

**1. Introductions, Approval of Agenda**

Mike Parker, meeting Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:30pm. He welcomed all in attendance and roundtable introductions were held. The January 25, 2011 Agenda was accepted by consensus with the revision to add 'Maternity Leave Replacement' under the RAP Governance portion of Roundtable Updates. (*Meeting attendance follows in Appendix A.*)

**2. Review Action Items, Approval of Nov. 29/10 Meeting Record:**

Mike reviewed the action items listed in the Nov. 29/10 Decisions and Actions Summary document. Natalie noted that all items were either completed or in progress. The November 29, 2010 Meeting Record was accepted by consensus.

**3. Matthew's Presentation- ERCA's Habitat Restoration and Rural Water Quality Programs**

Matthew provided a detailed overview of ERCA's programs including: a review of current conditions, reasons why these programs are pursued, available funding, habitat restoration, and other rural enhancements including costs and progress and monitoring. Matthew concluded his presentation with next steps for the source AOC (Detroit River watershed). The group's questions were addressed by Matthew.

**4. Monitoring and Research Work Group Presentation**

Natalie provided a presentation on behalf of the Monitoring and Research Work Group's (M&R WG) report regarding *Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour* (BUI #2). The M&R WG recommended re-designating the BUI from 'Requires further assessment' to 'Not impaired'. The presentation was a summary of the report including background, surveying methods, results, and rationale for the recommendation. The group asked questions answered by Natalie and M&R WG members, Ted Briggs and Luca Cargnelli. Natalie informed the group that the PAC would be receiving the same presentation before they make their decision on the recommendation.

**DECISION:** Members of the S&IC endorsed the Monitoring and Research Work Group's recommendation to re-designate the *Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour* (BUI #2) to 'Not impaired'.

**5. Stage 2 Update**

Luca reported that the COA Management Committee discussed the report and approved it for transmittal to the IJC in early December 2010. The report was forwarded to IJC for review on December 21, 2010. A draft copy of the report was provided to Bruce Kirschner, IJC, for an advance review. The IJC review is only for comments and not approval.

## 6. 2011-2012 Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) Support

Natalie reminded the committee that the 2011-2012 work plan was approved at the last meeting. She noted that five projects would be going forward for GLSF support (deadline February 1<sup>st</sup>). Natalie explained that before the DRCC's re-structuring, the Implementation Committee used to review the projects and provide letters of endorsement for each project, if applicable. She noted that the projects being submitted are:

- Rural Non-point source pollution reduction program – submitted by ERCA
- Detroit River-Canard River Stewardship Initiative – submitted by Essex County Stewardship Network
- Biodiversity Conservation Strategy – submitted by ERCA
- Canard River Shoreline Habitat Restoration Project – submitted by ERCA
- Detroit River Shoreline Assessment – submitted by ERCA

**DECISION:** The S&IC endorsed, by consensus, all projects to go forward for GLSF support as they assist in the implementation of the Detroit River Canadian RAP. As a result, the Committee requested that Natalie draft letters of support for each of the projects.

### **ACTIONS:**

- Natalie will write letters of support for each of the projects listed above and send to the GLSF representative on behalf of the S&IC. Copies will be attached as an appendix to this meeting record.

## 7. Detroit River Delisting and Information System (DRDIS)

Natalie reminded the Committee about the discussion regarding the DRDIS at the Nov. 29/10 meeting. She reported that Mario Sonego, City of Windsor, connected her with City staff (Mike Heynsbroek) to review the DRDIS in order to identify the skill set required to update it. Mike Heynsbroek advised that a university level computer science student would be qualified to work on this project. Natalie explained that a member had mentioned hiring the past developer on contract basis to update the DRDIS but she noted that he is expecting a child soon and may not be available. She suggested that the M&R WG discuss options for updating of the DRDIS and decide how to proceed with DRDIS (note: the M&R WG was the lead on this project when it was first developed). Natalie asked the Committee if they had any suggestions on how to secure funding resources for updating the system. Mike Parker noted that in the there are summer student opportunities with the Provincial Government (fully funded – 16 week term). Other suggestions included hiring a Co-Op student or requesting that the Acting RAP Coordinator update the system as it would also be a good opportunity to learn about the RAP. Natalie noted that once the system is updated, the RAP coordinator would be able to keep the content updated from there.

