



Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Suite 311 - 360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6 - 519-982-3722
postmaster@detroitriver.ca

Meeting Record: DRCC Steering & Implementation Committee

Wednesday, June 21, 2017 10am-noon
Windsor Yacht Club (9000 Riverside Drive East)

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda, review of Action Items; Approval of Meeting Record from April 2017 (T. Briggs)

Ted called the meeting to order at 10:15am with round table introductions and an invitation to the Detroit River Evening. The attendance is listed in Appendix A of this meeting record. There were no additions to the agenda and it was approved by consensus. There were no changes to the April 2017 meeting record, which was also approved by consensus. The review of the action items from April can be found in Appendix B.

Claire noted that Doug Haffner would be retiring from GLIER in the fall and, in accordance with our Terms of Reference, she contacted him to get a recommendation on who could replace him on the SIC. Doug recommended Ken Drouillard. Ken said that he would be pleased to represent GLIER and the University of Windsor and provided a brief introduction about his research for the committee.

Update on GLSF & COA funding; Four Agency Management Committee (4AMC) Update

Sandra noted that there are three projects on the go for GLSF in Detroit River, including the coordination of the RAP, a proposal from ERCA, and a CSO control feasibility study submitted by the City of Windsor.

Sandra reminded the group that the Four Agency Managers Committee is made up of EPA, MDEQ, ECCC, MOECC to review RAP related items such as BUI assessments. She noted that the topic of bi-national delisting is the focus of a recent review done by the FAMC, as they recognize the importance of addressing this over the next four or five years.

Ted provided an update on COA funding. The funding supports the coordination of the RAP, and the funding for DRCC outreach programs. In addition, Ken D. is undertaking submerged aquatic vegetation study in DR wetlands with COA funding.

Kevin noted that ERCA is requesting COA funds (through MNRF) for two wetland projects near River Canard. In addition, a study is taking place to create a managed wetland at a privately owned wetland with dyke system in the Canard. Kevin also noted that ERCA is involved in a review of the management of the Spring Garden ANSI with the City of Windsor and the province in order to prioritize the management opportunities.

COA Task Team on Delisting Criteria Review (T. Briggs/ S.Kok)

Sandra noted that a task team from ECCC and MOECC reviewed delisting criteria to determine if they are achievable. The Detroit River review included the fish populations, habitat, deformities, and fish tumours BUIs. The results will be presented to the Monitoring and Research work group for

consideration. Review of the Restrictions on fish consumption BUI was not undertaken as there's another task team reviewing delisting criteria for this BUI across all AOCs.

Thinking Outside the “Water Box” in the Detroit River Area of Concern (Allison Turner – University of Waterloo)

Allison Turner is a Master's student at the University of Waterloo and her research included interviews with a number of people involved in the Detroit River RAP. Allison's presentation is provided as Appendix C of this meeting record.

Launch of the Delist Detroit River and St. Clair Areas of Concern geoportal – (Alice Grgicak-Mannion - GLIER)

Alice provided an overview of the geoportal her team at GLIER developed to house research and data collected for both Detroit River and St. Clair AOCs. It is an easily accessible, online repository of geospatial metadata and reports. Users can download the information as well as view it visually to use it for their own purposes. The public has access to the portal, but there is also private access through permissions delegated through GLIER. Alice also discussed the future possibilities of the geoportal and the direction moving forward with focus on advancing the bi-national data. Her team is actively looking for additional data and research that can be added to the geoportal. She ended the presentation with a demonstration of the portal, showing the SIC how to navigate the site, and what options are available to start looking for data. Anyone interested in gaining access to the geoportal can contact Alice directly or Claire for more information. Kevin noted that ERCA has shoreline data and water quality monitoring. Alice is open to receiving any type of data that can contribute to the repository that relates to the health of the Detroit River. Priority information should be related to each BUI.

Detroit River dredged material disposal (Lisa Young – Canadian Coast Guard)

Lisa Young is the Waterways Engineer with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and is responsible for maintenance dredging in the Detroit and St Clair Rivers to maintain safe and navigable shipping lanes. Her presentation is included as Appendix D of this meeting record.

The CCG is searching for disposal options for dredged material from the Detroit River and are hoping there is an opportunity to engage many Detroit River partners to develop projects that meet everyone's needs. Using the Habitat Work Group's preliminary aquatic restoration feasibility study, Peche Island and Fighting Island were identified as possible locations to re-use dredged material to undertake habitat work. Currently, CCG has engaged Landmark Engineering to develop conceptual design options. Next, CCG will engage in hydrographic surveys to determine the scope of the projects and volume of sediments to see whether the material would be suitable for habitat projects. The earliest these projects would commence would be around 2020 due to the processes (EAs) involved.

