

MEETING RECORD

DRCC Steering and Implementation Committee

Wednesday, November 26th – 12:30-3:30

Ojibway Nature Centre, 5200 Matchette Road, Windsor, ON

1) Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Agenda

Jon Gee called the meeting to order at 12:52. (Meeting Attendance – Appendix 1). Roundtable introductions were held; agenda approved by consensus.

2) Review of Action Items; Approval of June 18, 2014 Meeting Record

The June 18, 2014 Meeting Record was reviewed and accepted by consensus. The group reviewed past action items:

- **Jon will add the dredging issues Peter raised to next the Four Agency Management agenda (and report back to the SIC)** – Done. Jon reminded the group of the discussion regarding a possible increase in dredging activities in the river on the US side due to the release of Port Maintenance Tax monies, as mentioned by Peter at the last meeting. Jon raised this at the Four Agency Management Committee and they reported that this is a possibility but any of this dredging would still have to be permitted and we would be notified through the Army Corps notification process. Peter mentioned that the Army Corp of Engineers notifications of dredging don't always match the Marina's dredging advisories but said he would continue to monitor the river, and report back if he notices changes (sedimentation, wildlife die offs, etc.)
- **Claire to report on DRDIS at the next SIC meeting** – Done. Claire reminded the group that in 2012, Natalie moved the DRDIS database to the Centre for Smart Community Innovation (CSCI) at the University of Windsor. DRCC purchased a server and Natalie had a verbal agreement that CSCI would host the site for a \$750 participation fee each year. In June 2013, the SIC agreed to a one-time \$5000 fee for technical upgrades to the DRDIS with the understanding that, once the upgrade was completed, the DRCC would return to paying the current annual membership fee of \$750. In June of 2014, Richard, Claire, and Natalie (via Skype) met with a CSCI consultant who told us that the Executive Director that Natalie had been working with was no longer with CSCI and that they could not provide the level of service we required for DRDIS for \$750, as the expense for them was closer to \$2000-3000 each year. At that time, Claire and Richard requested a proposal/contract from CSCI for 2015 outlining all expenses. Recently, Claire received a call from CSCI saying that they might not be able to host the DRDIS at all any longer as the University of Windsor IT Services won't approve the contract they had drafted. Currently, the site is up and running at the moment, but it hasn't been updated recently since the future of it has been up-in-the-air. Claire is still waiting for a contract from CSCI and is started looking at other options for hosting.
- **New coordinator to draft a Terms of Reference for a new Delisting Communications Work Group for review by the SIC** – see Agenda Item #3.

3) DRCC Framework and Terms of Reference Review – Delisting Communications Work Group

Claire reminded the group that a review of the DRCC Terms of Reference (ToR) is required every five years gave a short presentation (see Appendix 2). Claire noted that she distributed the current ToR to the SIC co-chairs, as well as to the Supervisory Group (R. Wyma, S. Kok, T. Henderson, T. Briggs) several weeks ago for comment. They were also distributed to the SIC with the rest of the meeting resources for this meeting. No comments or issues were raised.

Discussion:

- Claire noted that we currently don't have any industry representatives since Giovanni Grande is no longer with Honeywell. Peter suggested Plains Midstream might be interested in participating and that there are several

others in marina industry itself. Mario suggested Sterling Fuels, since they participate in Source Water Protection. Jon indicated that Lafarge had been a good partner with the shoreline restoration project but Peter said that they have since been sold and our local contact, Doug, had been transferred.

ACTION: Claire to work with Peter to engage new industry representatives.

- The P/NPS Work Group hasn't met in several years and Claire asked the SIC if there was value in keeping the group. Matthew Child (previous co-chair of the Work Group) said that he sees value in a Work Group like this but it's hard to attract and retain industry partners. Teri Gilbert (current co-chair) also said they struggled with municipality attendance. Doug Haffner asked if the group could be tasked with delivering a report on stormwater overflow (and how this may change in the long-term with more intense rainfalls). Matthew agrees and noted that P/NPS is closely linked to several BUIs and would recommend keeping the group. Jon Gee said we need a plan to reinvigorate group and bring in industry people. Mario asked if there is overlap with Source Water Protection and whether the coordinator could contribute her perspective.

ACTION: Claire to work with Kevin Money and Teri Gilbert to determine a plan for the P/NPS Work Group.

- Claire presented her initial attempt at developing Terms of Reference for a new Delisting Communications and Strategy Work Group and asked the SIC if this captures the discussion from a year ago. She noted that there is a lot of overlap in membership and role with Education and Public Involvement Work Group. Doug suggested asking the EPI to develop a communications strategy could be too onerous and reminded the group that we're dealing with a changing world but we are trying to meet our original targets, therefore people are getting mixed messages in media regarding the state of the Detroit River. He emphasized that we must provide a consistent message to the public. Tom pointed out that the Terms of Reference indicates that communications is included in the role of the SIC and each of the Work Groups, as well as the EPI, and that this can be done without adding another group and more meetings. It was generally agreed that the RAP could benefit significantly from some communications expertise. John Beals suggested that MoECC could lend some support and Mario said Windsor has a communications department that could be engaged as well. Jon proposed that we come up with a living strategy and we can ask partners with communications people to volunteer their expertise to review it and possibly attend a SIC meeting. It will be reassessed each year for key messages.
- Discussion ensued regarding coordinator's role as DRCC's spokesperson and liaison with the media. Jon suggested the DRCC could fund media training for the RAP Coordinator.

