



Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
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Meeting Record: DRCC Steering & Implementation Committee

Wednesday June 19, 2019 1-3pm
Windsor Port Authority, 3190 Sandwich Street, Windsor

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Review of Action Items; Approval of Meeting Record from January 30, 2019

Sean started the meeting at 1:05 pm with round table introductions. Meeting attendance is included as Appendix I of this meeting record. The meeting record from January 2019 was approved by consensus and the review of action items from January 2019 can be found in Appendix II.

Updates from Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) / GLWQA or Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI); Four Agency Management Committee (FAMC)

COA

Ted noted that there has been no movement on COA funding although it could be released soon, as in previous years the funding has come through in the fall. Ted also mentioned that the new Made in Ontario action plan identifies areas of concern and Great Lakes funding specifically in the document.

Ted noted that COA is in the process of being re-negotiated as it expires in December 2019. There will be an opportunity to provide public comments on the new agreement, which Ted will share with the SIC when it becomes available.

GLPI

April mentioned that the call for GLPI project proposals usually takes place in December, with a due date in the early new year. April encouraged everyone to start thinking about potential projects for the Detroit River. The GLPI applications will be submitted via an on-line application tool that applicants access after they have requested and provided sign-in access. This can take a few days. The RAP coordination agreement is up for renewal, and a GLPI project proposal will need to be submitted in this upcoming round of proposals. April said that in addition to GLPI, federal Great Lakes Action Plan (GLAP) funding is used to conduct monitoring and research in the Detroit River.

April noted that the GLAP workplan for 2019/2020 has been created and science and monitoring by federal agencies has been coordinated and is reflected in the updated Pathway to Delisting document. For example, in 2019/2020, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada is sampling the Detroit River to support the phytoplankton/zooplankton beneficial use impairment (BUI) and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) is monitoring the Collavino wetland as well as four additional wetlands to assess marsh bird communities and habitat conditions. .

FAMC

Ted informed the group that the next FAMC call is in July, with an in-person meeting taking place in October. At the meeting in July, Ted and April will present the two BUIs that are up for redesignation for

review by the FAMC if they are approved by the SIC. The October in-person meeting will take place in Windsor (but is hosted by the U.S.) and they are looking to plan a tour of the downriver projects on the American side of the river as well as some sites on the Canadian side.

BUI Assessment Presentations:

Fish Tumours and Other Deformities

Ken presented an overview of the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities assessment report. These slides are included as Appendix III of this meeting record. The Fish tumours and other deformities report is included as Appendix IV.

Key Discussion Points:

Kevin asked if this report has been published and peer reviewed. Ken indicated that this work was presented at the IAGLR meeting. April advised that this report has undergone review by ECCC fish biologists and Ken informed the group that the sediment chemistry and food web models used in the assessment report are all peer reviewed.

Future monitoring was also mentioned and post-recovery monitoring was recommended by Ken.

There was a discussion about brown bullhead home range. Ken said that his review of telemetry studies indicates brown bullhead stay close to home and that fish from Belle Isle and Peche Island have different chemical signatures.

The fish tumours and other deformities assessment was approved by consensus and the next steps are to present the assessment to the PAC and the FAMC. Rose suggested that the FAMC reviewer attend the FAMC presentation to facilitate a speedy review. Ted agreed and will try to make this possible.

ACTION ITEM: DRCC to bring forward fish tumour and other deformities assessment to the EPI/PAC and then to FAMC and First Nations, and then post for public comment for 40 to 60 days.

Degradation of Benthos

Ken presented the degradation of benthos assessment report. His slides can be found in Appendix V of this report and the report is included as Appendix VI.

Key Discussion Points:

One Canadian site, DR10, was considerably more polluted than the others. Ken mentioned this is likely due to a mixing zone where American water mixes with Canadian. Paul mentioned it could also be due to CSOs in the region.

April reminded the SIC that the earlier (initial) draft was reviewed by agency experts who noted some questions/comments and suggested additional data/content to strengthen the assessment. This version represents a lot of effort on behalf of the expert agencies and the St. Lawrence River Institute to fill data gaps, do additional analysis and ultimately, address the comments and questions posed in the initial draft. From agency experts April also noted that the Stage 2 Delisting Principles were included and

considered as part of the status evaluation. In doing so, having a single site like DR10 (a hotspot) does not 'impair' the entire river.

