

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL**DRAFT Minutes**

Meeting 2007-4

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

**Thursday, May 9, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Kris Lee	Phil Vallance	Sue Levesque
Donna Thompson	Darrell Randell	Al Lewandowski
Stewart Thornley	Janice Littlefield	Tip Haagsma
Fred Fuller	Bela Trebics	Jim Clatworthy
Terry Burrell	Donald Craig	Teresa Warren
John Thompson (alternate in attendance)		
Frank Schoonover (alternate for Whitey Simon)		

REGRETS:

Gary Johnson	Stephen Paulovics	Ted Briggs
Chris Christenson	John Jackson	Whitey Simon
Mark Richardson	Penny Peck	Vickie Donohue
Jennifer Vincent	Archie Kerr	

GUESTS:

Ken Hall

1. Welcome and Introductions

Bela Trebics called the meeting to order at approximately 6:40 p.m., followed by introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of March 28, 2007 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved.

4. BPAC Draft Letter of Support for Draft 2007 Canada-Ontario Agreement

This was an Action Item carried over from the March 28, 2007 BPAC meeting. The Draft Letter was prepared by John Jackson and Phil Vallance. It was moved by Kris Lee, seconded by Donald Craig that the letter be approved. Motion carried.

The Draft letter is to be signed by both the U.S. and Canadian Co-Chairs and submitted in consideration of the May 16, 2007 deadline for comments.

There was general agreement that a copy of the letter should also be sent to local mayors, M.P.P.s and to SLEA.

5. IOL Prevention of Once Through Cooling water spills to the St. Clair River

Phil Vallance updated the BPAC on the progress of IOL to achieve a goal they set in 1990, of zero discharges to the St. Clair River. Significant steps have been made by IOL through investments in new facilities and improved operations.

Phil indicated that IOL undertook a study in 2004 to determine what additional steps must be taken to prevent future spills – particularly those associated with the once through cooling water system. He further indicated that action plans from the study have been reviewed with community groups and public representatives, and align with the recommendations from the IPAT report, commissioned by the MOE.

He indicated that the overall initiative remains on track, with the majority of the work expected to be completed within 5 years.

6. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Janice Littlefield attended the recent SPAC meeting which had an objective of lobbying legislature and more specifically not to make cuts from the MDEQ budget. Janice introduced a Resolution from BPAC, to be signed by both the U.S. and Canadian Co-Chairs in this regard titled, ***“From The St. Clair River Binational Advisory Council To The Michigan State Appropriations Committee on Environmental Quality.”***

It was moved by Jim Clatworthy, seconded by Fred Fuller, that the resolution be accepted and submitted. Motion carried with the following change:

“Be It Resolved that the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council advises the Senate Appropriations Committee not to cut funding for any Department of Environmental Quality Area of Concern related program.”

To

“Be It Resolved that the St. Clair River Binational Public Advisory Council advises the Senate Appropriations Committee maintain funding for any Department of Environmental Quality Area of Concern related program.”

ii) Friends of the St. Clair River (FOSCR)

Darrell Randell updated the BPAC on the angler survey on aesthetics and fish tainting (MOU with Environment Canada) conducted by FOSCR. The timing of the survey coincided with the recent Annual Salmon Derby held by the Blue Water Angers. Darrell along with Ken Hall indicated that FOSCR expected approximately 800 responses. They are disappointed that so far they have received less than 200 responses. They also expressed their disappointment with the lack of participation by Walpole Island First Nation, and Aamjiwnaang First Nation. Results from Chatham-Kent and Sarnia are still pending. The angler survey will be kept on the FOSCR website into the foreseeable future. Darrell indicated that they are still in need of a treasurer to replace Bud West who has retired from FOSCR and BPAC.

iii) Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed (FOSCRW)

Janice Littlefield announced that she is now an official employee of FOSCRW thanks to MDEQ PAC funding. The funding will allow Janice to work part-time for 12 months on a number of activities. For example, Janice mentioned that she is anticipating working with Patty Troy to form a Public Education Sub-committee for the U.S. side of the river. Janice will be approaching a local printer to make re-prints of both the, *“St. Clair River Status Update”* and *“Progress Towards Delisting – An update report to our community”* BPAC reports. Janice is also trying to set up an e-mail newsletter, and will be assisting ECT in coordinating data.

iv) CRIC

Phil Vallance reported that the CRIC met on April 4, 2007 to consolidate the individual work group work plans into a single work plan. The CRIC is scheduled to meet again on May 23rd in this regard, and intend to bring a working draft of the Work Plan to the BPAC in advance of the next BPAC meeting.

v) BPAC Membership Sub-committee

Fred Fuller outlined the outstanding vacancies for U.S. and Canadian BPAC positions.

vi) OPAC

John Jackson did not submit any information updates on behalf of OPAC.

13. Other

There was no other business to report.

14. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC is set for **June 21, 2007** at 6:30 p.m. in Port Huron. The location (to be confirmed) is the St. Clair County Administration Building, 200 Grand River Ave., Port Huron, Michigan.

The meeting was adjourned.