

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Final Minutes

Meeting 2006-5

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

**Thursday, November 9, 2006
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Kris Lee
Paulette Duhaime
Stewart Thornley
Fred Fuller
Steven Fosgard
Mark Richardson

Laura Esman
Darrell Randell
Janice Littlefield
Bela Trebics
Whitey Simon

PattyTroy
Frank Schoonover
Kristen Jurs
Jim Clatworthy
Geoff Donaldson

REGRETS:

Gary Johnson
Chris Christenson

Greg Mayne
John Jackson

Ted Briggs

1. Welcome and Introductions

Patty Troy called the meeting to order at approximately 6:50 p.m., followed by introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved with the following additions and alterations: Amend **Agenda Item 6.** to indicate a presentation by Janice Littlefield; Add **Agenda Item 9. Coastguard Live Fire Hearing** (report from Jim Clatworthy);

Agenda Item 10. Introduction of Laura Esman (by Patty Troy); add **Agenda Item 11.** Speakers Bureau Power Point Presentation (update by Patty Troy); and under **Other Items** add MDEQ PAC Support Grant.

3. Approval of September 21, 2006 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved.

4. MOE Cross Border Spills Notification Letters to be Forwarded to BPAC

This was an Action Item carried forward. Stew Thornley reported that the action was completed.

5. AOC Summit Report Link to be Forwarded to BPAC

This was an Action Item carried forward. Stew Thornley reported that the action was completed.

6. Status Friends (U. S.); Support for Great Lakes Voyagers

Janice Littlefield gave a Power Point presentation on this Item. One of the key points of the presentation pertinent to BPAC is that Great Lakes Voyagers is willing to donate Earthvoyager to a non-profit organization. Janice presented the Mission Statement and the Purpose and Goals for such the venture. One of the purposes is to, "*Maintain Earthvoyager as the BPAC/FOSCR flagship to promote the mission and goals of BPAC and FOSCR and aid in the education and restoration needs in the Great Lakes.*" FOSCR (US) has non-profit status under the **IRS 501(3)(3)**. A fiduciary implication is that Great Lakes Voyagers would be required to report to FOSCR (US) on a quarterly basis and submit an annual independent audit by a CPA. In response to questioning, Janice indicated that a letter from BPAC to FOSCR (US) would help.

Motion: It was moved by Whitey Simon, seconded by Jim Clatworthy, that BPAC write a letter of support to FOSCR (US).

Motion: It was moved by Janice Littlefield, seconded by Jim Clatworthy, that BPAC write a letter Tim Lozon, the present Chair of FOSCR (US), to continue to re-establish FOSCR (US).

The complete Power Point presentation by Janice, will be attached to the minutes.

7. Address of Canadian Legislators

This was an Action Item carried forward. Darrell Randell is in the process of providing this information.

8. Governance Structure Review

Stew Thornley gave a Power Point presentation. Stewart briefly explained the relevance of the St. Clair River, as a bi-national Area of Concern (AOC) in the context of the identification of 43 AOCs in the Great Lakes Basin by the International Joint Commission (IJC). Stewart presented the structure of governance for the Upper Great Lakes Connecting Channels AOCs (St. Marys River, St. Clair River, and Detroit River). Stewart pointed out that this includes an additional level of governance compared to other AOCs. This level is known as the Four Agencies (USEPA, EC, MDEQ, MOE), and is administered by the Four Agency Managers Committee and the Four Agency Working Group. Stewart finished by presenting the basic responsibilities of the BPAC and the RAP Implementation Committee (RIC) as defined in the Four Agency Compendium of Position Papers.

The Power Point presentation by Stewart, will be attached to the minutes.

9. U.S. Coastguard Live Fire Hearing Report

Jim Clatworthy reported on a hearing held on October 19, 2006, in Marysville. The media was present. The Coastguard was entertaining comments and presentations, however, they were not providing responses at the hearing. The comment period was open until November 13, 2006. Jim reported that well over 500 concerns have been registered, with the overwhelming majority being environmental. One of the environmental issues was the concern for the intent to use lead ammunition, rather than environmentally safer "green" ammunition.

Geoff Donaldson commented that the international environmental firm of CH2M Hill, had conducted an independent health review and found no health concerns with the use of lead ammunition.

10. Introduction of Laura Esman

Laura Esman, was introduced by Patty Troy. Laura is the new MDEQ representative on BPAC, replacing Shanna Draheim. In response to questioning, Laura indicated that she would look into whether PAC Support Grants can be used for BPAC public education activities. Jim Clatworthy, Janice Littlefield, Fred Fuller and Kristen O. Jurs offered to assist Laura in the preparation of an RFP for the use PAC Support Grant funding for public education. Sharon Bender offered to assist if needed.

11. Speakers Bureau – Power Point Presentation

Patty Troy indicated that a Draft Power Point presentation (PPP) has been prepared by Bob Weir. It was generally agreed that the Draft presentation of approximately 45 minutes, is far too long and should be shortened to about 20 minutes. It was agreed that a meeting with Bob Weir was necessary and was tentatively scheduled for November 27, 2006 with the exact location to be determined.

Action:

Patty Troy is to contact Bob Weir regarding his availability to meet on November 27, 2006 to discuss the Draft PPP.

Patty Troy, Paulette Duhaime, Darrell Randell, Kris Lee, Kristen O. Jurs and Bela Trebics volunteered to form a BPAC sub-committee to work on the PPP.

12. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Patty Troy informed BPAC of a November 13 -14 SPAC work session and business meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. Patty, Paulette Duhaime and Sharon Bender plan to attend the work session on restoration criteria for fish and wildlife impairments. Sharon also plans to attend the SPAC Business Meeting on November 14.

ii) Friends of the St. Clair River

Darrell Randell repeated the invitation to BPAC, to attend the Annual General Meeting of FOSCR (Can) to be held on November 27 in Sarnia, Ontario. Darrell also informed BPAC of Bud West's retirement from FOSCR and BPAC.

iii) BPAC Membership Report

Fred Fuller indicated that there are still a few vacancies on BPAC.

iv) CRIC

Phil Vallance and John Jackson were not present to give a report. It was noted, however, that committee work is progressing well.

Action:

Stew Thornley is asked to have Ted Briggs forward the CRIC minutes to BPAC as soon as possible.

13. Other

Inquiry was made into the activities of the 4 Agency working group and managers. The working group met on 10/24, with an emphasis on the SOLEC conference. The managers plan to meet possibly in January. Minutes from the meetings will be forwarded to BPAC as soon as available.

14. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC was set for **January 18, 2006** at 6:30 p.m. in Sarnia, at the Lambton-Kent District School Board Auditorium, 200 Wellington St. **This is a reminder that elections will be held for all positions at this meeting.** The meeting was adjourned.