

ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Final Minutes

Meeting 2007-7

**Fire Hall in Marine City
200 S. Parker Street
Marine City, MI**

**Tuesday, November 27, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Archie Kerr
Paulette Duhaime
Whitey Simon
Patty Troy
James Clatworthy
Darrell Randell

Stewart Thornley
Dan Collins
Janice Littlefield
Kris Lee
Kristen O. Jurs
Fred Fuller

Bela Trebics
Dean Barnett
Frank Schoonover
Doug Martz
Terry Burrell
Don Brown

REGRETS:

Sue Levesque
Frank Frisk
Ted Briggs
Rose Ellison

Vicki Donohue
John Jackson
Sandra Kok
Al Lewandowski

Tip Haagsma
Mark Richardson
Luca Cargnelli

GUESTS:

Julie Clatworthy

1. Welcome and Introductions

Janice Littlefield called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m., followed by introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved with the following re-ordering of Agenda Items.

3. Approval of September 20, 2007 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes from September 20, 2007 were approved.

Announcements

Bela Trebics informed the BPAC about the recent passing of Bob Lalonde. Bob was one of the original BPAC and RAP Team members, and also an original member of Friends of the St. Clair River.

4. Bridge Plaza Update

Janice Littlefield informed the BPAC about concerns with the inadequacies of Stormwater Management (SWM) for this project as outlined in the Environmental Assessment (EA). Doug Martz added that the EA was equally inadequate in addressing air quality. The BPAC was informed by Janice that she felt the state SWM requirements were not adequate.

Motion:

It was moved by Patty Troy, seconded by Dean Barnett, the BPAC prepare a letter to be sent to the International Joint Commission. It was generally agreed, following a suggestion from Doug Martz, that the local media, municipalities, and appropriate agencies be copied.

The BPAC was informed that the EA is available on-line.

Action:

Janice Littlefield is to e-mail the EA link to BPAC members.

5. Lake St. Clair Blue Ribbon Commission

Doug Martz informed BPAC about the re-establishment of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Lake St. Clair by appointment of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. The first Blue Ribbon Commission was formed and issued a report in 1997. At that time it focused mainly on Macomb County concerns and goals. The new commission consists of members from St. Clair, Oakland, and Wayne Counties, as well as Canada, and it will look at St. Clair River issues as well as Lake St. Clair. Fred Fuller is Co-Chair of the Audit Committee which is

reviewing how well the goals of the first report were met and whether the goals should be expanded. Martz said he expects that one of the most important recommendations that will come out of the committee this time will be some mechanism for the continued funding of the Drinking Water Monitoring Network and that the monitoring be implemented on both sides of the international border. Fred Fuller indicated that the United States Geological Survey (USGS) produced a report of monitoring results for the St. Clair River/Lake St. Clair Basin. Data are available at: www.lakestclairdata.net.

Motion:

It was moved by Doug Martz, seconded by Fred Fuller, that the BPAC send a letter in support of perpetual funding, driven by local funding, to the Blue Water Commission. The letter is to be copied to appropriate government offices and officials.

6. Talford Creek

Janice Littlefield raised a concern regarding a media article of a spill into Talford Creek. There was a general discussion about the article and in particular about the validity of the article.

Action:

Stew Thornley is to follow up with the local office of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment.

7. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Janice Littlefield indicated that there was a strong EPA presence at the SPAC meeting, as a wrap up of the "Healing Our Waters Conference" in Chicago.

Action:

Janice Littlefield will forward to BPAC, the link for the Brookings Report about the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Restoration Plan.

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

Darrell Randell informed the BPAC that the angler survey on aesthetics and fish tainting (contract with Environment Canada) has been written and will be going to the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee before going to BPAC. Darrell

also gave an update on the restricted outlet demonstration. Darrell also indicated that FOSCR in collaboration with the Rural Lambton Stewardship Council will be placing small signs at restoration sites. Darrell extended an invitation to the BPAC to attend the Annual General meeting of FOSCR in Sarnia, on November 29, 2007.

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

Kristen O. Jurs informed the BPAC that the FOSCRW have applied for a number of grants. Kristen also indicated that the FOSCRW have almost completed a public education plan. The FOSCRW have completed Mission and Goal statements and have developed a logo.

iv) CRIC

Stew Thornley gave a brief update on the CRIC activities including the progress of the Sediment Sub-committee. Stew indicated that the St. Clair River Stage 2 Workplan is nearly finished and will soon be going to printing. In this regard, there was a brief discussion about the AOC boundary. The CRIC will meet next on December 18, 2007. Stew agreed to request that approved minutes: of CRIC meetings; of CRIC sub-committees; and of Four Agency meetings be forwarded to the BPAC.

v) BPAC Membership Sub-committee

Fred Fuller indicated that he would update the membership list reflecting the changes in membership of the MDEQ and EC.

vi) OPAC

John Jackson did not submit an update on behalf of OPAC.

13. Other

There was a brief discussion concerning a spill from Imperial Oil and an alleged link to the death of local swans

14. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next BPAC meeting time and date was set for 6:30 p.m., February 7, 2008. The meeting will be held at the Sombra Community Hall in Sombra, Ontario. The Community Hall is very near to the ferry, about a 3 block walk. It is just east of the Museum which is on the parkway. A map will be sent out later.

The meeting was adjourned.