ACTION: Mario and John will put Claire in touch with communications experts from the City and Province. ACTION: Claire will being to draft a communications work plan and will liaise with the Work Groups to identify communications priorities for 2015.

DECISION: The DRCC SIC has completed the five year review of the Terms of Reference and no changes are required.

4) Pathway to Delisting Progress (2014-2015)

Claire gave an overview of BUI progress and Sandra Kok, as Monitoring & Research co-chair and Habitat Work Group co-chair, presented a detailed report on work plan progress from 14/15. There was discussion regarding the post-remediation monitoring of the Turkey Creek PCB cleanup. Teri said that report isn't complete yet but data have been reviewed on post-remediation. She reported that all ongoing sources have been eliminated but there is still some evidence that one tube is significantly impacted by contaminated sediment. Stormwater monitoring indicates there has been no re-suspension. Sandra suggested that this might be an issue for the P/NPS Work Group to continue monitoring and keep track of.

Kevin Money (ERCA) gave an update on his rural NPS Pollution Reduction Program & Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation projects for 14/15.

5) Proposed Work Priorities in the AOC for 2015/2016

- a. Jon noted that the 2015/16 GLSF Applications for funding are due on January 9, 2015. The following projects are being proposed:

- Peter Berry presented two projects for habitat restoration; Mill Street Dock and Brock Street Dock (see Appendix 3).
- Kevin Money presented four potential projects for GLSF funding: 1) a Biodiversity Conservation Strategy proposal, similar to previous years; 2) in partnership with the University of Windsor, the Catholic School Board and City of Windsor, ERCA will implement a Low Impact Development project in a specific sewershed. The project would include infiltration trenches, rain gardens, promotion of rain spout disconnection programs and include public engagement while addressing some NPS issues; 3) a feasibility study for the potential in-river habitat restoration projects as identified by the Habitat Work Group; 4) in partnership with GLIER, ERCA has established a research proposal to do microbial tracking for e. coli.
- Claire presented a proposal for Ken Drouillard and Alice Grgicak-Mannion at GLIER: Developing and utilizing a metadata and mapping tool as a decision-making protocol for delisting BUI criteria for the Detroit and St. Clair River AOCs – A Pilot Project (see Appendix 4).

Discussion ensued regarding priorities for funding in 2015/16. There was general consensus that Peter's habitat projects were high priority, though it is unlikely that the Mill Street project could be finished by May 2015 for the HMCS Hunter grand opening. There was also a general feeling that several projects had similar goals and there might be an opportunity to combine several applications (ie. Kevin suggested he include the Brock Street habitat work into his feasibility proposal).

6) US PAC Update

Due to lack of time, this agenda item was deferred to a future meeting.

7) Public Advisory Council Update

Tom provided an update on the PAC . On June 28, he had a conference call with MP Jeff Watson, Phil Roberts, and Tom Preney regarding Ojibway Shores and came away feeling that MP Watson is trying to work with them to secure the property. Tom reminded the group that the Windsor Port Authority had given the field naturalists permission to inventory the property in 2014, and it was included the first BioBlitz in Essex County, which was held in June. Sarah gave short update on the BioBlitz.

Tom noted that the federal government has appointed the new bridge authority to oversee all aspects including construction and operations. Mr. Mike Cautillo, the CEO, and has now relocated to Windsor. Tom asked the SIC if it would be useful to the DRCC to invite him or his representative to attend future meetings of the Steering and Implementation Committee. Jon suggested the RAP coordinator request a meeting as a first step.

ACTION: Claire and Tom to request a meeting with Mike Cautillo.

8) Other Business

Claire directed the group to review the draft of two signs (hanging on the wall) to be installed at Riverdance Park and provide feedback. She also noted that a documentary is being produced on US side called *Clearwater: Detroit's River Revival*. There is opportunity to provide sponsorship and encourage interviews for inclusion in the documentary on the Canadian side.

9) Closing Remarks / Next Meeting Date

Jon thanked everyone for attending. Next meeting in February TBA.

10) Adjournment - Jon adjourned the meeting at 3:58.

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

Appendix 1

Attendance:

Jon Gee , Co-Chair Environment Canada
John Beals, Co-Chair Ontario MoECC

Peter Berry Windsor Port Authority
Rich Drouin Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (left at 3:10)
Tom Henderson Public Advisory Council
Mario Sonogo City of Windsor (left at 3:35)
Doug Haffner Great Lakes Institute of Environmental Research

Resources/ Alternates

Teri Gilbert Ontario MoECC
Paul Drca City of Windsor (left at 3:35)
Kevin Money Essex Region Conservation Authority
Dave Richards Ontario MNRF (left at 3:10)
Matthew Child International Joint Commission
Sandra Kok Environment Canada
Karina Richters City of Windsor (left at 3:35)

Claire Sanders RAP Coordinator
Sarah Baldo RAP Assistant