



Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
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Meeting Record
DRCC Public Advisory Council & EPI Work Group
Tuesday February 26 2019 – 4:30-6:30pm
Ojibway Nature Centre, Windsor, ON.

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Tom began the meeting at 4:35pm and started with roundtable introductions. David Hanna requested to be added to the agenda to discuss the Community Benefits Coalition. The meeting attendance is included in Appendix I of this meeting record.

Review of November 7, 2018 Meeting Record and Action Items

The meeting record from November 7 2018 was approved by consensus. The action items and their updates are included as Appendix II of this meeting record.

DRCC Updates

a) COA Funding

Gina noted that there has been no further communication from the provincial government regarding continued funding for RAP coordination and Detroit River outreach in 2019/20 through COA. Tom Henderson said that he wrote a letter on behalf of the PAC to request that the current COA be honored to the end of 2019 and further encouraged the province to renegotiate COA with the federal government when the current agreement ends. He did not receive a response.

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

b) BUI Updates

Gina explained that the DRCC Monitoring and Research Work Group is expecting the Degradation of Benthos assessment report as well as a draft of the Fish Tumours or other Deformities assessment report by the end of March for review. She noted that the PAC should expect to see those reports and have opportunity to comment on them sometime this year. In regards to the Restrictions on Dredging Assessment report, the government of Canada has sent the government of Ontario a letter seeking formal consensus on re-designating the BUI to 'not impaired', which is the final stage of this BUI in the RAP process. Pearl asked whether the PAC will be given a presentation on the research process the scientists went through to complete their data. Gina said that we will work with the researchers to invite them to the next EPI and PAC meeting to help deliver that information.

Gina updated the PAC on First Nations engagement with the RAP. In June of 2018, letters were sent to seven First Nations asking how they would like to be engaged on the remedial action plan. The DRCC has met with Aamjiwnaang and Caldwell First Nations and had some initial discussions. Representatives from Aamjiwnaang First Nation attended the last Steering and Implementation Committee meeting.

c) Habitat Projects (Collavino, Peche Island)

Gina provided an update on the Collavino wetland improvement near the mouth of River Canard. Discussion took place regarding the use of herbicide and effects on amphibians and reptiles in the marsh. Gina explained that ERCA is required by the province to develop a Species at Risk Mitigation Plan for Ecosystem Protection and that there are very strict and highly regulated licensing requirements for herbicide use in Ontario. She suggested DRCC could potentially host a tour with ERCA's biologist at the site.

ACTION ITEM: Gina to share information on the Phragmites removal process at the Collavino wetland site and report to PAC for the next meeting.

Gina provided an update on the proposed Peche Island project that will improve fish habitat and reduce erosion along the northeast side of Peche Island.

This presentation is Appendix III of the meeting record.

Dave Hanna Update on the Community Benefits Coalition

David Hanna explained that the Community Benefits Coalition is reformatting their structure and are currently looking for new applicants. Gina said she would share this information with the EPI and PAC following the meeting.

PAC Update since January 2018

a) Airport Woodlots

Tom submitted a motion to Windsor's Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee requesting that the Airport provide a report on what happened to the trees planted by ERCA in 2013. The motion was approved to be submitted to City Council and will be presented at City Council's March meeting. He also said that there was no time limit set on when the airport has to respond back to WECEC.

b) Windsor Annexed Lands - Stantec Report (2006)

- a. Buffers, naturalization options and the Little River watercourse
- b. Overall 12% green space in the annexed lands

Tom noted that a report written by Stantec in 2006, the lands along County Road 42 to the 401 were annexed from Tecumseh and are identified to become commercial/residential. Tom noted that the report identified buffers around Little River should be 30m on both sides. He met with Thom Hunt, Windsor's City Planner to present this information. Due to a changing climate, Tom noted that planners are taking a closer look at how buffers contribute to stormwater management strategies and even larger buffers, up to 150m, are being recommended for some watercourses. Tom is hopeful these areas could eventually become a park corridor with trails.

c) WDBA Community Benefits Meeting/Pedestrian-Animal Bridge

Tom said that he attended a meeting with the Windsor Detroit Bridge Authority where wildlife bridges and eco passages were discussed. He noted that he would be supportive of the PAC lobbying for this option in support of the wildlife in that area due to all of the development taking place. Pearl said she was very impressed with animal bridges in Calgary to keep animals safe when crossing highways.

d) ERCA Education Award: St. Thomas of Villanova High School and Just Fishin' Friends

In January, ERCA recognized both St. Thomas of Villanova High School and Just Fishin' Friends for their contributions to environmental education and restoration in the Detroit River watershed.

A discussion took place regarding Marathon Oil's request for an exemption from the City of Detroit ordinance that a roof is required on pet coke piles. Derek noted that the public comment period is open until March 18. Tom said he will send in a comment on behalf of the PAC.

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.

EPI Project Update since January 2018

Gina shared a list of upcoming events and projects the DRCC will be involved in over the spring and into the summer. She explained that since COA funds are unavailable, we will work with our partners to try to support some annual events. The upcoming film screening of CLEAR WATER: Detroit's River Revival will be hosted at Villanova High School with support from Friends of River Canard. Andy also offered support through the Friends of River Canard to help with any upcoming spring stewardship events. Gina also noted that Caesars Windsor CodeGreen is making their stewardship equipment available to use at any upcoming spring events. Gina concluded by saying that the Earth Day How To Crew has been trained through a workshop in January, and she is looking forward to working with them on the planting plan for the upcoming Earth Day planting in April.

This presentation is included as Appendix III of this meeting record.

Next Meeting and Meeting Adjournment

The next meeting will be called by the Chairs of the EPI and PAC, likely in June 2019.

Appendix I. Meeting Attendance

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Tom Henderson | Public Advisory Council Chair |
| Andy Paling | Public Advisory Council Vice-Chair |
| Pearl Bradd | Education and Public Involvement Work Group Co-Chair |
| Hilary Payne | Public Advisory Council |
| David Hanna | Public Advisory Council |
| Dave Munro | Public Advisory Council |
| Mike Walsh | Public Advisory Council |
| Elaine Price | Public Advisory Council |
| Chris Hodare | Local 200 Unifor |
| Derek Coronado | Citizen Environmental Alliance |
| Sam Dundas | Essex Region Conservation Authority |
| Gina Pannunzio | Detroit River Canadian Cleanup |

Appendix II. Review of November 7, 2018 Action Items

ACTION ITEM: Mike Walsh will write to MPP for Chatham-Kent-Essex to underscore the importance of maintaining provincial COA funding for the Detroit River RAP. **Done.**

ACTION ITEM: Claire to invite Melanie Foose, MDNR, or Mary Bohling to the next PAC and EPI meeting to present an update on US sediment cleanup progress. **Not complete.**

ACTION ITEM: Gina to work on a new Earth Day 2019 approach to improve tree survival and share with the PAC and EPI. **Done.**