

FINAL Meeting Record
DRCC Public Advisory Council & EPI Work Group
Wednesday June 26 2019 – 4:30-6:30pm
Riverside Public Library - 6305 Wyandotte Street East, Windsor, ON

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Tom started the meeting at 4:32pm with round table introductions. The meeting attendance is included as Appendix I of this meeting record.

Review of February 26 2019 Meeting Record and Action Items

The meeting record from February 2019 was approved by consensus. The review of action items and their updates are included as Appendix II of this meeting record.

PAC Update since February 2019

a) Premier Doug Ford and cuts to tree funding in Ontario

Tom asked Gina for an update as to whether recent provincial funding cuts for tree planting will affect DRCC activities. Gina explained that community-planting funding for DRCC is provided both the federal and provincial budgets and DRCC tree planting should not be affected by these cuts. The Forests Ontario cuts to tree funding in Ontario will affect other local programs including some of ERCA's forestry work in the region.

b) Ojibway Shores expropriation progress

Tom provided an update on the expropriation progress for the Ojibway Shores property. He explained that the Dorian property right next to the Queens Dock Park, is the proposed expropriated land by the City of Windsor, and would be swapped with the Windsor Port Authority to save Ojibway Shores. A discussion took place regarding some of the historical uses of the site for dumping landfill waste. The cleanup costs are uncertain at this time, however, Tom thinks the cleanup costs will be deducted from the land purchase to the landowner. Tom mentioned he spoke with Peter Berry, the Port Authority Harbourmaster, who has offered to take members of the EPI and PAC on a tour of Ojibway Shores. The EPI and PAC are welcome to RSVP with Jackie and she can work with Peter and Tom to find a date/time for the tour. Ken mentioned that his research boat can hold three people, and offered a shoreline tour in that area as well.

c) Weston Park Trail and Dragonfly Park

Ian explained that in 1994, Lil' Reg coordinated a project in Weston Park, which included developing a nature trail and a sign recognizing the work. Currently, the trail is overgrown and almost non-existent, and there is no sign. There is a new development in the adjacent property, which has a requirement to establish a recreation trail and storm water retention pond. Lil' Reg is in the process

of engaging the new development to establish the trail and connect it with the existing one at Weston Park.

In addition, Ian approached the City of Windsor to inquire about the Dragon Fly Park sign, which highlights the 25th anniversary planting. This sign has disappeared.

Ian also requested an access point next to Riverview Steel to connect the nature trail while crossing Twin Oaks Drive. While this is a hazard, since it's a road, he asked for a crosswalk to be painted there.

DRCC Updates

a) Status of DRCC funding for 2019

Jackie reminded the EPI and PAC that outreach funds provided through the provincial government via the Canadian Ontario Agreement are still on hold. While the funds are on hold, the new Made in Ontario Plan acknowledges AOC programs, so she is hopeful the funding is released. Further, she mentioned that the COA is going to be negotiated at the end of 2019 between the province and federal government. A discussion took place about writing letters to the provincial government in Ontario to release the COA funds.

Motion: THAT If approved, the motion will be forwarded to the Premier, Minister of the Environment, Climate Change and Parks, and three local MPPs

Whereas the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup implements the Remedial Action Plan on behalf of a community-based partnership between the government (federal, provincial, municipal), local industries, researchers, environmental organizations and citizens working together to protect, restore and enhance the Detroit River ecosystem,

Whereas the Canada-Ontario Agreement binds the parties to fund the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup until the current agreement expires at the end of 2019,

Therefore be it resolved that the Province of Ontario fulfil its legal obligation to provide funding for the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup until the end of 2019 or until a new Canada-Ontario Agreement is agreed to by the parties.

Moved by Tom, seconded by Mike.

CARRIED.

A discussion took place after the motion was carried on whether it is worthwhile to reach out to other AOC programs and encourage their Public Advisory Council equivalent groups to also sign the same letter to strengthen the point that all of the programs collectively work together and rely on COA to advance restoration of the Great Lakes AOCs. It was decided that this would be a good idea.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to share this motion with other AOC offices for consideration and follow up with Tom to work on creating a shared letter for signing with a two-week turnaround time.

b) Ojibway Ecopassage

Jackie provided a presentation discussing the recent commitment made by the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority to provide seed money to build an ecopassage (\$1.5 million dollars). The proposed ecopassage will connect Black Oaks and Joy Woods together to help provide a safe crossing over roads for wildlife. She explained that some habitat will need to be destroyed to support the structure, as it will need to cross long passages of roads and railway tracks. Permits and environmental assessments will also be required for the construction of the project. She suggested a feasibility study for the project would be a good starting point for the ecopassage project.

A discussion took place regarding fencing and maintenance of the ecopassage. Hilary asked whether an underground tunnel could work as an alternative. Jackie explained that wildlife likely wouldn't use it as it would turn into a predator trap, and would be too dark and long for wildlife to safely use. Tom mentioned that he wants to bring funding for the ecopassage up to Windsor City Council for potential inclusion in the 2020 budget.

Motion: Whereas the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority has announced as part of its community benefits package seed money as a joint project with the City of Windsor for an Eco-Passage (bridge) for animals only spanning the Ojibway Parkway,

Whereas additional funding will be required to complete the structure,

Therefore be it resolved that the Windsor-Essex County Environment Committee be requested to recommend to Windsor City Council that the balance of the funding required be included in the City 2020 Current Budget.

Moved by Tom, seconded by Naresh.

CARRIED.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to forward this motion to Karen Kadour at the City of Windsor to request a PAC presentation at the July 4 WECEC meeting and be added to the agenda.