Key Discussion Points

- Would the projects be Peche vs. Fighting Island? The projects could address both opportunities.
- On the American side, many restoration projects involve habitat development. Has CCG reached out? Yes, the Army Corps. is the group that CCG has been in conversation with.
- It is the hope that the CCG can develop Canadian projects to show the public that the opportunity provides an overall benefit in Canada.
- Kevin M. mentioned the limitations due to private landownership on the Canadian side. Patient and willing landowners provide the framework for long-term project developments.
- Claire offered support to the CCG to get in touch with BASF to discuss project opportunities.

Working Group and Work Plan Updates (S. Kok, T. Briggs, C. Sanders)

Agenda item deferred in the interest of time.

Round Table Updates (ALL)

Mark mentioned that the City of Windsor has on-going sewer separation projects. He also provided an update on the City of Windsor's recently announced grant of \$9m from the Clean Water Wastewater Fund. This work will contribute to pollution control studies and actions, which will have a direct benefit to the Detroit River's water quality. He also noted that there will be new legislation coming related to phosphorus loads, but there is some concern with the targets associated with the point vs. non-point contributions.

Peter mentioned the new McKee Parkette wildflower planting project that took place this spring and thanked Gina for her contributions to this project. He also noted there was interest from LaFarge to plant trees on a berm at their site to mitigate dust and storm runoff along Russel Street. Kevin mentioned that due to poor site characteristics (slope, compacted soils, phrag), it would make it difficult to plant trees, shrubs and vegetation there successfully.

Communications Plan Update (G. Pannunzio)

Gina provided an update on the DRCC Communications Plan (appendix E of this meeting record). In 2016, the DRCC engaged over 6,300 people and was involved in 27 events, including Earth Day, World Rivers Day, the annual film screening and Eau Canada. The DRCC will be hosting the Detroit River Family Fishing Day on July 8 2017 at Assumption Park in Windsor to connect people to the water, fish and learn about the RAP and consumption advisories. She outlined our messaging for BUI #1 and asked for feedback. Ken noted that he could provide Gina with some of the consumption guideline outreach material he's used in the past.

ACTION ITEM: Ken to send Gina fish consumption guideline outreach material.

Public Advisory Council Report (Tom Henderson)

Tom reported that on May 6th, the Windsor Star reported on the General Chemical site in Amherstburg as a current business opportunity. Tom expressed the environmental concern with the settling ponds cleanup on the site and noted that the PAC was the only non-government agency at the time to support the MOECC to have the company cleanup the site.

He reminded the group that in 2014 and 2015, the Field Naturalists' Club completed Bioblitzs of the entire Ojibway Complex, which included Ojibway Shores. Using this data and other data, a report has now been completed on the natural heritage significance of Ojibway Shores.

Tom also noted that he wrote letters on behalf of the PAC to the Prime Minister, EPA Administrators and two Michigan Senators to remind them of their commitments under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and to reject the proposed GLRI funding cuts.

ACTION ITEM: Claire to follow up with Jesse Gardner-Costa and the Essex County Field Naturalists' Club to determine whether the Ojibway Shores report made it to David Cree, WPA CEO, and the next steps for the report.

Other items/ Closing Remarks/ Next Meeting

Neil offered Brighton Beach Power as a future location for a meeting. The next meeting will be at the call of the co-chairs in the fall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Detroit River Evening – Windsor Yacht Club, Wednesday June 21 @ 6:30pm
- Detroit River Family Fishing Day – July 8
- CEA Detroit River Boat Tour – July 8

Appendix A. Attendance

Ted Briggs	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Sandra Kok	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Neil Finnerty	Brighton Beach Power
Allison Turner	University of Waterloo
Tom Henderson	Public Advisory Council Chair
Alice Grgicak-Mannion	Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
Kevin Money	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Lisa Young	Canadian Coast Guard
Mark Winterton	City of Windsor
Peter Berry	Windsor Port Authority
Kenneth Drouillard	Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
Claire Sanders	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

Appendix B. Update on Action Items from April 26, 2017

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. Done. This was provided in print to everyone in attendance at the SIC.

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. In progress. Claire provided an update, and said that the next step is to connect with the right people with the Town of LaSalle with the help of Kevin. As well, Kevin mentioned that he has been in touch with Council members, and needs to include the Planner and Chief Engineer as well into the conversation.

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. In progress.

ACTION: Claire to send out periodic reminders until May 19th to collect feedback and comments from the SIC on the DRCC Communications Plan. Done. Gina provided more context in her presentation.

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

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. Done.