

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

Meeting 2007-6

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

**Thursday, September 20, 2007
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Kris Lee
Darrell Randell
Stewart Thornley
Terry Burrell

Phil Vallance
Janice Littlefield
Archie Kerr
Donald Craig

Sue Levesque
Tip Haagsma
Patty Troy
Jennifer Vincent

REGRETS:

John Jackson
Fred Fuller

Ted Briggs
Jim Clatworthy

Vickie Donohue

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kris Lee called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 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 March 28, 2007 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes from June 21, 2007 were approved.

4. Recently Announced Environment Funding Cuts

Jennifer Vincent briefly went over the announced funding cuts for Environment Canada (E.C.). While it is too soon to realize the full effects that the cuts might have on E.C. programs for the St. Clair River AOC, it is reasonable to expect that some programs will be affected.

Motion:

It was moved by Darrell Randell, and seconded by Donald Craig, that BPAC draft a letter to be sent to John Baird MP, Federal Minister of the Environment, expressing the concerns of BPAC for how the announced Federal spending cuts may jeopardize on-going and proposed remedial programs in the St. Clair River Area of Concern. Janice Littlefield and Kris Lee are to prepare the letter. It was further moved that after a suitable period of time (at least a week), a similar letter be sent to local newspapers.

5. CRIC Report

Jennifer Vincent announced to BPAC that the next ten-year Stage Two Workplan was approved by CRIC at the September 17, 2007 meeting. Jennifer further indicated on a comment-by-comment basis, how BPAC comments by; Patty Troy, Darrell Randell, Jim Clatworthy and Archie Kerr, were addressed.

The Workplan is being formatted and will then be posted on the website for the FOSCR.

6. Proposed Shell Refinery Update

Shell was not in a position to be able to give a meaningful update to BPAC.

7. Bridge Plaza – Stormwater Runoff

Janice Littlefield wanted BPAC to be aware of her concerns for stormwater runoff from approximately 31 acres of pavement from the Bridge Plaza and how it is to be controlled. Janice is gathering additional information and will report to BPAC at the next meeting.

8. Committee Reports

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

Darrell Randell again updated the BPAC on the angler survey on aesthetics and fish tainting (contract with Environment Canada) conducted by FOSCR. Darrell also gave an update on the restricted outlet demonstration. The outlet restrictions will reduce runoff from field tiles and also by slowing the flow in tiles, will provide more water for crops. Darrell also indicated that FOSCR in collaboration with the Rural Lambton Stewardship Council will be placing small signs at restoration sites.

ii) SPAC

Patty Troy indicated that SPAC had met on August 22nd and 23rd. Highlights of the meeting included an update on State and Federal legislation activity, GLNPO budget information, and Great Lakes Legacy budget information. Discussed at the meeting was the Regional Collaboration effort, the Federal-State Coordination Committee, and the Michigan State-wide de-listing criteria. Patty also indicated that work had begun on the Fish and Habitat BUI. There is a workshop planned in November, 2007 to discuss communications and outreach, with a concurrent SPAC meeting.

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

Janice Littlefield informed BPAC that FOSCRW met last evening advancing an educational plan around the Earthvoyager. Janice indicated that it is looking as though the Earthvoyager will be used for a lake-wide educational program.

iv) CRIC

Phil Vallance reported that the CRIC met Mon, Sept 17th. The CRIC discussed the BPAC comments on the Workplan and then agreed to finalize the Plan.

Jennifer Vincent provided an update on the Sept 14th, Four-Agency Managers Meeting. Jennifer indicated that the managers agreed to the revised Position Papers on; Delisting, and on Progress Reporting. CRIC will be central to taking forward any proposals to delist. Such proposals will require: data that meets a "burden of proof" standard that the impairment has been resolved; an independant 3rd party review of the data and conclusions; review by BPAC, and review by the IJC. CRIC will be central to creating a biannual summary for the St. Clair River. This will be included in the LAMP reports.

Ted Briggs outlined the need for an ongoing St. Clair River Sediment Technical Committee, which will comprise a subcommittee of the CRIC members plus technical specialists from the agencies. The Technical Committee is seeking participation from both first nations groups in this work. Jennifer indicated there is funding coming available in 2010 for sediment remediation work.

The next meeting will address whether the CRIC subcommittees have completed their tasks on the development of the workplan, and whether the subcommittees are still needed. The sediment subcommittee, and the Habitat and Point Source subcommittee are expected to continue to lead several items under the Workplan .One of the next

tasks of the CRIC is to review the status of the various BUI's, and consider the delisting criteria. The structure of the subcommittees may be revised to focus on this task. In this regard, Greg Mayne has started developing draft documents reviewing available data on the status of the BUI's, which will start to be reviewed at the next meeting.

v) BPAC Membership Sub-committee

Fred Fuller was unable to attend the meeting and there was no report. Jennifer Vincent did inform the BPAC that Rosanne Ellison is replacing Chris Christenson as the EPA representative for BPAC, and that Laura Esman (the MDEQ rep) will be leaving MDEQ at Christmas.

vi) OPAC

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

13. Other

Terry Burrell reported that he attended a meeting of the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) and had received a very interesting presentation on Source Water Protection and the corresponding responsibilities of the SCRCA. Terry and Donald Craig informed the BPAC that more information on the Source Water Protection Program may be found at: www.camap.ca

14. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting date was set for November 27th. The meeting will be held in Michigan, with the time and location to be determined (Janice Littlefield is hoping to hold the meeting in Marine City).

The meeting was adjourned.