



Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
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Meeting Record DRCC Steering & Implementation Committee

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 2:00pm to 4:00pm
Location: Teleconference

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Mike Moroney called the meeting to order at 2:00pm and introductions took place. See Appendix A for meeting attendance. There were no additions to the agenda.

Review of Action Items; Approval of Meeting Record from October 2016

The action items from October 26 were reviewed; comments can be found in Appendix B of this meeting record. The group approved the meeting record from October 26, 2016.

Update on GLWQA /GLSF / COA funding (Jon G. and Ted B.)

Jon G. provided an update on the GLWQA, and noted that there is another meeting in June in Chicago, though it will not have a specific focus on AOCs. He noted that there have not been any substantial changes to the AOC Annex under the new U.S. administration. He also noted that the new GLSF fiscal year (2017/18) work plan is being developed and seven projects are being funded in the DR AOC this year, totaling \$400,000. They are currently evaluating proposals and hope to confirm the final funding list by the end of May or early June.

Ted B. provided an update on COA funding, which supports DRCC coordination and outreach activities. That agreement is in place for another year and the new work plan is under review and approval by MOECC. The University of Windsor also receives COA funding to support water quality and submerged aquatic vegetation research in the Detroit River.

Jon G. noted that a new working group has been established between ECCC and MOECC to evaluate delisting criteria from all AOCs and identify any criteria that may be impossible to meet. We should hear results from that review soon.

Four Agency Management Committee Update

Jon G. reminded the group that this management committee is made up of the MOE, ECCC, MDEQ and US EPA and the committee is tasked with coordinating remediation efforts between both countries. The group also provides comments and support during re-designation assessment reports and reviews. Sandra K. also noted there has been discussion on how binational AOCs fit into the Lake Erie LAMPs. In October 2017, there will be a meeting with key stakeholders to address this.

Working Group and Work Plan Updates

Sandra provided an update on the Monitoring and Research Work Group upcoming work plan by giving a BUI by BUI overview of the updated Pathway to Delisting document. Highlights are provided below but additional details can be found in the original document. Claire encouraged everyone to provide

comments on the document, which was circulated prior to the meeting, and noted that she will finalize the work plan for our June SIC meeting and the Detroit River Evening.

ACTION: Claire to remind the SIC to review the new Pathway to Delisting document and provide comments to her by May 19th. After the comments are collected, Claire will work on any changes that need to be made and will share the final document with SIC at the June 21, 2017 meeting.

BUI # 1. Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption

Sandra noted that the Work Group has been working closely with GLIER to collect and analyse data for this BUI. It is very difficult to meet the delisting criteria as there is two reference locations (up and down stream). The group will discuss this at an upcoming meeting next week.

BUI #3. Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations

Sandra noted that the Work Group is reviewing the delisting criteria, as the indicator species listed have presented challenges. More discussion is needed with the Monitoring and Research Work Group on how to address the criteria moving forward but progress is being made. She noted that fish populations will likely be addressed by examining binational historical creel surveys to determine how populations have changed over time in the river. In addition, fish Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) sampling will be done the DFO to help inform the fish component of this BUI. Sampling will also take place by DFO at previous restoration areas to ensure we are moving the in 'gain' direction.

Jon G. asked about the population of Black-crowned Night Herons in the DR and their role as an indicator species. Claire noted that they were used as indicator species because they were also being used for the wildlife deformities BUI but numbers are low inside and outside the AOC. They are very secretive birds and the Marsh Monitoring Program may not be the best method to detect them; the acoustic recording units installed by CWS spring this spring may do a better job of revealing their presence.

BUI#4. Fish Tumours and Other Deformities

Sandra noted that over 30 Brown Bullhead were caught in the summer of 2016 and sent to a lab in BC for analysis. The results are expected in 2017/18 and an assessment report will follow that.

BUI#5. Bird/ Animal Deformities or Other Reproductive Problems

Tree Swallow box monitoring began in 2016 and will continue for the next few years at four locations along the Detroit River. This spring, acoustic recording units in certain locations were also installed to help locate frogs for future frog deformity studies. Snapping Turtle monitoring has taken place for the last 3 years within the Detroit River watershed; results show declines in PCB levels in their eggs.

BUI#6. Benthos

Sandra noted that Ken Drouillard has collected a large volume of data on benthos and sediment, which was shared with the St. Lawrence River Institute for analysis. Analysis showed support for re-designating this BUI and an assessment report has been drafted. The Monitoring and Research work group will be reviewing the material at the next meeting.

BUI #7. Restrictions on Dredging Activities

The re-designation report has been drafted and presented to the PAC. Claire is currently waiting for comments from the PAC (due May 19th). Claire suggested the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) be invited to

the June 2016 SIC meeting to present information gathered for their long-term sediment management plan.

BUI #13. Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations

Sandra noted that she is currently looking for someone to write the phytoplankton portion of the assessment report. Ken Drouillard has written the zooplankton portion of the report and will present it to the M&R Work Group next week.

BUI #14. Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Habitat Work Group Update

The Habitat Work Group is working on a habitat strategy that addresses the four components of the delisting criteria. Aquatic restoration priority sites have been narrowed down to 5-6 locations along the river channel. Claire mentioned that at the previous Habitat Work Group meeting in March 2017, the CCG presented to the group to discuss the opportunity to work together to use dredged material for habitat restoration.

