

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Steering & Implementation Committee

Wednesday, June 16, 2014 – 1:30 pm to 4 pm

GLIER, University of Windsor, 2990 Riverside Drive West, Windsor ON

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda (J. Gee/M. Moroney)

Jon Gee called the meeting to order at 1:40. Roundtable introductions were held (for meeting attendance, see Appendix 1). The agenda was approved by consensus.

2) Review of Action Items; Approval of Meeting Record from November 26, 2014

The group reviewed past action items:

- **Claire to work with Peter Berry to engage new industry representatives** – In progress. Claire reported that she has spoken with Peter about potential industry representatives to engage. She noted that through the 2015/16 DRCC governance grant, there was some additional funding requested to engage a communications person from ERCA to assist in putting together a communications work plan. They'll also examine ways to engage new industry partners and other stakeholders, and re-engage some of the local municipalities.
 - **Claire to work with Kevin Money and Teri Gilbert to determine a plan for the P/NPS Work Group** – Done. Kevin, Teri and Claire met in January 2015 and decided that the three of them will touch base once a year to identify any new or relevant issues and bring information back to the Steering Committee. Kevin noted that the MOECC is currently doing a good job of addressing point sources.
 - **Mario and John Beals will put Claire in touch with communications experts from the City and Province** – In progress. This is part of the communications work plan discussed earlier.
- ACTION: Mike Moroney will provide a name for a communications person at the Ministry.**
- **Claire will begin to draft a communications work plan and will liaise with the Work Groups to identify communications priorities for 2015** – In progress.
 - **Claire and Tom to request a meeting with Mike Cautillo of the new bridge authority** – Done. Tom has left messages for Mr. Cautillo. Karina suggested getting in touch with Jake Renaud, who used to work for the City, and has been hired with the new bridge authority.

ACTION: Karina will send Jake Renaud's contact information to Claire.

The November 26, 2014 Meeting Record was accepted by consensus.

3) Update on GLSF / COA funding (J. Gee/M. Moroney)

Jon Gee noted that Environment Canada has just initiated the next five years of the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF). Funds have been approved for projects and grant contribution agreements are being written. There is a 4-year agreement to fund the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup; every Canadian AOC has received coordination funding for 1-4 years.

Mike Moroney noted that the Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) budgets have been set and the breakdown of DRCC funding is as follows: \$70,000 for coordination of the DRCC, \$20,000 for outreach projects, and \$30,000 for monitoring and BUI impairment assessment.

4) Update on GLWQA task team reports (Situational Analysis and AOC in Recovery) (J. Gee)

Jon informed the group that the Great Lake Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) Annexes have created a variety of task teams to advance restoration of the Great Lakes. Jon is the Canadian lead for the GLWQA AOC Annex. For Areas of Concern, he noted that there are two task teams:

1) Situational analysis – This team was tasked with developing an overview of how the US and Canada are dealing with AOCs and compare and contrast the various approaches to problems being experienced by both sides. The report has been completed and will be posted for public comment on binational.net. One issue raised is how delisting will happen at binational AOCs; there seems to be a very mixed reaction to the idea of delisting one side of an AOC.

2) AOC in Recovery – Jon reported to the group that ‘AOC in Recovery’ is a new concept in the GLWQA. It is an AOC where all of the remedial actions have been completed, but the criteria for one or more BUIs have not yet been met. The task team developed a report laying out a five step process for determining whether an AOC can be designated ‘in Recovery’. Jon noted that the ‘AOC in Recovery’ designation is likely not being considered for binational AOCs because of the provisions of the GLWQA. Jon suggested there is no action to take in the Detroit River AOC on this at this time and we should wait until the report is posted for comment on binational.net as it may not be adopted. Discussion ensued regarding how progress is measured and issues surrounding having the same re-designation criteria for BUIs across AOCs.

5) Four Agency Management Committee Update (S. Kok/T. Briggs)

Sandra updated the group on the Four Agency Management Committee. She reminded the group that it was established in 1998 through a letter of commitment, which was signed by the Minister of the Environment stating that Canada and the US would cooperate on binational AOCs. She noted that these meetings provide an opportunity to discuss international issues, to communicate progress on BUI assessments and projects, and to allow for feedback. Work on a compendium is in progress, covering how delisting should be reported on and BUI re-designations etc. Sandra noted that there are no binational issues for the Detroit River at the moment.

6) BUI Re-designation Updates (J. Gee/ M. Moroney)

Jon noted that Environment Canada has completed reviews of both the Degradation of Aesthetics and Beach Closings BUI Re-designation Reports and they are on track to be re-designated in fall. He noted that there was a delay in getting these approved last year because a new COA was being drafted. There was some discussion regarding which beaches were monitored for the Beach Closings BUI; Ted noted that McKee and White Sands beaches were monitored and the re-designation targets have been achieved. Jon noted that some discussion needs to go into whether or not these will be public re-designations or not, which is something that could be examined through the communication work plan.