**DECISION:** The S&IC agreed that the Monitoring and Research Work Group should review the options for updating the DRDIS and decide on the most suitable choice.

**ACTION:** Natalie will relay the information about the DRDIS to the M&R WG. She will notify Mike Parker when they have made a decision (as he may or may not need to apply for funding for a summer student).

## 8. Roundtable Update

- **PAC** – Tom reported that he does not have an update on Ojibway Shores at this time. Karina reported that Phil Roberts (ECFNC) will be submitting a letter regarding Ojibway Shores to WECEC at their next

meeting to go to City Council. Tom also reported that he, Gord and Natalie attended the U.S. RAP PAC meeting on January 19 as the Canadian liaison. He added that everyone is invited to the 2011 Shiver on the River. For more information: [www.detroitriver.org](http://www.detroitriver.org)

- **RAP Governance Work Group** – Natalie reported that her 1-year maternity leave posting was posted externally. The deadline for applications is January 30<sup>th</sup>, hiring to take place shortly thereafter.
- **Loadings Work Group** – Matthew reported that he and Teri are Co-Chairs of the newly formed Work Group dealing with point and non-point source pollution. The inaugural meeting was held on November 24, 2010. They will reconvene soon to develop their Terms of Reference and a list of potential organizations to join the Work Group (e.g., industries with permits to take water or direct dischargers).
- **Habitat WG** – Natalie reported that the Habitat Work Group has not met since the last S&IC meeting.
- **Monitoring and Research WG** – The Work Group is scheduled to meet on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Natalie reminded the Committee that the WG produced the report for re-designating the *Tainting of Fish and Wildlife Flavour* BUI. Luca reported that they have plans to address several BUI over the next couple of years as research studies are coming to a close. For example, *E. coli* monitoring at two Detroit River locations is its third year of monitoring; the beach closings BUI will be up for re-assessment in 2012. Furthermore, Luca explained that a report on the *Degradation of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton* (BUI #13) will be reviewed by the M&R WG this year with more information being provided at a later date.
- **Education and Public Involvement WG** – Natalie reported that the Work Group met on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 with the PAC. The WG followed-up on work planning and provided updates on projects to date including fall tree plantings. She noted that the WG is completing 2010 project and beginning to work on 2011 events/projects.
- **Ministry of the Environment** – Ted reported that the extension for the Canada-Ontario Agreement was posted on the EBR two or three weeks ago for public comment. He noted that if the extension is accepted there will some funding available for the Detroit River RAP. This most recent extension is scheduled to last until June 2012 at which time the Governments hope the GLWQA will be revised and approved.
- **Environment Canada** – Luca reported that 2011-2012 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Great Lakes Action Plan, a 5 year plan that funds Great Lakes projects at approx. \$8 million dollars per year. He added that there is a lot more rigorous work planning going on this year and that a portion of the funding will be used for the Detroit River RAP.
- **Town of Amherstburg** – No report at this time.
- **City of Windsor** – No report at this time. Matthew asked Karina if she could comment on the progress of the Windsor Riverfront Retention Treatment Basin. She explained that construction continues and may be approximately 7 weeks behind schedule. The City has applied for an extension (because a requirement of the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund was to have the project completed by March 2011). The RTB should be completed by June 2011.
- **Town of LaSalle** – No report at this time.

- **Essex Region Conservation Authority** – Matthew reported that ERCA is preparing for a busy spring season. If anyone knows of any lands available for restoration, please contact ERCA: phone - 519-776-5209 email: [admin@erca.org](mailto:admin@erca.org) .
- **Ministry of Natural Resources** – Jennifer reported that if COA funding comes through, there will be funding available for Detroit River RAP projects such as monitoring for Detroit River Lake Sturgeon and Detroit River Stewardship initiative.

9. **Other Business** - none.