Richard W. provided some information about two new river wetland properties that the Town of LaSalle recently acquired and noted that it could be a good opportunity for ERCA and DRCC to reengage the town to do some habitat enhancement work. Sandra noted that CWS and DFO will be surveying in the Detroit River in 2017 and wondered if we might be able to arrange some baseline biological monitoring at these locations.

ACTION: Claire to follow up with Richard and Kevin regarding the location of the recently acquired LaSalle wetlands and determine whether any baseline biological monitoring could take place in 2017.

Communications Plan Update (G. Pannunzio)

Gina presented the latest version of the DRCC Communications and Outreach Plan, which was distributed to the SIC prior to the meeting. Gina noted that a new section discussing the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement communication requirements was included as well as an update to the various outreach tools available to the DRCC. Gina opened up a discussion regarding consultation with First Nations in the Detroit River AOC and addressing this in the communications plan. Mike M. noted MOECC has a new communications specialist that can help with the communications plan, as well as a new MOECC Indigenous Affairs Advisor who will be starting soon. Claire and Gina asked the SIC to provide comments and feedback to the Communications Plan by May 19th.

Gina also noted that the DRCC has created a spreadsheet to track all outreach activities to help create a record and log of projects in the community to measure overall impact with number of people reached, trees planted etc. This will continue to be a work in progress as we will have to review older files to find previous event information.

ACTION: Gina and Claire to follow up with Mike Moroney to share the DRCC Communications Plan with the new MOECC Communications person and reach out to the new MOECC Indigenous Affairs Advisor for feedback.

ACTION: Claire to send out periodic reminders until May 19th to collect feedback and comments from the SIC on the DRCC Communications Plan.

Public Advisory Council Report

As Tom Henderson is out of the country, Claire noted that last PAC meeting was held on April 18th and the Restrictions on Dredging Assessment report was presented. She noted that Tom was hopeful there is progress being made on protecting Ojibway Shores but did not have specific information he was able to share with the PAC at that time.

Round Table Updates

None.

Other items/ Closing Remarks/ Next Meeting (June 21st, location TBD)

Claire provided an overview of upcoming DRCC events. Mike noted the next SIC meeting will be in-person SIC on June 21 2017 with lunch provided. Mike thanked everyone for calling in for this meeting and closed the meeting at 3:24pm.

ACTION: Claire to follow up with SIC and invite them to the June 21 meeting and share Detroit River Evening details.

ACTION: Rich D. to follow up with the Learn to Fish Mobile Unit and inquire about their availability to help with the Detroit River Family Fishing Day on July 8 2017.

Appendix A. Attendance

Jon Gee	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Sandra Kok	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Ted Briggs	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Rich Drouin	Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources
Mike Moroney	Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources
Richard Wyma	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Karina Richters	City of Windsor
Neil Finnerty	Brighton Beach Power
Claire Sanders	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

Meeting Record taken by Gina Pannunzio

Appendix B. Action Items and Comments from October 26, 2016 SIC Meeting Record

ACTION ITEM: Identify one or two BUIs (e.g. Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption) and develop the BUI specific outreach and engagement strategy for them, as a test pilot.

In progress: Claire and Gina are developing messaging and engagement tools for the 'fish' (consumption, populations) and benthos BUIs for July family fishing event.

ACTION ITEM: Gina to share the Draft Communications plan with the Steering and Implementation Committee and request feedback within one-month via e-mail. The Communications plan should be finalized before the New Year.

Not complete. Further discussion required around First Nations consultation. See agenda item.

ACTION ITEM: Given that open water disposal will never be an option for dredgate disposal, the decision was made to proceed with finalizing the draft BUI Assessment Report and to initiate the process for its redesignation to Not Impaired.

In progress: Claire and Gina presenting report to PAC on April 18th.

ACTION ITEM: Jon G. would like Claire to include an Appendix at the back of the final Dredging Re-designation Report to summarize the process of review, where the consultation was posted, who responded, what the comments were, how they were addressed, who signed off on any new changes or additions and what final changes were made after public consultation.

ACTION ITEM: ECCC (S. Kok) will contract work to GLIER to write up the Zooplankton BUI Assessment
Complete.

ACTION ITEM: Sandra and Gina will set up meeting with the P/NPS Work Group to determine priorities for the WG.

Not complete.

ACTION ITEM: Gina to follow up with Karina Richters at the City of Windsor and inquire about opportunity for outreach display at City Hall

In progress. Once Ojibway display is completed, Claire and Gina will discuss adding this project to EPI work plan.

ACTION ITEM: Gina and Sandra to form a small group comprised of members from the City of Windsor, ERCA, and Windsor Port Authority to identify potential private sector organizations/companies/individuals that could be approached to support shoreline and habitat restoration projects in the Detroit River.

In progress. As a step towards completing the Habitat Plan for June, Claire is using the 2012 Detroit River Shoreline Assessment study and is overlaying parcel ownership to determine opportunities for shoreline projects. Once this is complete, she will convene a meeting with the above-mentioned agencies to reach out to property owners.