ACTION: Fall SIC meeting will focus on communications work plan and engaging SIC members.

7) Restrictions on Dredging BUI Re-designation Presentation (C. Sanders)

Claire gave a presentation on the Restrictions on Dredging BUI Assessment Report that had been circulated to the group (see appendix 2). Jon noted that Environment Canada was hoping to provide guidance for all AOCs in terms of how to re-designate this BUI but the variability between AOCs has made that difficult. He also suggested that, since the re-designation of this BUI relies on the Canadian Coast Guard sediment management policy, the report should be reviewed by them to ensure they support the conclusions and ensure there isn't going to be open water disposal of sediment dredged from navigational connecting channels.

Matthew Child suggested that the delisting criteria reads as though there is an issue since there are still limitations on disposal of dredge spoils; LELs are being exceeded and therefore open water disposal is still restricted. Phil disagreed and noted that if the dredge spoils are automatically disposed of in a CDF, then we are overburdening the RAP with a BUI that is no longer relevant.

ACTION: Jon Gee and Environment Canada will initiate discussion with the Canadian Coast Guard on their dredging policy and will involve Ted and Claire.

8) Delisting Strategy Update (Pathway to Delisting) (C. Sanders)

Claire reminded the group that the Pathway to Delisting is a living document and currently covers up to 2017-18. She noted that she will update the document annually for this June SIC meeting and distribute it; the updated document is also made available to the public at the Detroit River Evening each year. She outlined the updated activities for 2015/16.

Ted noted that the Monitoring and Research Work Group is expecting to be able to write and review assessments for four BUIs within the next year: Dredging, Phytoplankton & Zooplankton, Fish Tumours, and Benthos.

9) Roundtable Updates (ALL)

Claire informed the group that the new DRCC website has been launched (www.detroitriver.ca) and invited the group to review it. She also noted that the DRDIS has been successfully moved to GLIER and is being updated by students.

Matthew invited the group to save the date for the IJC Great Lakes Meeting at Caesars Windsor – February 9 and 10, 2016.

Mike Moroney noted that flood control improvements have been made to the Grand Marais drain. An amendment to the Class EA has been posted for public comment. MOECC is also overseeing the decommissioning and closure of General Chemical in Amherstburg.

Kevin noted that ERCA's spring tree planting and restoration work has wrapped up; in total, 150-160 areas of wetland, prairie and forest habitat were restored in 2014/15. Landowners are being contacted for next year's projects.

Phil informed the group that the City of Windsor has initiated a Peche Island mini-management plan and are working towards having Peche Island recognized as an ecologically-sensitive park. He also noted that the second phase of the airport tree planting is well under way (another 7.5 acres).

Karina noted that the first Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant Open House will be held on Saturday, June 20th, from 10:00-2:00pm. Sarah will attend with a DRCC exhibit. The City of Windsor is also developing a *Phragmites* working group and intends to discuss lobbying the provincial government to allow herbicide spraying near water to control phrag.

Ted mentioned that the Great Lakes Protection Act will hopefully be passed in the fall and will lead to the creation of a Great Lakes Guardian Council which will identify priority areas that need action. He noted that the MOECC also has free fish consumption guideline signs for popular angling areas so if anyone is interested in obtaining one, they can contact him.

10) Public Advisory Council Report (T. Henderson)

Tom reported that the PAC wrote letters to the MOECC and Environment Canada expressing concern regarding algae blooms in Lake Erie. The ministries replied that they are addressing the issues.

Tom noted that Lil' REG is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2016. In celebration, Lil' REG will plant 24 trees in the Little River corridor on October 17th. The 25th tree will be planted next year and a commemorative stone will be placed at the site.

Tom updated the group on the Ojibway Shores property issues. The WPA granted the Field Naturalists' Club permission to inventory the property during the 2014 years and David Cree (WPA) recently asked for a report on their findings. Phil noted that the Field Naturalist's are in the process of putting together a report. Phil also noted that the City-owned property adjacent to Ojibway Shores is zoned as industrial but now that it has Provincially Significant Wetland designation on part of it, the environmental community want the zoning to be changed to natural heritage zoning. The PAC is continuing to work on this. The next PAC meeting will be held on June 24th, 2015.

11) Other items/Closing Remarks/Next Meeting

Next meeting date TBD will be in October or November.

12) Adjournment – Mike adjourned the meeting at 4:30.

Meeting record taken by S. Baldo.



Appendix 1

Attendance:

Jon Gee, Co-Chair	Environment Canada
Mike Moroney, Co-Chair	Ontario MOECC
Gord Harding	Public Advisory Council
Karina Richters	City of Windsor
Kevin Money	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Matthew Child	International Joint Commission
Phil Roberts	City of Windsor
Sandra Kok	Environment Canada
Ted Briggs	MOECC
Tom Henderson	Public Advisory Council
Claire Sanders	RAP Coordinator
Sarah Baldo	RAP Assistant