

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Final Minutes

Meeting 2006-3

**St. Clair County Administration Building
200 Grand River Ave. (First Floor Auditorium)
Port Huron, MI**

**Thursday, June 8, 2006
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Kris Lee	Shanna Draheim	Sharon Bender
Quincy Coleman	Darrell Randell	PattyTroy
Gary Johnson	Frank Schoonover	Tip Haagsma
Stewart Thornley	Archie Kerr	Fred Kemp
Janice Littlefield	John Misaros	Phil Vallance
Fred Fuller	Bela Trebics	Jim Clatworthy
Christine Loeffler	Sue Levesque	Dean Barnett
Geoff Donaldson	Ted Briggs	Al Lewandowski
Modris Zandbergs	Dan Collins	Judy Ogden
Kristen Jurs	Donald Craig	Frank Frisk

GUESTS:

Stephen Pennington – Tetra Tech
 Andi Jacklyn - Macomb County Prosecutors Office
 Doug Matz – St. Clair Channel Keeper
 Eric Barnowski – Ira Township – DPN Asst. Superintendent
 Virginia Barnowski
 Chief Milton L. Scales Jr.– Director, Homeland Security & Emergency Management
 Coordinator, Office of Criminal Investigations, MDEQ

REGRETS:

Paulette Duhaime	Greg Mayne	M.K (Whitey) Simon
Bud West		

1. Welcome and Introductions

Patty Troy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:45 p.m., followed by introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

A Revised Agenda was approved, including Agenda Item 7. Spills Notification (Milton Scales) and Agenda Item 9. Drinking Water Quality Monitoring Report (Eric Barnowski).

3. Approval of October 20, 2005 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved with the correction under Item 11. Committee Reports, Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR) "*the City of Sarnia Chamber of Commerce, in response to the CBC broadcast, also had sent a letter to the Director of Programming for the CBC and to the CBC Ombudsman*". The minutes had incorrectly indicated that the letter was sent from Lambton Wildlife Inc.

4. BPAC Work Plan – Outreach Up date

Bob Weir updated the BPAC on outreach activities undertaken to date under seven headings: 1) Public Awareness; 2) Media Release; 3) Photo Contest; 4) Power Point Presentation; 5) Portable Display; 6) Status Sheets and 7) Report Card.

Bob Weir and Ken Hall have been in touch with numerous television and radio stations to advertise and increase awareness of the BPAC and especially the Photo Contest. Bob announced that an interview with Patty Troy was aired on WPHM radio on the Paul Miller Show. Also an interview with Bela Trebics was aired on CHOK radio on Live With Lee (Michaels). Bob announce that he wished to do follow up interviews. Posters advertising the Photo Contest will be distributed in communities along the river and ads will be placed in several newspapers and other community publications. Information on the Photo Contest can also be found on the FOSCR website. Bob indicated that three entries had already been submitted to the website. Bob indicated that a BPAC Power Point presentation should be ready this summer.

The Blue Water Shutterbugs requested a speaker for their meeting in July, and Patty Troy volunteered to speak. Modris Zandbergs indicated that the Photo Contest will be advertised in the Lambton Wildlife Inc. newsletter.

Darrell Randell indicated that the Brigden 4 H Photography Club might be interested in the Photo Contest.

Jim Clatworthy indicated that he would contact St. Clair Community College.

Action Item:

Stew Thornley will forward information on the Photo Contest print ad, poster and media release, in pdf format, to Ken Hall to be posted on the FOSCR website with appropriate links. It was decided that sending these files to BPAC members as e-mail attachments would bog down many home computers.

While FOSCR has funding for the majority of the outreach costs, this funding cannot be used for US advertising costs. It was announced that the U.S. Friends of the St. Clair River, while essentially disbanded, still has \$2000 in their bank account.

Action Item:

Fred Fuller and Janice Littlefield will contact Tim Lozen to see if a portion of the \$2000 in the possession of the US Friends of the St. Clair River can be used for advertising on the U.S. side of the St. Clair River. It is suggested that remaining monies be used to hire a grant writer to procure funds for other projects. Additionally, Janice will look into the possibility of re-establishing the FOSCR (US)

5. Bi-National Delisting Criteria Update

Ted Briggs from the Ministry of the Environment reported that the Four Agencies are reviewing the Compendium of Position Papers. The Four Agency Work Group (Work Group) is presently reviewing the Bi-national Delisting Criteria for the St. Clair River, the Detroit River and the St. Marys River. They will be reporting to the Four Agency Managers at their meeting on June 22, 2006. As part of the review, the Work Group is re-visiting the de-listing criteria for the St. Clair River. This is tied into the development of the next five-year work plan for the St. Clair River AOC.

As part of the presentation to the Four Agency Managers, the Work Group has prepared summaries for each of the St. Clair River, the Detroit River and the St. Marys River.

Action Item:

Ted Briggs (MOE and Shanna Draheim (MDEQ) will send the summaries of the St. Clair River, the Detroit River and the St. Marys River to Stew Thornley who will in turn forward them to the BPAC.

6. Cross Border Spills Notification Letters

Patty Troy reported that letters dated May 10, 2006 and signed by the BPAC Chairs were sent to: Mr. Jeffrey Freidland, St. Clair County Emergency Management Division; Hae-Jin Yoon, Chief, Surface Water Quality Division, MDEQ; and Michael Moroney, Ontario Ministry of the Environment. Chief Milton L. Scales Jr. addressed the BPAC on behalf of MDEQ. Michael Moroney from the MOE in a letter dated June 1, 2006 indicated that while the MOE does not anticipate being able to provide a response by June 8, 2006, they will endeavour to provide a written response to the BPAC within 30

days. A letter from Mr. Jeffrey Freidland dated June 6, 2006 updated recent activities by his group and will be e-mailed from Patty Troy to Stew Thornley for distribution to the BPAC with the minutes.

