

Meeting Record

DRCC Public Advisory Council & EPI Work Group

Thursday September 28th 2017 – 4:30-6:30pm
Windsor Airport Conference Room, Windsor, ON

1. Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Tom Henderson started the meeting at 4:33pm with round table introductions. See Appendix A for meeting attendance. The agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Review of April 18, 2017 Meeting Record and Action Items

Tom reviewed the action items from April 18, 2017 and noted that they had all been completed. See Appendix B for these items and their updates. The April 18 2017 meeting record was approved by consensus.

3. DRCC BUI & 2017/18 work plan update since April 2017

Claire provided DRCC updates since April 2017, including a summary of the current monitoring and research and habitat work. This information is included in the presentation, which is Appendix C of this meeting record.

Claire noted that annual wetland monitoring done by Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) shows consistently poor water quality indices for the Canard River wetlands, which is primarily driven by high turbidity. A modelling project is being planned for the Canard by ERCA and the University of Windsor, which should be able to fingerprint the sediment sources and will inform future management plans. Andy Paling mentioned that the Friends of River Canard have previously been concerned about Amherst Quarries discharging into the river as members have seen very turbid water entering the river there. He noted that they do have a permit from MOECC to discharge 10,000L a day but there's some question as to whether the holding/ settling ponds need upgrading or improving.

ACTION ITEM: Claire to look back through Friends of River Canard meeting records to gather background on the original discussion surrounding Amherst Quarries discharge into River Canard and will follow up with Katie Stammler (ERCA) and the other researchers undertaking the SWAT modelling project.

Andy asked if DRCC had received any CSO data from the large storm event in August 2017. Claire said she had not seen anything from the city yet but could ask when it would be available. Derek said that the City of Windsor only just published a review of the August 2016 storm event. He also noted that there is a new subdivision proposal for East Riverside and the City of Windsor is considering permitting a new direct discharge to the river with no mention of green infrastructure to manage stormwater. Once there are further details available, Derek suggested the PAC write a letter indicating their concerns.

4. Big Creek Presentation (Guest: Greg Nemeth)

Greg Nemeth, a resident of Amherstburg, gave a presentation about the natural significance of a section of Big Creek, north of Alma and east of Thomas Road. He noted that it is designated Provincially

Significant Wetland (PSW) and the Big Creek Marsh life science Area of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI) as identified by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR); over 350 species have been documented in the area. It also has been identified as an Environmentally Significant Area (ESA) and significant valleyland by ERCA, a Carolinian Canada Site, and an Important Bird Area. Greg expressed his concern with the lack of attention on the protection of Big Creek watershed. He has done presentations for the Town of Amherstburg and ERCA to express his concerns. He requested help from the EPI and PAC to provide support with protecting the Big Creek watershed through lobbying and erecting signage.

Discussion took place regarding whether this area is included in the Town of Amherstburg's Official Plan. Tom proposed inviting Greg to develop the Friends of Big Creek and join the PAC as a way to provide support.

ACTION ITEM: Tom will extend a formal invitation to Greg Nemeth to join the Public Advisory Council.

5. PAC Update since January, 2017

a) Ojibway Shores

i. Community Benefits Coalition meetings

Tom noted that members of the PAC have attended several Community Benefits Coalition (CBC) meetings, which are being held by the United Way, to ensure the protection of Ojibway Shores was noted as a key community benefit. After collecting the information, the CBC asked the community to vote on their top priorities. Once finalized, these priorities will be sent to the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) and the three proponents, who can use it as part of their RFPs bid for bridge construction. However, Tom also noted that he was told at a recent WDBA Focus Group meeting that the WDBA was not connected to the CBC at all, therefore the proponents are under no obligation to use this information.

ii. The Windsor Port Authority (WPA) and the WDBA: plans for OS preservation

Tom Henderson provided a summary on his most recent letter to Minister Marc Garneau, regarding the WPA, WDBA and Ojibway Shores. This letter can be found as Appendix D of this meeting record. The letter explains that the WPA suggested to the WDBA that they lease Ojibway Shores but WDBA declined.

Tom said he recently received correspondence from Mayor Drew Dilkens noting that he has not made any headway on protecting OS through any city initiatives. Tom said that the decisions for OS seem to be held at the federal level. Tom said he offered to accompany Mayor Dilkens to Ottawa to try to meet with Minister Garneau to advocate for OS but has not yet heard back from Mr. Dilkens. Members of the PAC thanked Tom Henderson for all of his efforts so far on OS.

Motion to support to support Tom's request to go to Ottawa with Mayor Drew Dilkens to advocate for OS. Mike Walsh/ Andy Paling. Motion carried.

Derek noted that he attended a meeting in August with MP Brian Masse, Tom, Claire, Phil Roberts, Bill Roesel and Paul Pratt to discuss Ojibway Shores. His office will be drafting a letter to Minister Garneau suggesting a number of options for securing Ojibway Shores, including transferring the property between federal agencies. Brian's office will circulate the draft letter to the meeting participants. The group also discussed management options for the property, should it eventually be protected.

