

# ST. CLAIR RIVER BI-NATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

## Final Minutes

Meeting 2006 - 4

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

Thursday, September 21, 2006  
6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDEES:

Donna Thomson  
Tip Haagsma  
Darrell Randell  
Ted Briggs  
Janice Littlefield  
Modris Zandbergs  
Greg Mayne

Donald Craig  
Archie Kerr  
Gary Johnson  
Frank Schoonover  
Stewart Thornley  
Jim Clatworthy  
Fred Fuller

Nick Veriots (A)  
PattyTroy  
Whitey Simon  
John Jackson  
Kris Lee  
Theresa Warren  
Kristen O. Jurs

### GUESTS:

Ken Hall

Sheri Faust

### REGRETS:

Mark Richardson  
Chris Christenson  
Laura Esman

Bud West  
Frank Frisk  
Christine Loeffler

Paulette Duhaime  
Vickie Donahue

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kris Lee called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. followed by introductions.

2. Approve Agenda

It was moved by Stew Thornley, seconded by John Jackson, that the Agenda be approved. Passed

Approval of June 8, 2006 Draft Minutes

It was moved by Patty Troy, seconded by Darrell Randell, that the Draft Minutes be approved. Passed.

3. Photo Contest Prize Winners

Kris Lee and Patty Troy presented the following winners with their plaques and prizes:

Category: Our Majestic Waterway

Winning Photo: #264 – Mother Geese with Goslings  
Photographer: Randy J Heath, Marysville, MI

Category: On The Water

Winning photo: # 18 – Fishermen in Fog  
Photographer: Gary Tuzinowski, Algonac, MI

Category: Digital Perspectives

Winning Photo: #99 – Tanker under Blue Water Bridge  
Photographer: Dan Barr, Fort Gratiot, MI

4. MOE Cross Border Spills Notification Letter

As you will remember, on May 10, 2006, the MOE and the MDEQ were invited to the June 8, 2006 BPAC meeting to discuss cross-border spill notification. Chief Milton Scales from the MDEQ attended the meeting and made a presentation. The MOE was not able to attend nor provide a complete response in time for the BPAC meeting on June 8, 2006. They did provide a written response dated June 1, 2006, indicating that they anticipated responding within 30 days. A written response was then received from MOE on July 11<sup>th</sup> which emphasized the existing policy that information would be shared if potential for a spill to approach or exceed drinking water standards exists. The BPAC sent a letter in response to the July 11<sup>th</sup> letter from MOE re-emphasizing our concerns and that we would like cross-border notification of all spills immediately. A second written response from the MOE was received the morning of September 21, 2006. A

copy of the letter was provided for the September 21<sup>st</sup> meeting and the content was summarized by Patty Troy.

**Action:**

Stew Thornley to forward electronic copies of: the BPAC letter dated July 20, 2006; and the MOE letters, dated July 11, 2006 and September 20, 2006, to the BPAC members with e-mail.

6. AOC Summit Report

Neither Bela Trebics nor Sharon Bender, who attended the AOC Summit on behalf of the St. Clair River AOC, held on July 11-12, 2006 in Erie, PA, were able to attend the BPAC meeting on September 21, 2006. Greg Mayne from Environment Canada who also attended the Summit gave a good overview of the Summit from his perspective. Patty Troy indicated that proceedings from the conference are available.

**Action:**

Stew Thornley to receive the AOC Summit proceedings electronically from Patty Troy and forward to the BPAC members with e-mail.

7. St. Clair County's Northeastern Watersheds Project

A presentation on St. Clair County's Northeastern Watersheds Watershed Management Plan, was given by Kristen Jurs, the St. Clair County Health Department- Storm Water Coordinator. Kristen also provided a 12-page Executive Summary handout.