EPI Project Update since February 2019

a) Spring Projects

Gina gave a quick update on some of the spring projects the DRCC has participated in since the spring including the Earth Day community planting and celebration at Malden Park, the Forests Ontario planting with the City of Windsor, and the film screening of Clearwater: Detroit's River Revival. Andy Paling explained that in lieu of funding, Villanova High School and the Friends of River Canard were able to step in and provide an exceptional experience for the public, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math students, and ECO teams in the schoolboard at the film screening. Both screenings were well attended and there was a lot of great discussion about the Detroit River history.

b) Peche Island Stewardship

Jackie explained that the Peche Island restoration project is moving along, and that we are waiting on final permits from DFO. Funding for this project has been secured from various sources, including

the City of Windsor. Some of the funding available for this project will be used to create a video, interpretive signage and other items. Hilary asked what the state of Peche Island is, given the high water levels. Jackie explained that the trails are flooded, and the City cancelled their ferry service until it recedes.

BUI Assessment Presentations from the DRCC Monitoring and Research Work Group

a) BUI # 4 - Fish Tumours and Other Deformities

Ken presented an overview of the Fish Tumours and Other Deformities assessment report. His presentation for BUI # 4 is Appendix IV of this meeting record.

Key Discussion Points

A discussion took place regarding whether the tumours are industry related and what sediment work has been done in the Canadian side of the Detroit River. Ken explained that Turkey Creek has been a site where PAHs and other organic compounds have been higher than other spots in the Detroit River. He suggested it might be because of the way sediments settle as they move downstream. While the tumours could be tied to industry, there isn't a lot of source track down work on the Canadian side to prove this. Many hotspots on the American side are nearshore, and may be tied to their industrial past. Tom mentioned that the next meeting in September/October, we will extend an invitation for American researchers to present their sediment assessment and remediation project updates.

A discussion as to why Brown Bullhead were chosen as the indicator species occurred. Ken explained that this fish species does not swim very far, with their home range being about 2 to 5km, so they are indicative of conditions nearby to where they are found. In addition, Brown Bullhead like shallow, weedy areas and do not like to cross navigation channels. Chemical signatures studies that compare Brown Bullhead captured in different sections of the river show different chemical signatures, suggesting they do not move very far or across the river.

One final discussion took place regarding the process of delisting the Canadian side of the Detroit River, when the BUI progress is different for both sides. Ken explained that while the American side has mitigation and sediment remediation plans in place, the reality is it will take a very long time, due to the extent of the contaminated sediments. The entire AOC cannot be delisted until those actions are completed.

ACTION ITEM; Jackie and Gina to invite Melanie Foose and Sam Noffke from EGLE to present at the next EPI and PAC meeting.

b) BUI #6 - Degradation of Benthos

Ken presented an overview of the Degradation of Benthos assessment report. His presentation for BUI # 6 is Appendix V of this meeting record.

Key Discussion Points

A discussion took place regarding the DR-10 hotspot. There were concerns that one area would hold the DRCC back in the re-designation process. Ken explained that while that location is Canadian, it is in the bend of the river, and is in a mixing zone. It could be influenced by what is coming from the American side and settling over here. Andy asked whether DR-10 suggests a cleanup should be done in that area. Ken answered, that while it is one location, his modelling suggests that the natural processes in the

Detroit River should cleanup that area over time. However, since it could be American influenced, he suggests that once the American side conducts their sediment remediation, another benthos survey could take place to compare changes over time.

Next Meeting and Meeting Adjournment

Jackie closed the meeting by encouraging everyone to provide comments on both BUI Assessment reports over the next few weeks. She will also share the link to the comment form on the DRCC website. The next meeting will be called by the Chairs of the EPI and PAC, likely in October 2019.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to share the online comment page on the DRCC website for both BUI #4 and #6 with the PAC and EPI after the meeting to solicit comments and feedback.

Appendix I. Meeting Attendance

Naresh Manku	Unifor Local 200 Environment Committee/PAC
Pete Thomas	Unifor Local 200 Environment Committee/PAC
Tom Henderson	Chair – Public Advisory Council
Jackie Serran	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Chris Hodare	Unifor Local 200 Environment Committee/PAC
Jim Drummond	Public Advisory Council
Dave Munro	Public Advisory Council
Pearl Bradd	Vice-Chair Education and Public Advisory Work Group/PAC
Robert Eagen	Riverside Public Library
Ian Naisbitt	Little River Enhancement Group/PAC
Hilary Payne	Public Advisory Council
Dr. Kenneth Drouillard	University of Windsor/Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research
Mike Walsh	Public Advisory Council
Mark Shafer	Little River Enhancement Group/PAC
Ralph Benoit	Public Advisory Council
Andy Paling	Vice Chair – Public Advisory Council
Patricia McGorman	Public Advisory Council
Andy Paul	Public Advisory Council
David Hanna	Public Advisory Council

Appendix II: Action Items from February 26 2019

ACTION ITEM: Gina to send Tom a list of outreach items and other projects the DRCC would not be able to accomplish without the funding. **Done.**

ACTION ITEM: Gina to share information on the Phragmites removal process at the Collavino wetland site and report to PAC for the next meeting. **Done. Update: ERCA’s biologist is still working on the details of the Collavino management plan, and can present an update to the EPI and PAC at the next meeting in September/October on his progress.**

ACTION ITEM: Gina to share a link to the website where public comments are being accepted regarding Marathon Oil’s variance request to store pet coke without a roof. **Done. Update: Detroit has rejected Marathon’s request.**