Based on the data presented in the degradation of benthos assessment report, the recommendation to re-designate this BUI from Impaired to Not Impaired was approved by consensus.

ACTION ITEM: DRCC to bring forward the degradation of benthos assessment report and recommendation for re-designation to the EPI/PAC, the FAMC, First Nations and the public. The report will be posted for public comment for 40 to 60 days.

Detroit River US Sediment Remediation Projects

The US EPA and Michigan EGLE presented an update on sediment remediation projects within the Detroit River. Their slides can be found in Appendix VII of this meeting record.

They informed the group that most of the remaining impaired BUIs on the American side of the river are related to sediment. Due to the severity of sediment contamination, they have only been able to redesignate two BUIs so far. They informed the SIC that they have approximately 6.7 cubic yards of sediment that needs to be dredged in order to clean up the sediment.

Ted asked how government and industry work together to complete the full remediation project. Rose explained that funding arrangements can vary given the situation. Rose explained how difficult it is to get partners to be involved in the cleanup process and as a result, no strategic upstream to downstream dredging is occurring as they are dredging various parts of the river as partnerships and opportunities arise.

Claire suggested that EGLE and US EPA representatives could come out to the next PAC and EPI meeting to share their sediment remediation and habitat projects.

ACTION ITEM: DRCC PAC to invite American colleagues to present their progress at an upcoming PAC meeting.

Other Working Group and Pathway to Delisting Updates

BUI #14 – Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Kevin provided an update on current habitat projects in the Detroit River and its watershed including the Collavino wetland in River Canard. ERCA is currently working to improve the dyke and add in pumping infrastructure to improve management of the site. Current IBIs for the site are low, but the hope is improved management and habitat will improve IBI scores.

The Peche Island project focusses on improving fish habitat and providing erosion protection near Peche Island. Partners on this project include ERCA, the City of Windsor, and Lake Ontario Waterkeepers (Swim, Drink, Fish). Currently, the project is awaiting DFO permits and approvals and permits for the project are expected to be approved in September 2019. The project will take 1-2 months to build, and it is expected that the project will be completed by the end of 2019.

Claire mentioned that the DRCC recently updated the 2019-2020 workplan to include these habitat projects.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to send updated 2019 Pathway to Delisting document to SIC group.

Public Advisory Council Report

Tom provided an update. He described the land swap and expropriation process that has been taking place between the Dorian property owners and Windsor Port Authority and mentioned that this will benefit the prairie and showcase the Ojibway complex as people cross the new bridge.

Tom also shared a motion that he will be presenting at the PAC/EPI meeting in June 2019 requesting that funds in the 2020 City of Windsor be allocated to fund an Ojibway ecopassage. The advantage of this project is that seed money already exists for the project from the Community Benefits plan announced by the Gordie Howe International Bridge.

Claire provided background on the bridge community benefits projects and told the group that the bridge has allocated \$1.5 million seed money for an ecopassage between Black Oaks and Ojibway shores. On the American side, the Friends of the Detroit River received from funding for some restoration work.

Peter mentioned that the installation of a fishing pier at the end of Mill Street (in Queen's Dock Park) may be a future project funded through the community benefits package that the DRCC will partner on.

Round Table Updates

None.

Other items/ Closing Remarks/ Next Meeting

The next SIC meeting will be held in Fall 2019 (October/November).

Appendix I. Meeting Attendance

Sean Morrison	Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks
Jackie Serran	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Tom Henderson	Public Advisory Council Chair, DRCC
Andy Paling	Public Advisory Council Co-chair, DRCC
Ted Briggs	Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks
April White	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Peter Berry	Windsor Port Authority
Melanie Foose	State of Michigan Environment Great Lakes and Energy
Sam Noffke	State of Michigan Environment Great Lakes and Energy
Rose Ellison	United States Environmental Protection Agency
Claire Sanders	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Ken Drouillard	University Windsor/GLIER
Paul Drca	City of Windsor
Rich Druin (called in)	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Sara Varty (called in)	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

Appendix II. Action Items from Jan 30, 2019

DRCC staff to invite US EPA/MDEQ to present at the next SIC meeting in June 2019. Done.

April to ask CWS to survey the Collavino wetland in 2019. Done.

Claire to share the WDBA Community Benefits survey with the SIC. Done.

DRCC staff to set the next meeting date for the SIC in June and share progress on the Detroit River Evening details. Done. Update: the DRCC has decided to not host the DRE in June.