

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Draft Minutes

Meeting 2005-1

Lambton-Kent District School Board Auditorium
200 Wellington St.
Sarnia, Ontario

Thursday February 17, 2005
6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES:

Cathy Cardy	Donald Craig	Daniel Rhein
Stewart Thornley	Paulette Duhaime	PattyTroy
Mark Richardson	M. K. Simon (A)	Janice Littlefield
Archie Kerr	Walter Di Giovanni (A)	Jim Clatworthy
Fred Kemp	Darrell Randell	Fred Fuller
John Jackson	Darren Henry	Tip Haagsma
Kris Lee	Morris Zandbergs	Jennifer Vincent
Bud West		

GUESTS:

Mike Moroney	Sharon Schoen (Stag Is)	Rod Adams (SWAT)
Lisa Appel	Michelle Meullerl	Jeff Braunscheidel
Mary Jane Kartzmark	Greg Mayne (EC)	Howard Heidemann
Barbara Bulic	Tom Dzierzanowski	Chris Sebastian
Ken Hall (Friends)	Lindsay Anderson	Ted Briggs

REGRETS:

Gary Johnson

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. followed by introductions.

2. Approve Agenda

The agenda was approved with additions.

3. Approval of November 18, 2004 Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. MOE SWAT Team Presentation

Rod Adams, Manager, Sector Inspections, Environmental SWAT Team gave the presentation. The SWAT Team was formed in 2000 and adopted a “cradle to grave” approach to its inspections. The Team has formed strategic partnerships with other agencies such as the ministry of Transportation for Ontario (MTO), EC and Customs Canada. Inspections are risk-based, where Risk = Likelihood X Consequence. The Team has a Provincial mandate including: Certificates of Approval (CsofA) for air emissions and sewage; MISA Regulations; waste generators (Reg. 347); spills prevention (training, contingency plans, preventative measures); surface water and groundwater sampling. SWAT conducted inspections at 35 facilities in the Sarnia area and to date has issued orders for 29 facilities.

SWAT is evaluating what the MOE can do better, and relationships to the findings of the IPAT Report.

Not to imply that some of the infractions were not serious, Rod Adams indicated that none of the orders was the result of anything found to be of immediate impact to environmental or human health.

In response to questioning it was reported that the MOE does not do compliance at the request of industry. Industry typically hires consultants to perform compliance inspections.

The MOE Abatement Section, does for its own purposes, develops inspection programs.

5. BPAC Elections

It was moved by John Jackson, seconded by Kris Lee, that Bela Trebics be nominated for **Canadian Chair**. No other nominations were heard. Nominations were closed followed by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Fred Fuller, seconded by John Jackson, that Kris Lee be nominated for **Canadian Vice-Chair**. No other nominations were heard. Nominations were closed followed by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Fred Fuller, seconded by Mark Richardson, that Patty Troy be nominated for **U.S. Chair**. No other nominations were heard. Nominations were closed followed by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Fred Kemp, seconded by Patty Troy, that Fred Fuller be nominated for **U.S. Vice-Chair**. No other nominations were heard. Nominations were closed followed by a unanimous vote.

The **SPAC representative** will continue to be Sharon Bender with Patty Troy and Paulette Duhaime as alternatives.

6. RLSN Habitat Presentation

Lindsay Anderson, who coordinates the grant program for landowners, made the presentation on behalf of the Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RSLN). Lindsay keeps track of accomplishments and helps determine program direction. The RLSN is a

multi-council stewardship initiative supported by Ontario Stewardship which is community based.

The goal of habitat rehabilitation is to improve water quality and quantity and focuses on riparian areas, up to a maximum of \$10K per project.

Vegetation used includes forests, wetlands and tall grass prairie. RSLN prefers the use of warm season grasses that form clumps rather than cool season grasses that grow more uniformly.

Lindsay listed a number of projects completed in 2003/04. Private projects are complimented by corporate projects. An example is a project at Terra involving Ducks Unlimited Canada, RSLN and Terra.

Most projects are newly constructed wetlands owing to the scarcity of existing wetlands for rehabilitation. Lindsay indicated that there is an increasing concern for water quantity, specifically the re-establishment of a more natural hydrograph.

Support is received from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF), the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation (OGLRF), Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program (CFWIP) and the Canada Ontario Agreement (COA).

Keys to success include landowner ownership and a landscape approach.

Mark Richardson updated BPAC members about the Macomb County - Wetland Enforcement Initiative. A task force has been created resulting from investigations by MDEQ. Mark also indicated that the St. Clair Coastal Habitat Project is nearing completion. This project created a habitat inventory along the U.S. shoreline of the St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair, and is a joint effort of the EPA, NOAA and MDEQ.