#### 10. **Closing Remarks**

The next meeting (Annual General Meeting) will be in early June in the evening to accommodate all members.

**ACTION:** The Co-Chairs will decide upon the format of the Annual General Meeting. RAP staff will plan the details and inform the group as soon as possible.

Mike Parker adjourned the meeting at 3:27 pm.

## Appendix A

### Meeting Attendance

#### Steering and Implementation Committee Members

Mike Parker	Ontario Ministry of the Environment (S&IC Co-Chair)
Tom Henderson	Public Advisory Council (Chair)
Luca Cargnelli	Environment Canada ( <i>on behalf of Jon Gee</i> )
Kevin Miller	Town of LaSalle
Antonietta Giofu	Town of Amherstburg ( <i>on behalf of Pamela Malott</i> )
Matthew Child	Essex Region Conservation Authority ( <i>on behalf of Richard Wyma</i> )
Jenn Esbjerg	Ministry of Natural Resources ( <i>on behalf of Rich Drouin by teleconference</i> )
Karina Richters	City of Windsor ( <i>on behalf of Mario Sonogo</i> )

#### Resource/Support Staff

Rajesh Bejankiwar	International Joint Commission
Ted Briggs	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Natalie Champagne	Ministry of the Environment, Communications
Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator (DRCC)
Gord Harding	Public Advisory Council (Vice Chair)
Kris Ives	Assistant (DRCC)
Dave Munro	Public Advisory Council

#### Regrets

Peter Berry	Windsor Port Authority
Paul Drca	City of Windsor
Rich Drouin	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Jon Gee	Environment Canada, S&IC Co-Chair
Giovanni Grande	Honeywell
Saad Jasim	International Joint Commission
Dr. Doug Haffner	University of Windsor – Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
Pamela Malott	Town of Amherstburg
Mario Sonogo	City of Windsor
Marcia Valiante	Education and Public Involvement Work Group
Richard Wyma	Essex Region Conservation Authority

**Appendix B**  
**Letters of Support for GLSF Applications**  
**2011-2012**

January 31, 2011

Ms. Rose Iantorno, Administrative Officer  
Environment Canada  
Strategic Integration and Partnership Branch  
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Section  
867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Detroit River Shoreline Assessment**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) Steering and Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Detroit River Shoreline Assessment (submitted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority). We are very pleased to endorse this important project as it will contribute to obtaining much needed information for the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC).

The loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to shoreline hardening in the Detroit River AOC has been identified as one of the AOC's key environmental issues. The proposed project aims at utilizing GIS and land- and water-based surveys to assess the entire reach of the Detroit River's Canadian shoreline. The survey is necessary to assess and prioritize locations for shoreline restoration along the Canadian side of the Detroit River. The DRCC will utilize this information to develop its Shoreline Strategy of the Detroit River Canadian Habitat Management Plan. The project is listed on the DRCC's 2011-2012 work plan and is essential to enhancing, protecting, and maintaining the Detroit River ecosystem and can help us move towards achieving our delisting targets.

The DRCC is a community-based partnership between citizens, industry, government, scientists, and several environmental organizations responsible for the implementation of the Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan. Our main goal is to restore the beneficial uses and remove the Detroit River from the list of 39 remaining Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Natalie Green, M.Sc.  
Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

cc: DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

January 31, 2011

Ms. Rose Iantorno, Administrative Officer  
Environment Canada  
Strategic Integration and Partnership Branch  
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Section  
867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) Steering and Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation (submitted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority). We are very pleased to endorse this important project as it addresses a key environmental issue facing the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC).

The loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to dredging, agricultural development and urbanization has been identified as one of the key environmental issues for the Detroit River AOC and its watersheds. The activities listed in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation proposal will contribute to restoring, enhancing and protecting important forest and wetland habitat in the Detroit River watersheds and promote community/landowner involvement and stewardship. The proposed project is essential to enhancing, protecting, and maintaining the Detroit River ecosystem and can help us move towards achieving our delisting targets.