The Plan attempts to produce a comprehensive storm water management (SWM) plan for the region that includes three sub-watersheds: Lake Huron Direct Drainage; Lower black River; and St. Clair River Direct Drainage. The Plan represents two years work and basically addresses non-point sources (NPS) of pollution. The Plan was prepared in response to EPA Regulations in 2003 that mandated communities to have a SWM plan. The Plan reviewed and analyzed existing conditions for four priority areas: sediments, nutrients, pathogens/bacteria, and flashy flows. The Plan also analyzed planning tools and documents to help set goals and objectives and set 82 Best Management Practices (BMPs). To help implement the Plan, an Information and Education Action Plan was produced to engage the public.

Patty Troy inquired as to what BPAC could do to help. Kristen indicated that she would keep this in mind. The Management Plan report can be found on line at [www.stclaricountystormwater.org](http://www.stclaricountystormwater.org); Kristen advised that one should scroll to near the bottom of the web page. Public comment period on the plan is until October 20<sup>th</sup>.

8. Wetlands Protection – U. S. Supreme Court Decision

Patty Troy indicated that she had nothing more to provide to the BPAC on this matter at this time.

9. BPAC Speakers Bureau – Power Point Presentation

Darrell Randell indicated that Friends of the St. Clair River (Canadian) are very reluctant to spend more money on this presentation until there are BPAC members willing to go out into the community and make the presentation.

Archie Kerr suggested that a presentation implementation plan is required. Darrell seconded Archie's suggestion and proposed that Ken Hall and Bob Weir prepare a presentation plan.

Bob Weir indicated that at this juncture he sees the presentation plan as essentially a list of speaking opportunities.

Patty Troy indicated that there is an existing presentation of about 20 minutes duration and that she has given it to the Blue Water Shutter Bugs and the Port Huron Rotary Club.

Whitey Simon, Janice Littlefield, Archie Kerr, Jim Clatworthy, Patty Troy and Donald Craig indicated that they would be willing to make such a presentation. It was indicated that Sharon Bender could also be added to the list of speakers. It was decided that Ken Hall and Bob Weir would send the existing presentation to Stew Thornley for distribution to the speakers who volunteered.

At the present time, those who volunteered as speakers are providing Stew Thornley with their lists of possible speaking engagement opportunities. Stew will compile a single list and provide it to the volunteers.

Related to this topic, Fred Fuller gave an update on the status of Friends (U.S.). Fred and Janice Littlefield met with Tim Lozon who indicated that he was going to let the group die. It was emphasized to Tim that there is a need for a U.S. Friends of the St. Clair River to maintain an organization with a non-profit status that could apply for grants in the U.S. To accomplish this, the organization requires a new seven-member board and sign off from the old board. Although present by-laws call for an Associate Canadian Chair this can be changed. However, Fred indicated that Canadian board members are encouraged.

Janice Littlefield informed BPAC about the high profile boat Earth Voyager (a 60-foot trimaran, that holds speed records on the Great Lakes) and may find a home in Port Huron in 2007. Acheson Ventures had hinted at sponsoring the boat two years ago, but they have their hands full with the Highlander Sea. If U.S. Friends is re-established, it could shelter a recently formed non-profit organization called Great Lakes Voyagers (who will be the new owner of Earth Voyager) with mutual benefit. The 60-foot trimaran would serve as the flagship for both FoSCRs and BPAC. This would be a huge benefit in terms of calling attention to what it is we do and why. The boat's upkeep would be funded by corporate sponsorship and would be no liability to FoSCR or BPAC.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Fred Fuller, seconded by Kris Lee that BPAC support the revival of Friends of the St. Clair River (U.S.). Motion passed.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Patty Troy, seconded by Fred Fuller, that BPAC support Friends (U.S.) to move forward with the Great Lakes Voyagers project.

Darrell Randell moved that the second motion be tabled until the next meeting of BPAC. BPAC agreed.

10. Great Lakes Hot Spots: Ontario Citizens Speak Out (OPAC Report)

John Jackson gave an overview of the report, "*Great Lakes Hot Spots: Ontario Citizens Speak Out*". Among other things, the 50-page report analyzes areas where hot spots have been most successful and why. The report also looks at the outstanding main problems/issues, and talks about the Public Advisory Committees (PACs). John highlighted characteristics of successful PACs such as: building communications; increasing public awareness; being an advocate for the RAP; and being a watchdog for the public.