Pete suggested initiating a media campaign. Andy Paul also noted the Ojibway BioBlitz results and subsequent Ojibway Shores report are important to share widely. Pearl suggested that any letters to the editors need to include all of the individuals who have contributed to the conversation thus far to show the collective effort taken, and mention to the media the lack of response from government officials.

iii. Vandalism at Ojibway Shores and Black Oak

Dave Munro noted that he and Tom went for a walk with Peter Berry (WPA) who showed them the damage off-road vehicles have been doing to the property. Also mowing has taken place to create trails for recreational use. Derek suggested that the camera program for illegal dumping could also be used to protect Black Oak, which is a City of Windsor park. Tom noted that the WPA is doing the best it can to stop further damage by visiting local bike clubs to tell them about the significance of the area, putting up signs, and adding security.

iv. Direction from PAC membership for further action

No discussion.

b) Status of the Trump proposed cuts to the EPA-Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Tom noted that, since the initial news of this issue (June 2017), Great Lakes states came together in protest and the bulk of the funding has been restored to the GLRI for the coming fiscal year.

c) Approval of the Ambassador Bridge replacement

Tom noted that the Ambassador Bridge company recently announced they had received the permit to place the Ambassador Bridge. According to the WDBA, they are not involved with that project and will carry on with the Gordie Howe Bridge.

Discussion took place regarding whether there will be a requirement for community benefits with this project and whether the PAC could advocate for green spaces near the Ambassador Bridge. Derek said this is not included in the Terms of Reference for the new project.

ACTION ITEM: Derek to share with the EPI and PAC the Terms of Reference for the Ambassador Bridge replacement project.

6. EPI Project Update since April 2017 (Claire Sanders)

a) ERCA Outreach Coordinator & DRCC RAP Assistant

Claire's update to the EPI can also be found in Appendix C of this meeting record. She noted that Gina's contract ended from a full time position with the DRCC in August but she's pleased to welcome Gina on in a more permanent capacity as she was the successful applicant for the combined ERCA Partnerships and Outreach Coordinator & RAP Assistant position. Claire outlined some of Gina's new duties with ERCA and noted that we will have to be more efficient with our planting and cleanup projects.

- b) Eau Canada150 events, Detroit River Evening 2017, Family Fishing Day, CEA Boat Tour, Peche Island Day

Claire noted that Peche Island day took place in September, the first time since 2013. 531 participants with 40 people came out in the extreme heat. Included in Appendix C are photos that the drone operator captured during the event.

- c) Ojibway Nature Centre display and DRCC Story Map

See Appendix C.

- d) New projects for 2017/18 (C. Sanders & G. Pannunzio)

Claire presented the current EPI budget and status for 2017/18 (see Appendix C).

7. Next Meeting and Meeting Adjournment

Next meeting will likely be held in December or January at the call of the Chairs. Tom closed the meeting at 6:37pm.

Appendix A. Attendance

Tom Henderson	PAC Chair
Pearl Bradd	PAC Member
Michael Walsh	PAC Member
Andy Paling	Friends of Canard River
Derek Coronado	Citizens Environment Alliance
Dave Munro	PAC Member
Naresh Manku	PAC Member
Pete Thomas	PAC Member
Andy Paul	EPI Member
Patricia McGorman	PAC and Canada South Land Trust
Claire Sanders	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup & ERCA
Greg Nemeth	Resident of Amherstburg and guest presenter

Appendix B. Action Items from April 18th 2017 and Updates

Claire will circulate the draft Restrictions on Dredging Assessment Report to the PAC for review and requested they provide their comments in writing by June 7 2017. As well, she will set up a page on the DRCC website with all relevant information for public comment and share through all communication networks. Done. No written comments were received during the public consultation period. This report is now moving through the Four Agency Managers Committee for review.

Claire and Tom to draft a report for Hilary Payne to present to City Council regarding concern of illegal dumping at the new city park at Twin Oaks. The report should outline the issue and include a list of suggestions that the council can review to help support a decision. Done. Claire contacted Anne-Marie Albidone, City of Windsor's Manager of Environmental Services, who noted that the City has already purchased a security camera. It's currently being tested out by the IT services department and discussed with the legal department to determine if it's the right camera for their needs but there is additional money in their budget to purchase more cameras. Environmental Services wants to use them to target illegal dumping and the Munich Court area is high priority.

Update: the City of Windsor recently installed cameras to monitor the area as a pilot program to help reduce incidences of illegal dumping at Munich Court off Lauzon Parkway. Derek Coronado expressed concern with the way the program will be enforced, and what follow up will take place via the City of Windsor.

Andy Paul to follow up with Claire and share information about potential 'Keep Your River Clean' sign locations on Turkey Creek. Done.

Claire to talk to Kate Arthur (ERCA) to find out if she's been able to check on the trees previously planted at Windsor Airport. Done. Kate has not been able to access the airport property to assess survival.

Update: As part of the reporting responsibilities to Trees Canada, Kate needs to do her five year monitoring at this site. She has been unable to find a contact at the Windsor Airport who can approve her access to the site. When she does have approval, she will extend an invitation to the EPI and PAC members who are interested in returning to the site and see how the trees are doing. Claire suggested that Kate may need to reach out to Tom, Ian Naisbitt and/or Councillor Hilary Payne to help re-establish a relationship.