7. St. Clair County River Day

Lisa Appel, Operations Coordinator, Pine River Nature Center made a presentation. Lisa is trying to tie the River Day event to other events and asked for BPAC endorsement of River Day. A motion was passed giving BPAC support of the June 11, 2005 event through the use of the BPAC logo. It was also suggested that perhaps BPAC display materials could be used for a booth at Earth Day Fair on April 15 and 16, 2005. The request was made for BPAC participation in the Earth Day Fair with membership manning a BPAC booth and possibly having a craft, demonstration or activity at that booth.

To date ten municipalities are officially supporting River Day; Fort Gratiot, City of Port Huron, Port Huron Twp, Marysville, City of St. Clair, East China Twp, Marine City, Algonac, Cottreville Twp and Clay Twp.

The goal of River Day: to encourage appreciation for and recreational use of St. Clair County's waterways. The thought is that if people are using the water resource, they are more likely to protect it – which is the ultimate goal.

River Days have been occurring in the Clinton River Watershed (Macomb & Oakland counties) and the Rouge River Watershed (Wayne & Oakland counties) for over 10 years. The challenge is that St. Clair County does not have just one major river, unlike the Clinton and the Rouge. A River Day in St. Clair County will celebrate all of its major waterways: Anchor Bay, Belle River, Pine River, Black River, Mill Creek, St. Clair River and Lake Huron. Lisa unveiled the Biodiversity Atlas "Explore Our Natural World", for the

Lake Huron to Lake Erie Corridor, which has a focus on the St. Clair River (SCR), Lake St. Clair (LSC) and the Detroit River.

Action: Stew Thornley to follow up on the use of BPAC display materials and the availability of BPAC St. Clair River Fact Sheets.

Note: Through the distribution of the minutes from this meeting, it is requested that any BPAC members wishing to donate their time to Earth Day Fair or River Day contact **Lisa Appel** at (810) 325-9106, email lapel@sccresa.org.

8. St. Clair River Progress Report

Jennifer Vincent from Environment Canada (EC) indicated that she is the St. Clair River BPAC Representative and that EC is fully back to participate in the RAP. Jennifer indicated that Greg Mayne (EC) was hired in mid-March to re-write the St. Clair River Progress Report. This will be the final revision of the Progress Report and became necessary as a result of the latest round of review comments. Once this report is finished, Jennifer indicated that she expects a more regular reporting frequency.

Jennifer indicated that the Four Agencies (EPA, MDEQ, EC, MOE) have agreed to the re-establishment of a Remedial Implementation Committee (RIC) to help guide the St. Clair River AOC toward de-listing. The RIC is expected to be up and running by March, 2006.

In addition to a bi-national Lake St. Clair Management Report, Jennifer indicated that there is to be an individual Canadian Work Plan. Canadian agencies will conduct a consultation process within the next six months to develop recommendations for the Canadian Work Plan. The plan will be a strategic (i.e. an overview) document.

9. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Alternative SPAC representative Paulette Duhaime announced the up-coming SPAC meeting on March 15 and 16, 2005. Monitoring is to be on the agenda.

ii) Friends of the St. Clair- Annual General Meeting

Darryll Randell reported that there was a Friends of the St. Clair meeting February 10, 2005, in Sarnia.

There was discussion about the possible discontinuation of the Friends of the St. Clair website since there has been very utilization of the site. It was agreed to continue to promote the Friends website and to increase the distribution of educational material on the site.

Darryll reported that in recognition of BPAC members, Friends was considering the purchase of the Lake Huron to Lake Erie Biodiversity Atlas. In response, all present indicated that they would appreciate receiving the Atlas.

- iii) BPAC Membership
No report was available.

10. Other

i) St. Clair River Monitoring

Mark Richardson up-dated BPAC about three initiatives concerning the establishment of a permanent real-time monitoring station in the St. Clair River.

a) MDEQ convened a workgroup and had subsequent meetings with the MOE regarding notification.

b) There was a meeting of the Macomb/St. Clair Real –Time Monitoring Subcommittee on February 8,2005 to discuss a pilot study based on ORSANCO technology.

c) A third initiative was the formation of an advisory group regarding monitoring in LSC and the SCR. The advisory group includes department heads from St. Clair County, Macomb County and Wayne County and MDEQ. There is a \$2.5 Million grant for the monitoring.

The MOE is invited to participate in an initiative with St. Clair County and Macomb County. There is \$650K from the U.S. Congress for this initiative (\$350K for Macomb County and \$300K for St. Clair County). There is a local match requirement.

Action: Mike Moroney requested a letter to the MOE, to his attention requesting participation in the advisory group.

Fred Kemp informed BPAC that the City of Port Huron and the City of Sarnia (and some Canadian Industries) had entered into a direct notification spill agreement between police dispatchers.

11. Adjourn/Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BPAC was set for April 14, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. in Port Huron. The exact location is yet to be confirmed. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.