours targeted for work.

**ACTION: Peter will send over the text from the EPA regarding the Port Tax.**

**ACTION: Jon will add this to next the Four Agency Management agenda.**

- d. Aesthetics – Claire reported that the report was posted on the DRCC website and was advertised on the DRCC Facebook page and in the DRCC newsletter as available for public comment until July 7th.

## 7) Work Group Updates & Changes

- a. Monitoring & Research – Ted reported that Co-Chair Doug Haffner is stepping down from the committee. Ken Drouillard will join the committee, but has not accepted the co-chair position. Other items from the group:
- PCB follow-up monitoring work is taking place in Turkey Creek led by Nadine Benoit (MOE); she is going to provide an update to the work group at the next meeting. Ted will report to the SIC when the work is complete.
  - Caged mussel work has been done by Ken and the report was sent to Sandra and she distributed it.
  - Fish Consumption BUI work – GLIER has been developing a model to identify hot spots in the river that can drive fish consumption advisories. The primary contaminated sediment issues are on the US side; still trying to decide how they are dealing with this.
  - Fish Populations - Sandra reported that they contracted Joey Battaglia to report on any fish population data he could find and we are awaiting his final report. We have evidence that Lake Sturgeon is recovering; provided some insights into fish communities. We are making progress.
  - Ted reported Environment Canada was conducting some wildlife surveys this season. He noted that the colonial Herring Gull population has disappeared from the Detroit River. They were searching for rooftop gull populations but they didn't find any.
  - Fish Tumours BUI – There is a new report out showing that the Detroit River is in pretty good shape however we may need to change our indicator species since there has been trouble finding enough Brown Bullhead. Ken at GLIER is developing a model to try to determine a tolerable PAH daily intake by fish, and to determine fish exposure by looking at the sediment and water chemistry at various zones in the Detroit River. Ken will provide a report to Ted by September.
  - Bird and Animal deformities – turtle work is being done this summer; note – they couldn't find turtles – they think they are possibly nesting in backyards. (Karina backs on Turkey Creek and offered her property.) **ACTION: Sandra to put the turtle researchers in touch with Karina Richters, City of Windsor and Caroline Biribauer, ERCA.**
  - Mario noted that they are doing some work on Turkey Creek this year. Looking at the volume / the conveyance there; this has been a concern for a while. It has a large catchment area that involves areas of the City of Windsor.
- b. Habitat
- i. Sandra gave a short update on the Habitat Work Group progress (see Appendix 2). They have reviewed the list of priority habitat sites developed in 2007 and developed a priority site matrix, which ranks 25 sites on various criteria. The next step is to ground-truth it, knock on partner doors, determine funds available and interest/ feasibility. Richard added that Ranta Park is slated for development, but there are other excellent opportunities very close to Ranta that would be very valuable. Richard also noted that there are efforts ongoing at ERCA. Dan Lebedyk, Mike Nelson and Kevin Money of ERCA are all involved in this work group
  - ii. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation – 12 hectares of planting were completed in the DR watershed.

- iii. LaFarge restoration project (315m of shoreline) is complete. The Fighting island reef 1.2 acre expansion is complete and appears to be working well.
- c. Education and Public Involvement
- i. Tom Henderson reported that the EPI is planning their usual slate of popular projects including Detroit River Boat Tour, Peche Island Day, movie screening, and community cleanups and tree plantings.
  - ii. Kris Ives reported that the bookmark and Detroit River Museum Exhibit projects were very successfully implemented, engaging new partners and reaching new audiences. The bookmark project alone had a reach of upwards of 105,000 people locally.
  - iii. Tom saluted ERCA for their involvement with the Windsor Airport planting. A total of 8 acres and an additional planting with students from David Suzuki School took place this year.

## 8) Roundtable Updates

Peter Berry reported that the LaFarge project is done and will report at tonight's Annual General Meeting with representatives from LaFarge.

## 9) PAC Report

- a. Tom reported that WPA has allowed access to Ojibway Shores for an environmental inventory in 2014. Bioblitz taking place at OS on June 28<sup>th</sup> for a 24 hour period. Claire added that there will be 25 – 30 experts on hand, with additional volunteers to aid in counting the wide variety of flora and fauna. Tom noted that he has been in touch with MP Jeff Watson who is now the parliamentary assistant to the Ministry of Transport and they have been supportive.
- b. Petcoke along the river is still an ongoing issue; Mike Moroney noted that there is a public hearing on June 25<sup>th</sup> in River Rouge, Michigan.
- c. The Windsor Essex Mobility Group offered a tour of the biological features of the compensation land for the Herb Gray Parkway; the new amount is 50 hectare, which is terrific. It is close to the river and is sure to have many far-reaching benefits.

## 10) Other Items

Claire received an invitation from Point Pelee about the Blue Flag Beach international initiative and asked if this is something to consider for DRCC.

**ACTION: Jon Gee to put Claire in touch with others who are experienced with Blue Flag Beaches.**

## 11) Closing Remarks / Next Meeting Date

Jon noted that the next meeting will be planned for October 2014. We will need to bring forward any projects that we want GLSF funding for and this group should be prioritizing what work we want to see done.

12) **Adjournment** - Meeting Chair, Jon Gee, adjourned the meeting at 3:49pm.

Meeting record taken by Kris Ives and Claire Sanders.

## **Appendix 1**

### **Attendance:**

Jon Gee	Co-Chair
Mike Moroney	Co-Chair
Peter Berry	Windsor Port Authority
Ted Briggs	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Lou-Ann Cornacchio	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Rich Drouin	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Tom Henderson	Public Advisory Council
Sandra Kok	Environment Canada
Kevin Miller	Town of LaSalle
Karina Richters	City of Windsor
Mario Sonogo	City of Windsor
Richard Wyma	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Claire Sanders	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	RAP Assistant