7. Spills Notification

Chief Scales presented information on behalf of MDEQ regarding how government agencies in Michigan and Ontario notify each other in case of spills to the river. Scales stated that for the last two spills the time between when spills were reported and when water plants were notified ranged from 25 to 64 minutes.

While that length of time is significantly faster than notification processes of a few years ago, BPAC members still feel the process is too slow. BPAC unanimously passed a resolution, asking the MDEQ to reduce that time by contacting water plant managers immediately after a spill is reported rather than waiting until additional spill information becomes available. That is, the BPAC wishes for, as a precaution, the notification of water plant managers regardless of the circumstances.

Motion:

A motion (moved Janice Littlefield, seconded by Fred Fuller) was passed that BPAC make a recommendation to MDEQ to look at a procedure whereby water plants are immediately notified when a spill has been reported and then await further information when available, for follow up.

Sharon Bender raised a concern for recreational users of the St. Clair River at the time of a spill.

8. Plum Creek Estates

Fred Fuller had nothing further to report on this matter.

9. Drinking Water quality Monitoring Report

Eric Barnowski, the assistant superintendent for the Department of Public Works in Ira Township, reported on improved technology that will effect real-time monitoring of river water quality within the St. Clair River. This is especially important at water intake pipes for the nine water plants along the river, Barnowski said.

The equipment to be installed, initially at two test facilities "cluster plants" in St. Clair and Algonac, Michigan, will include gas chromatograph/mass spectrometers, fluorometers, total organic carbon analyzers, and multi-parameter probes, which will run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Additionally, multi-parameter probes will be installed at seven other plants.

“After two years of research, we hope to see the first instruments hardwired into the system later this summer,” Barnowski said. Describing the equipment as “an emerging technology,” he will attend a technical meeting on its operation at the University of Michigan June 21-23.

The equipment requires a certain amount of operator training, which will be available from manufacturers. He indicated that qualified operators working elsewhere would be brought in to train local plant operators. He also foresees local colleges becoming involved through student internship programs to train young monitoring equipment operators.

While the equipment will normally monitor water conditions at the parts per million level, it can be adjusted to measure in parts per billion. With that sensitivity, the equipment will not only measure foreign chemicals from manufacturer discharges and marine or highway accidents, but it will also measure pollutants that might originate from tributary watersheds during major rain events.

10. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Patty Troy provided a handout of information on behalf of Sharon Bender that included: an update on the status of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration; SPAC 2006 Status Report and Legislative Agenda; the Clean Michigan Initiative; and 2007 SPAC priorities. Patty wrote a letter to US legislators requesting funding as outlined in the Great lakes regional Collaboration Strategy Report. She received a reply from Senator Carl Levin that he has introduced S.2545, the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Implementation Act of 2006.

Patty also announced a July 11 & 12, 2006 Lake Erie Lamp meeting and AOC summit in Erie, P.A. There is some travel funding available for this meeting and it was the consensus of the BPAC that this funding should be made available to Sharon Bender and Bela Trebics to attend.

ii) Friends of the St. Clair River

Friends had a meeting in Mooretown on March 26, 2006 to discuss outreach. Darrell Randell indicated that Bob Weir essentially covered most of what transpired at that meeting, and since the last BPAC meeting. Darrel indicated that it is his intention not to have to meet over the summer and hopes to be able to keep in touch via e-mail.

A motion was passed accept the June 8, 2006 Friends “Outreach Report” as presented by Bob Weir.

An Outreach Committee meeting of FOSCR was scheduled for 6:30 p.m., June 19, 2006 at the home of Kris Lee.

iii) BPAC Membership Report

Fred Fuller updated the BPAC on the latest changes to the membership that include:

1. The resignation of Scott Munro
2. Removing Robert Johnston from Canadian Ag Sector
3. Moving Quincy Coleman from US Ag sector to US Fed/Prov/State sector
4. Moving Janice Littlefield from US Business to US Citizen at Large
5. Appointing Al Lewandowski to US Education vacancy
6. Moving one US Fed/Prov/State position to US Fishery, that was filled by Judy Ogden
7. Moving OME, EC, DEQ, EPA reps and legislators to separate non-voting sectors
8. Appointing Eric Barnowski to a US Municipal position created by moving one US Citizen at Large vacancy to US Municipal
9. Appointment of Doug Martz to a US Conservation & Environment vacancy
10. Confirmation of Frank Frisk's appointment to US Shipping vacancy

A motion was made by Fred Fuller, seconded by Bela Trebics, to enact the above changes. Motion passed.

iv) CRIC

Phil Vallance on the CRIC meeting held May 30, 2006. Phil indicated that the meeting consisted of updates from the four CRIC subcommittees: Non-Point Source and Habitat; Point Source; Sediment; and Research and Monitoring. The committees were reviewing the status of Action Items/Issues from the 1995 Stage Two - Recommended Plan Report. What the committees indicate remains to be done will input to the new work plan. The next meeting of the CRIC is scheduled for July 28, 2006.

11 Other

Doug Martz asked that the BPAC support a request for \$250K annual operating expenses for the real-time water quality monitoring system.

Action:

Doug Martz and Eric Barnowski are to follow up on the need for a letter from the BPAC to the Appropriations Committee to help secure this funding. Bela Trebics and Patty Troy to approve before sending.

11. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC is set for **September 21, 2006** at 6:30 p.m. in Sarnia, at the Lambton-Kent District School Board Auditorium, 200 Wellington St. **The Photo Contest winners will be awarded at that meeting.** The meeting was adjourned.