Some of the main problems are: insufficient and inconsistent funding for the PAC to do its job; the expectancy of volunteers to do all the work – you need paid people to help. Recurring problems and challenges include; the proper mix of stakeholders; a balance of sectors; maintaining long-term commitment; and overcoming the "natural tensions" of PAC roles. The roles of PACs include; cheerleader role, critic role and watchdog role.

11. Committee Reports

i) SPAC

Patty Troy gave a brief SPAC report reporting that Shanna Draheim, MDEQ – Environmental Quality Analyst assigned to the St. Clair River RAP had resigned to be replaced by Laura Esman, effective August 29, 2006. Patty also reported that the DEQ budget for delisting (as proposed by SPAC) was approved as proposed.

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

Darrell Randell indicated that he had nothing to add to earlier discussions that involved Friends (Canada).

iii) BPAC Membership Committee

Fred Fuller handed out a BPAC Membership Committee Report recommending the appointment of Steve Fosgard, Special Projects Coordinator for St. Clair County Community College to BPAC, to fill a U.S. vacancy in the Education Sector.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Fred Fuller, seconded by Jim Clatworthy that Steve Fosgard be appointed to fill the U.S. vacancy in the Education Sector. Motion passed. Fred brought up whether Canadian legislators should be on the BPAC mailing list. It agreed that they should.

**Action:**

Darrell Randell to send Fred Fuller the mailing address of appropriate Canadian legislators.

iv) Four Agency Report

Ted Briggs gave a report indicating that the Minutes of the June 22, 2006 Four Agency Managers were approved for distribution. Ted also informed BPAC that the Principles and Process document (for the re-designation of impaired beneficial uses) for the Compendium of Position Papers is going to Senior Management in MOE and EC. The Four Agency Managers are looking at the frequency of reporting for Progress Reports. The present 2-year frequency is thought to be too frequent and a 5-year reporting frequency has been proposed, with Highlight Reports proposed for every two years. Ted also reported that the SOLEC, 2006 meeting will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

12. Other Business

Judy Ogden informed the BPAC that the U.S. Coastguard is proposing training exercises for the protection of the U.S. Canada border, to be conducted in Lake Huron. Judy indicated that 26 of 38 training locations are proposed for lower Lake Huron. The training exercises will employ live ammunition using machine guns and other artillery. Judy is concerned about the possibility of lead contamination and safety of marine traffic. Concern was also expressed for the disruption of aquatic habitat. BPAC was informed that a Notice has been placed in the Federal Registry regarding this matter and is open for a 90-day period for citizen and group comment.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Janice Littlefield and seconded by Judy Ogden that BPAC state in a letter to the U.S. Coastguard that it has serious reservations especially about the use of lead ammunition and for the disturbance of habitat. The letter is to include an invitation to the U. S. Coastguard to make a presentation at the next BPAC meeting.

Archie Kerr thanked Greg Mayne for his work in preparing, "*The St. Clair River Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Progress Report*". Archie thought that the BPAC would benefit from further explanation about the existing/remaining BUIs. Archie indicated he would like to see a closer look at air emissions. He proposed a presentation from RIC for the next BPAC meeting.

**Action Item:**

Greg Mayne and Ted Briggs will prepare a summary of the report for the next BPAC meeting.

Archie also informed BPAC that the City of Sarnia had been turned down by the Province for funding in support of their continued work on the elimination of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). It was further pointed out by Darrell Randell that CSOs remain as the most important sources of contaminants to the St. Clair River impacting on beneficial uses.

**Motion:**

It was moved by Archie Kerr, seconded by Darrell, that BPAC send a letter to the City of Sarnia, in support of their continued work on the elimination of combined sewer overflows.

**Action:**

Kris Lee and Bela Trebics to prepare a letter of support to be sent to the City of Sarnia, for the continuation of programs for the elimination of combined sewer overflows.

13. Adjourn/Next Meeting

The next meeting of the BPAC was set for **November 9, 2006** at 6:30 p.m. in Port Huron. The exact location is yet to be confirmed. The meeting was adjourned