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Sincerely,



Natalie Green, M.Sc.  
Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

cc: DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee



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Environment Canada  
Strategic Integration and Partnership Branch  
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Section  
867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Canard River Shoreline Habitat Restoration**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC) Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Canard River Shoreline Habitat Restoration (submitted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority). We are very pleased to endorse this important project as it addresses a key environmental issue facing the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC).

The loss of fish and wildlife habitat in the Detroit River AOC and its watershed has been identified as one of the AOC's key environmental issues. This project proposes to restore and enhance approximately 200 m of Canard River shoreline utilizing innovative bioengineering techniques. This project is noted as being the first of its kind on the Canadian side of the Detroit River watershed and will serve as a model for other projects and to educate the community. Restoring and enhancing the shoreline at this site will provide important habitat for various fishes that utilize the Canard River for spawning and rearing. The proposed project is essential to enhancing, protecting, and maintaining the Detroit River ecosystem and can help us move towards achieving our delisting targets.

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Sincerely,



Natalie Green, M.Sc.  
Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

cc: DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

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Environment Canada  
Strategic Integration and Partnership Branch  
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Section  
867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Detroit River/Canard River Corridor Stewardship Initiative**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup's (DRCC) Steering and Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Detroit River/Canard River Corridor Stewardship Initiative (submitted by the Essex County Stewardship Network). We are very pleased to endorse this important project as it addresses key environmental issues facing the Detroit River AOC.

The loss of fish and wildlife habitat as well as degraded fish and wildlife populations have been identified as two of Detroit River's impaired beneficial uses due to the construction of navigation channels, urbanization, and industrial/agricultural growth. As a result, only 7% of natural areas (i.e., forest > 0.5 ha and wetlands) remain in the Detroit River's watersheds. The activities listed in this proposal will contribute to terrestrial and wetland habitat rehabilitation in the Canard River watershed and encourage community and landowner stewardship through tree plantings and workshops. The proposed project is essential to enhancing, protecting, and maintaining the Detroit River ecosystem and can help us move towards achieving our delisting targets.

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867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Rural Non-Point Source Remediation Program for Detroit River watersheds**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup's (DRCC) Steering and Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Rural Non-Point Source Remediation Program for Detroit River watersheds (submitted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority). We are very pleased to endorse this important project as it addresses a key environmental issue facing the Detroit River AOC.

Non-point source pollution (i.e., from agriculture runoff, etc.) has been identified as one of the key environmental issues for the Detroit River Area of Concern. Approximately 64% of the Detroit River's watershed consists of agricultural development. Agricultural runoff can contain high amounts of phosphorus and sediment that could drain into the Detroit River from its tributaries (Canard River, Turkey Creek, Little River). Rural non-point source pollution is related to the impairment of several beneficial uses including clean swimming beaches, good aesthetics, and quality fish and wildlife habitat. The proposed project activities are essential to enhancing, protecting, and maintaining the Detroit River ecosystem and can help us move towards achieving our delisting targets.

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Sincerely,



Natalie Green, M.Sc.  
Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

cc: DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

January 31, 2011

Ms. Rose Iantorno, Administrative Officer  
Environment Canada  
Strategic Integration and Partnership Branch  
Great Lakes Areas of Concern Section  
867 Lakeshore Road, Box 5050  
Burlington, Ontario L7R 4A6

**RE: Support of GLSF application for Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Governance**

Ms. Iantorno:

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup's (DRCC) Steering and Implementation Committee in support of the GLSF application entitled Detroit River Canadian RAP Governance (submitted by the Essex Region Conservation Authority).

The DRCC is very pleased to endorse this important project as it helps maintain focus on priority actions aimed at delisting the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC). The RAP Governance project supports a RAP Coordinator and administrative services necessary for the coordination of the entire RAP structure (DRCC Committee/Work Groups/Council) as well as implementation of work plans and re-designation of beneficial use impairments. The continued support of RAP Governance will ensure that progress toward achieving our delisting goals in the Detroit River AOC remains a priority for all stakeholders and the public.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Natalie Green, M.Sc.  
Detroit River Canadian Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

cc: DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee