



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

June 24, 2021, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

Welcome, introductions, approval of agenda

Review of Action Items; Approval of Meeting Record from August 17, 2020

Welcome Kevin Webb, City of Windsor

April began the meeting at 1:02 pm with a land acknowledgment. April then conducted roundtable introductions. Attendance for the meeting is included in Appendix I. She reminded the group that the last Steering and Implementation Committee (SIC) meeting took place in August 2020. This was the last meeting that Paul Drca attended before his retirement and April welcomed Kevin Webb as a new City of Windsor representative to the SIC. Kevin W. replaces Paul Drca. Jackie went through the action items from the last August 2020 meeting. The action items and their updates are included in Appendix II. April asked the group if they had any additions to the agenda and none were identified. The meeting record from August 17, 2020 was approved by consensus.

Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) update and Updates from COA Executive or Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI); Four Agency Management Committee

Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA)

April mentioned that a new 5 year COA agreement was signed on June 1, 2021. This agreement outlines Provincial and Federal commitments to work on Great Lakes issues and implement the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) over the next five years. She mentioned that this year also marks the 50th anniversary of the COA agreement.

Great Lakes Protection Initiative (GLPI)

April provided an update on Great Lakes Protection Initiative Funding (GLPI), a fund by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to support remedial actions on the Great Lakes and in Areas of Concern. She informed the group that GLPI is continuing to support the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) coordination as well as monitoring and research/habitat projects for this fiscal year. April also mentioned that she was able to secure some funding to support the creation of engineering drawings for a potential habitat project at the south end of Fighting Island. She also informed the group that there was an application to GLPI for funding to support an engineering assessment and drawings of the M.M.M. Hunt Club Dyke (formerly Ruwe Marsh). This application is currently under review and once a decision is made it will be communicated with the SIC.

Four Agency Management Committee (FAMC)

April reminded the group that the Four Agency Management Committee (FAMC) is a committee that U.S., Canada, state (Michigan), and provincial (Ontario), representatives sit on to discuss issues related to binational AOCs in the Huron-Erie Corridor, the St. Marys River and Lake St. Clair. She mentioned that their next meeting is July 14th.

April invited Dan, Kate, and Ted to contribute any additional details. Dan mentioned that the COA agreement is a 5-year agreement and that it includes a specific AOC annex. Under Result 9 of the AOC annex, there are specific Detroit River commitments for the provincial and federal governments. They can be found here: <https://www.ontario.ca/document/canada-ontario-great-lakes-agreement/priority-improving-coastal-areas#section-0>.

Kate mentioned that the COA agreement came into effect on June 1 and that the agreement guides all activities and priorities of the federal and provincial governments for the Detroit River AOC over the next 5 years.

Provincial COA funding

Ted reminded the group that for provincial COA funding they were able to complete an agreement with the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) for ongoing AOC coordination for two years, expiring at the end of March 2022. For fiscal year 2022/23, they will need to revisit requests for funding for ongoing coordination work. Ted also mentioned that the province recently put out a call for proposals for their Ontario Community Environmental Fund. This call provides funds for environmental projects that are funded through monies the province collected from companies (fines) that were not in compliance with rules/regulations. Ted mentioned that ERCA submitted an application for this grant for the Peche Island project.

Tom mentioned that the renewal of the COA is a very important step for the DRCC. The Public Advisory Council (PAC) continuously pushes for the renewal of the COA term after term and Tom would like to share the news with the PAC. Tom requested that April send him some communications about the COA renewal that he can share with the PAC.

ACTION ITEM: April to send Tom information re: renewal of COA that he can share with the PAC.

Detroit River Habitat Projects (Peche Island & Collavino wetland)

Kevin M. provided an update on the Peche Island habitat restoration project and the Collavino wetland project that are ongoing in the Detroit River AOC. His presentation is included as Appendix III. Kevin M. mentioned that these two core projects are being undertaken in the Detroit River with multiple partners and that the projects are supported federally through GLPI, provincially, privately, and with City of Windsor support (specifically for the Peche Island project).

Peche Island Fish Habitat Project

Kevin M. informed the group that the goal of this project is to establish fish habitat by installing rock islands that will create a calm water area that will establish SAV and fish nurseries, all while providing erosion protection to the island. He highlighted that since 1931, approximately 20 acres of land has eroded away from the island due to freighter traffic and water levels. Due to high Great Lake water

levels over the last few years, the island shoreline and tree line have also been damaged. Kevin M. mentioned that lake levels have receded slightly in 2021, and as a result, there is a bit of a beach on the island at the moment.

Kevin M. outlined that the project is phased. Phase 1 involves installing the rock islands. Four of these islands were installed in fall 2020. In July, armouring of the head of the island with a revetment will commence. ERCA and the DRCC have been working closely with Parks and Rec Department with the City of Windsor to achieve this project. Kevin M. noted that only a portion of the project is currently funded, hence the phased approach. In the future, if funding permits, the plan is to add additional rock islands to the north of the island and revetment on the northeast side of the island. He mentioned that an application was recently submitted to the province of Ontario Community Environment Fund requesting \$145,000 in additional funds for this project.

Kevin M. mentioned that habitat features for species at risk in the area (SAR), Northern Madtom, will be constructed this summer. These habitat features include small shoals on the ends of each island that Northern Madtom can use for spawning. He also highlighted that as part of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) permit approvals, fish salvage had to occur in the project construction area to ensure that in-water works were not negatively impacting the fish community around the island. ERCA hired an environmental consultant to do the fish salvage and during the fall 2020 construction they caught 912 round goby and 42 Northern Madtom in the construction area, among other species. Kevin mentioned that once the project is complete, ongoing biological and physical monitoring must occur to honour agreements and permit approvals from DFO. Some funding from ECCC has been provided to DFO to conduct the post-construction monitoring.

Collavino Wetland Project

The Collavino wetland is about 75 acres in size, is dyked, and is located at the mouth of River Canard, where it meets the Detroit River. The project is part of a larger land donation facilitated by EcoGifts Canada and in total the site is about 150 acres. ERCA is working with the land donor and ECCC on the land transfer.

Kevin M. mentioned that one of the primary habitat issues at this site is that the entire site is filled with Phragmites and as a result, there is minimal vegetation of other species. ERCA is currently in the process of implementing a large scale Phragmites management program at the site. These works include refurbishing and maintaining the existing dyke, and installing a pumping system that permits water level management. Once Phragmites is treated, a water level management regime will be implemented to foster native vegetation establishment in the wetland, with native wildlife to follow.

Now that the pumping infrastructure is in place, steps to control Phragmites are planned including conducting a prescribed burn to remove the standing biomass of Phragmites. By removing the standing dead mass, ERCA could then spray new Phragmites coming in and expose mud flats for native vegetation seeds to become established. In preparation for the burn, a contractor flattened the Phragmites at the site in spring 2021. The municipality of Amherstburg approved the burn, but the weather in early spring was not conducive to having a burn, so the burn was not able to take place. Instead, the plan is that ERCA will spray the Phragmites in late July/early August 2021 and then work towards a fall burn, if weather conditions permit. Kevin M. mentioned that a new product called Habitat Aqua has recently been approved to kill Phragmites in water.

Discussion

April asked about the pump at Collavino and whether there is much maintenance associated with the pumping equipment. Kevin M. responded by saying that the maintenance isn't too intensive. To operate the pump, ERCA requires the rental of a large generator that is brought to the site. Kevin M. also mentioned that in order to use the pump DFO permits are required to ensure smaller fish will not be harmed by the pump running, due to the volume of water it will be moving.

Kevin W. asked how effective the Habitat Aqua chemical is at killing Phragmites. Kevin M. mentioned the product is a relatively new chemical on the market that is produced by BASF and that it is essentially a Roundup product. Kevin M. mentioned that at other ERCA sites such as Ruscom Shores and Hillman Marsh they have used a similar chemical with water level control and it has been effective in killing Phragmites.

Kate asked about the burn window at Collavino and whether the decision is to spray in lieu of burning. Kevin mentioned that the purpose of the spring burn was to remove dead standing Phragmites biomass to expose mud flats and the wetland native seed bank. The intent is to remove the material for the native seed bed to germinate. Spraying after the burn would ensure that the majority of Phragmites are removed from the site. Kevin M. mentioned they are hoping to do a burn in the fall to remove dead standing Phragmites from the site after applying the herbicide.

Detroit River Coalition

Jackie shared some of the efforts the DRCC/ERCA has put into forming the Detroit River Coalition with other Detroit River agencies since early 2020. Her presentation is included as Appendix IV. Jackie provided a bit of history about the Detroit River Coalition. She mentioned that a joint cleanup event was supposed to take place on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day between American and Canadian agencies. However, due to COVID-19, the event was cancelled. So, over the past year, the agencies involved in the cleanup event met to strategically plan for the creation of the Detroit River Coalition. Strategic planning was funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jackie mentioned that through this strategic planning the Detroit River Coalition was able to develop a mission, vision, and core values as well as determine plans for the next few years.

The organizations that make up the Detroit River Coalition include the Friends of the Detroit River, Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Friends of the Rouge, and Green Living Science on the American side of the border and the DRCC and ERCA on the Canadian side of the river. Jackie highlighted the coalition structure and informed the group that she was elected the Vice Chairperson of the Coalition and also heads the public relations and events and special projects committee. Jackie also mentioned that Gina is the Canadian leader of the finance and Grant Research/Writing Committee.

Jackie highlighted some of the virtual offerings the Coalition did for Earth Day 2021. These events included a photo/art contest, Detroit River Bingo, a presentation on Habitat Restoration (done jointly with our U.S. partners) and a Coalition launch event. She mentioned that the U.S. organizations that are part of the Coalition did an in person clean-up event at various sites on the river. Jackie stated that the plan is to do a cleanup event in fall 2021 in Sandwich Town as part of funding received from the Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority. The cleanup event is tentatively scheduled for September 18th in Sandwich.

As the Coalition is still very new, the coalition has short and long term goals established via strategic planning that will allow for the Coalition to continue growing and expanding. In addition, the DRCC plans to explore how the Coalition can help the DRCC with long term goals to continue advocating and protecting the Detroit River, including after delisting.

Discussion

Kevin W. asked about the Sandwich Cleanup proposed for September. Jackie mentioned that the DRCC plans to identify a few locations to host cleanups in Sandwich Town. She plans to share details with the SIC once we have more detailed plans.

Update on outreach efforts in 2020-21

Gina provided an update to the group on the DRCC's outreach efforts in 2020-21. Her presentation is included as Appendix V. She informed the group that the DRCC participated in 10 events, presentations, and other engagement opportunities between the spring of 2020 and end of winter 2021. Most of these events were virtual due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The DRCC, in partnership with the Detroit River Coalition, hosted a virtual eEarthDay pledge, encouraging people to replace one single use plastic item they use frequently with a reusable alternative. The DRCC also hosted their 9th Annual Detroit River Evening and a Phytoplankton and Zooplankton BUI open house virtually. Jackie also participated in a Great Lakes Now watch party on high water levels and their effects on habitat. Further, the DRCC hosted a virtual film screening of Ecohighway, a film which highlighted efforts to protect Species at Risk during the construction of the Parkway project. Gina also highlighted that the DRCC gave multiple presentations to universities, schools, and other stakeholders. In addition, the DRCC's social media followers increased over the past year. Gina informed the group of upcoming outreach initiatives including a virtual learn to fish module, the planned cleanup event in Sandwich in September, and a potential Peche Island Day.

Discussion

Tom wanted to impress upon the SIC the wonderful job that Gina does in doing outreach for the DRCC and emphasized that her work is very well done and professional. He thanked Gina for her work on behalf of the PAC. April mentioned that she enjoys the Current and the other outreach tools the DRCC creates.

Update on Indigenous Engagement Strategy

Jackie provided an update on the DRCC Indigenous Engagement Strategy. Her presentation is included as Appendix VI. She informed the group that this Indigenous Engagement strategy was drafted in 2019 and is a living document that is designed to evolve over time. She mentioned that in both the GLWQA and COA, the importance of First Nation and Métis engagement is emphasized in the principles and approaches outlined in these Agreements. In the 2021 COA, Annexes 12 and 13 reflect the interests and important role of First Nations and Métis and provide a framework for Canada and Ontario to engage First Nations and Métis during the implementation of the Agreement. More specifically, there is a commitment to engage Indigenous communities on decisions pertaining to the status of beneficial uses and the removal of the AOC designation (also known as "delisting") or designating it as an AOC in recovery.

The Indigenous Engagement Strategy provides an outline for the DRCC on engaging Indigenous communities as it continues to implement the Remedial Action Plan for the AOC. . It was identified through consultation with OMECP Indigenous Advisors that the DRCC should engage communities whose ancestors were signatories to 1790 McKee Treaty (Aamjiwnaang First Nation (FN), Walpole Island FN, Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point FN, Chippewas of the Thames FN, and Caldwell FN). Additionally, the following communities were identified for engagement: Oneida FN of the Thames, Delaware Nation, Munsee-Delaware Nation and the Métis were also identified for engagement.

Jackie informed the group that letters were sent out in 2018 to all of the identified Indigenous communities to set up a meeting to determine how they wish to be engaged with the Detroit River RAP. Jackie shared some of the engagement efforts with each of the communities since the 2018 letters were sent. Some of the next steps identified in the Indigenous Engagement strategy include ongoing communications and to follow up with communities that are not yet engaged.

Discussion

Dan told the group that when the current language in the new COA Agreement was drafted, this was the type of engagement they were envisioning with Indigenous communities. The DRCC's engagement strategy works towards that vision and hopefully other groups create a similar strategy. April mentioned that this strategy can act as a model for other AOCs who have yet to begin the Indigenous engagement process.

BUI Status Updates

April shared an update on the status of all BUIs and BUI #3 and #14 sub-criteria development. Her presentation is included as Appendix VII. To begin, she shared the current status of all 14 BUIs for the Detroit River AOC and highlighted that since the last SIC meeting in August 2020 there have been two BUIs that have been redesignated (Fish Tumours and Other Deformities and Degradation of Benthos BUIs). As for BUI #13, she mentioned that the engagement process has been completed and that the DRCC received largely editorial comments from their partners. April met last week with DFO (the lead authors of the BUI#13 status assessment report) and they are in the process of incorporating comments received. She mentioned that the next steps for this BUI are to send the completed status assessment report to the COA Annex Leads ECCC (Kate) and MECP (Dan) for their review and decision to change the status from requires further assessment to not impaired. The DRCC is hopeful to have another redesignation in 2021/22 for BUI #13.

April mentioned that there are four remaining impaired BUIs and that the Pathway to Delisting document is the DRCC's living work plan that is updated annually and is a resource to refer to for the specific plans this year and next on the RAP.

BUI #1 Restrictions on Fish Consumption

April informed the group that the DRCC is currently conducting a virtual and in person angler survey. To date, the DRCC has collected 315 responses. The purpose of the survey is to better understand fish consumption habits of the local community. This information will support the overall BUI assessment, being undertaken by UWindsor. April also mentioned that the University of Windsor has completed a draft status assessment report for this BUI that is under the review of the Research and Monitoring Work Group.

BUI #3 Degradation of fish and wildlife populations

For BUI #3, the Habitat and Research and Monitoring Work Groups have been working on establishing draft measurable sub-criteria to assess when the delisting criteria for this BUI has been met. April also mentioned that there have been two recent reports for this BUI published by DFO. The first report assessed the fish community and whether it is dominated by benthivores and the second report looked at the fish IBI in the Detroit River and compared it to Walpole Island (reference site). There were no significant differences in fish IBI scores between the two sites. These reports will support the BUI assessment.

On the wildlife side, ECCC has been monitoring marsh bird abundance and diversity since 2011 and the data indicates that the IBI scores for marsh birds are low, but stable. This year, April has asked the Canadian Wildlife Service to evaluate factors that could contribute to these low scores to determine whether it has to do with wetland quality and whether the RAP can address this issue.

BUI #5- Bird or animal deformities or reproductive problems

DRCC is addressing both bird and animals. ECCC has been assessing reproduction in colonial water birds. In addition to the colonial water birds, ECCC has been monitoring tree swallows. Tree swallow monitoring did not occur last year due to COVID-19, so this year is expected to be the final year of tree swallow monitoring on the river. Once the fieldwork is complete and the data is analyzed this is expected to be the final piece required for the assessment of this BUI. April mentioned that the animal component is complete and was based on the snapping turtle monitoring that indicated that reproductive success was high.

BUI #14 – Loss of fish and wildlife habitat

The Habitat and Monitoring and Research Work Groups have been working diligently to develop sub-criteria to support decision making on the status of this BUI. April clarified that the sub-criteria will not change the delisting criteria, but will act as a checklist of measurable items that identify what is done and what still needs to be done. This will facilitate decision-making and federal/provincial work planning going forward.

BUI #3 and #14 sub-criteria review

Regarding sub-criteria, April went through the delisting criteria for BUI #3 and #14 and then went into detail on the sub-criteria for each delisting criteria. The sub-criteria were created with the help of experts on the Habitat Work Group including representatives from ECCC, UWindsor and DFO.

For BUI #3, she showed the group the draft list of sub-criteria. She highlighted that Jan Ciborowski from UWindsor has worked hard to compile and analyze data that has helped the group come up with specific benchmarks for marsh bird IBIs that allow for the establishment of numeric targets to be used in the sub-criteria. April mentioned that the sub-criteria for BUI #3 are mostly achieved except for the marsh bird sub-criteria.

For BUI #14, the Habitat Work Group has developed a suite of sub-criteria for each of the four delisting criteria. She presented the list of four potential sub-criteria for coastal wetlands and three sub-criteria for aquatic and riparian habitat. April mentioned that ECCC led the creation of the coastal wetland sub-criteria and DFO is leading the sub-criteria creation for aquatic and riparian habitat.

With regards to shoreline softening, the Habitat Work Group agrees that the creation of the DRCC's shoreline management strategy and implementation of several shoreline softening projects has met the delisting criteria. As a result, no sub-criteria was developed for shoreline softening.

The fourth delisting criteria re: terrestrial habitat is being led by ERCA. ERCA recently completed a comprehensive report that compiled all terrestrial restoration projects within the Detroit River watershed. This report is under review by the Habitat Work Group and will be the focus of our next Habitat Work Group meeting in the Fall.

Next steps for the remaining BUIs include finalizing BUI #13 status recommendation report and submitting it to COA Annex Leads. The Monitoring and Research Work Group is currently reviewing the technical report for BUI#1. For BUI #3 and #14, the sub-criteria will be finalized. For BUI #5, tree swallow monitoring will be completed in 2021. For BUI #14, the DRCC plans to continue supporting habitat restoration project implementation, monitoring, and modelling.

Discussion

Jackie mentioned that the proposed habitat restoration project on the south end of Fighting Island is similar to what is taking place on the north side Peche Island, where the sheltering rocky shoals are being constructed. The area was historically a wetland area that eroded and the hope is that by creating sheltering islands, the wetland will return. Jackie and April have been meeting monthly with BASF representatives regarding this project and look at ways the potential project could be implemented. Jackie also mentioned that the Canadian Coast Guard has been involved as Fighting Island was previously identified as a potential site for a confined disposal facility for dredged sediment. April mentioned that the plan is to contact DFO to determine potential permit requirements for the project, should it go forward at some point in the future. Kevin commented on the value of having the engineered drawings, estimated costs and project permit requirements identified.

Kate mentioned that she appreciates the work the team has done to develop sub-criteria. Kate provided perspective on why sub-criteria matters in the context of the AOC program. The federal AOC program is able to draw on funding from the GLPI and one of the ways the program prioritizes funding is looking at how close AOC programs are on achieving BUI redesignations. Through establishing sub-criteria and well defined goals that show progress, those who are in decision making capacities for AOC programs are able to better prioritize funding and resources.

Public Advisory Council Report

Tom gave an update to the SIC about the PAC efforts on the river over the past year. He informed the group that at the Windsor City Council meeting of June 7, 2021 Council endorsed local MP Brian Masse's letter to federal ministers calling for the establishment of an Ojibway National Urban Park on the river encompassing the Ojibway Prairie Complex and Ojibway Shores, all within the boundaries of the City of Windsor. Masse's letters to the Transport Minister, the ministers of Infrastructure and Communities as well as Environment and Climate Change Canada informed those ministries that Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has publicly voiced his support for establishing the Ojibway National Urban Park. As information becomes available, the Steering Committee and Public Advisory Council members will be updated on the campaign's progress.

Next, the Revere Copper property on the US side of the Detroit River was the site of a major shoreline collapse and spill in November 2019. Chemical waste went straight to the bottom and other pollutants

were swept downstream. Now, the City of Detroit is being urged to pass an ordinance that would prevent such catastrophic spills from recurring. At a public hearing, an organizer from the Sierra Club of Michigan stated, "Canadians should keep their eye on the ordinance's fate." Taking him at his word, PAC sent an email informing the Sierra Club that the DRCC's Public Advisory Council was indeed keeping their eye on the ordinance and informing the governments of Canada, Ontario, and the City of Windsor. PAC stressed its support for the actions by federal, state and local governments to remediate the contaminated sites and prevent further occurrences.

Finally, regarding the long awaited Ojibway Shores Land Swap with the City of Windsor, Steve Salmons, CEO of the Windsor Port Authority sent Tom an email saying that he can confirm that the City and Port Authority are engaged on a solution and that he is optimistic that an announcement can be made before the end of summer.

Discussion

April asked Tom whether he has been able to attend recent U.S. PAC meetings. Tom confirmed that he, Jackie, and Gina have been attending Friends of the Detroit River PAC meetings remotely.

Round Table Updates

Dan mentioned that there was a recent and significant cabinet shuffle in the provincial government and the MECP have a new minister – the Honorable David Piccini.

Stephen mentioned that the MNRF has been impacted by current COVID-19 restrictions and that some programs that were supposed to occur in the Detroit River have been delayed as a result. The MNRF does have plans to do a Muskie assessment in Lake St. Clair and the upper Detroit River, which will likely occur next year. He also mentioned they have been working with U.S. colleagues on a project in Lake St. Clair using the Great Lakes Acoustic Observation System (GLATOS Array). This will track fish movements through the lake and the Detroit River.

Kate congratulated the team on the BUI #4 and #6 redesignation. She also wanted to mention that ECCC continues to work on the development of the Canadian Water Agency and encouraged April to inform the SIC when public comment periods are open.

April mentioned that ECCC is still providing funding support for RAP coordination and has some agreements in place to support Indigenous engagement. She also mentioned that there was one restoration project that was submitted for GLPI funding in early 2021 and that she is awaiting the outcome of that review. She also informed the group that science work planning is complete for the next year and that more details can be found in the updated Pathway to Delisting document.

Kevin M. informed the group that the federal government has released a new funding announcement – the Canadian Community Revitalization Fund. They are looking for projects that are shovel ready and Kevin M. is hoping to put forward an application for the Peche Island project.

Neil mentioned that Brighton Beach Power was acquired by Atura Power (a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation) and that their organization is looking to expand their role in green energy and are leading OPG's development of hydrogen energy projects. Neil invited the SIC to their facility for an upcoming SIC meeting once COVID-19 public health guidelines allow.

Gina informed the group that she is currently working on creating outreach materials associated with the 20th anniversary of the Detroit River being designated a Canadian Heritage River (July 19). She is currently

working on some digital and virtual experiences that focus on cultural, historical, and recreational opportunities in the Detroit River. She is also working on the 20 year monitoring report which will incorporate a lot of the DRCC's recent work. Gina will circulate the report once complete in March 2022 and plans to provide an update at the next SIC meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Gina to present update on the 20 year monitoring report of the Canadian Heritage River at next SIC meeting.

Kevin W. wondered what the expectations from the City of Windsor representative are on the SIC. April mentioned that Paul had various roles and that the DRCC would reach out to further discuss.

ACTION ITEM: Reach out to Kevin W. to discuss role of City of Windsor on SIC. Completed

Other items/ Closing Remarks/ Next Meeting

April closed the meeting by mentioning that hopefully the next SIC meeting will be in person. She also reminded everyone the 10th Detroit River Evening is taking place tonight starting at 6pm. Further, she reminded the group that the Pathway to Delisting document and Annual Report have been distributed to the group and is available on the DRCC website. April mentioned that the next meeting will be scheduled when it is deemed that there is sufficient information to share. Jackie will be in touch with a Doodle poll.

Appendix I. Meeting Attendance

Ted Briggs	Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Neil Finnerty	Brighton Beach Power
Tom Henderson	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Public Advisory Council Chair
Norm Joseph	Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Daniel Joyce	Ontario Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks
Stephen Marklevitz	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (now Ontario Ministry of Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry)
Kevin Money	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Gina Pannunzio	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Dennis Plain	Aamjiwnaang First Nation
Brianna Sands	Caldwell First Nation
Jackie Serran	Detroit River Canadian Cleanup
Kate Taillon	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Kevin Webb	City of Windsor
April White	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Mark Winterton	City of Windsor

Appendix II. Action Items from Steering and Implementation Committee Meeting August 17, 2020 and their Updates

ACTION ITEM: DRCC continue with re-designation process for the Phytoplankton and Zooplankton BUI.

In progress. Jackie mentioned that this BUI was considered requires further assessment. In 2019, DFO completed a comprehensive survey in the river for plankton and microbes and created a status assessment report. The assessment report was then sent out for review by the public, US agencies, and Indigenous partners. The comments have been received and are now being reviewed and incorporated into the report. There were no issues identified with the recommendation to change the status of this BUI to not impaired. This report should be submitted to the COA Annex Leads within a month or so.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to reach out to Aamjiwnaang FN Environment Committee to get on the agenda for an upcoming Committee meeting. Completed. Jackie and April presented a Remedial Action Plan update to Aamjiwnaang's Environment Committee in October 2020.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to update Indigenous Engagement Strategy based on comments from group. Completed. An updated version of the Indigenous Engagement Strategy was distributed to the SIC as part of the meeting materials.

ACTION ITEM: Jackie to follow up with the City of Windsor for a replacement for the Steering and Implementation Committee. Complete – new representative is Kevin Webb.

ACTION ITEM: Kevin Money to reach out to Terry at OMECP to discuss revisiting the Point and Non-Point Source Pollution Work Group and discuss commitments and actions to meet delisting criteria. Kevin M. has not had a chance to reach out. Carried forward.