

St. Clair River
Binational Public Advisory Council
February 11, 1999 - 6:30 p.m.
(Re-scheduled from Jan. 14, 1999)
Port Huron Municipal Office Complex
Council Chambers
DRAFT meeting minutes

Attendees:

Bob Allen	Mike Gariepy	Christine Lupu
Clive Beckwith	Juanita Gittings	Tim Lozen
Sharon Bender	Don Gunning	Timothy Morse
Paulette Duhaime	Tip Haagsma	Scott Munro
Dean Barnett	Roy Isaac	Darrell Randell
Malcolm Boyd	John Jackson	Frank Schoonover
Daniel Collins	John Johnson	Susan Shink
Donald Cox	Fred Kemp	Ken Smy
Ron Denning	William Kauffman	Patricia Troy
Victoria Donohue	Ted Kierstead	David Webb
Bob Fleming	Bob Lalonde	Bud West
Tara Founk	Kris Lee	Modris Zandbergs
Rick Gallerno	Janice Littlefield	

Staff/Guests:

Al Bachand	Cheryl Collins	Roy Schrameck
Shirley Barnett	Gary Johnson	Bob Weir
Larry Bean	Dan Rhein	

1. The meeting was called to order by Fred kemp. All attendees introduced themselves

2. Agenda was approved with addition of the following items (time permitting):

- ▶ Update on Lake Huron Initiative
- ▶ Four Party Letter of Commitment
- ▶ 1999 Student Summit
- ▶ Wetland hearing in Fort Gratiot Township

3. **Moved by Don Gunning, seconded by Dean Barnett to accept minutes of the Nov. 18th, 1998 meeting with the following changes:**

- ▶ **Clarify that Env. Awards from Friends (Ontario) are intended for Ontario recipients only;**
- ▶ **Correct spelling of meeting attendee is Dan Rhein.**

Carried

4. Presentation on St. Clair County Landfills

Roy Schrameck MDEQ, introduced Mr. Larry Bean, a geologist with the MDEQ Waste Management Division (313-953-1469; email: beanl@state.mi.us) to provide information on the current status, ongoing and planned initiatives at selected landfills (Smith's Creek, Fort Gratiot, Huron Development, Range Road) in St. Clair County, Michigan.

Smith's Creek: County owned and operated. Leachate historically flowed out to a low area and mixed with stormwater. Proposal for 1999 is to construct a dyke and sump collection system for older areas of the landfill to collect leachate which will be hauled away for treatment.

Fort Gratiot: Stormwater runs off into Carrigan drain after being held in detention ponds/sedimentation basin. Some breakouts are occurring from south sedimentation basin to Keewahdin Road ditch. A remedial plan has been prepared which considers the following options:

- ▶ Pump leachate 2x weekly (\$65k/year);
- ▶ re-grade slopes (\$2MM);
- ▶ install cut-off wall at north side of site (\$1MM);
- ▶ install perimeter leachate collection system (\$2MM);
- ▶ Remedial investigation of soils (\$500k);
- ▶ Install sewer line (vs. Pumping and hauling);
- ▶ Construction of a slurry wall outside of perimeter collection system (\$1.5MM).

State funds are anticipated to begin work in 1999.

Huron Development: Owned and leachate currently treated by City of Marine City.

Some small amounts of leachate reaching wetland. No water quality impacts anticipated. Site is abandoned with one filled cell capped with clay. Another unfilled cell is not capped. Possible costs associated with constructing a road to permit leachate collection for off-site treatment (\$150k capital with \$6k/year cost to pump leachate).

Range Road: Site comprised of coal ash from Detroit Edison generating plants. Older area not clay lined. Some heavy metal contamination of ground water. Detroit Edison proposes to install a cut-off open drain to a pond system prior to discharge. Method not favoured by DEQ which would prefer the construction of a barrier wall to contain leachate.

It was the view of Mr. Bean that none of the four listed sites has had a direct impact on Lake Huron or the St. Clair River however he felt that the Fort Gratiot site had the potential if existing problems were not addressed.

Ongoing concerns included a lack of sufficient funds to address old/abandoned sites. Current funding levels only permitted the monitoring of active landfills.

Motion: Moved by Patty Troy that a letter be sent to the State to request enhanced funding to the MDEQ Waste Management Division for the purpose of inspecting and monitoring old/abandoned waste sites.

Carried

Patty to assist in development of letter and to send to State representative as advised by Roy/Larry.

Agreed: SPAC should pursue this issue in other AOCs to deal with this beyond the border of St. Clair County, Michigan.

5. BPAC Elections

Fred Kemp temporarily relinquished the role of the Chair to G. Johnson for purposes of the BPAC elections.

The following are the nominees and elected representatives for BPAC executive positions:

	U.S. Chair	Cdn. Chair	U.S. Vice-Chair	Cdn. Vice-Chair
Nominated	▶Fred Kemp ▶Sharon Bender	▶Bob Lalonde ▶Bill Trebics	▶Patricia Troy	▶Ron Denning ▶Bill Trebics
Move to close nominations	Ken Smy	Don Gunning	Ron Denning	Rick Gallerno
Supported	Ron Denning	Dean Barnett	Darrell Randell	Juanita Gittings
Elected	Fred Kemp	Bob Lalonde	Patricia Troy	Ron Denning

6. Reporting

- ! BPAC Progress Report: Fred Kemp reported on the media interest and feedback from the report issued in January (copies of news articles are attached).
- ! Sediment Subcommittee: Gary Johnson gave a presentation on a Chronology of studies and findings to date regarding the issue of contaminated sediments in the upper St. Clair River. Key issues that the subcommittee have agreed on include:
 - ▶**Sediments are mobile;**
 - ▶**Toxicity is associated with sediments; and**
 - ▶**The ARed Zone® is the zone of greatest contamination.**
- ! Sediment Benefits study: Ray Rivers an environmental consultant doing a contract for Env. Canada gave a brief presentation on work he is doing to assess benefits associated with remediating contaminated sediments.
- ! Workplan for funds from DEQ. A BPAC subcommittee has developed a workplan to produce a series of Backgrounders or Monographs on issues of interest for the RAP as part of a ACountdown to Delisting® project.

7. Committee Reports:

- ! **Membership:** Bud West provided a report of the membership committee (attached).
- Motion:** Moved by Bud West, seconded by Malcolm Boyd to accept Christine Lupu as a BPAC replacement for Steve Bentley.

Carried

- ! **Friends:** Bud West referred to the January 11 Friends (Ontario) report which described projects the group is involved with. Bud also described the Environmental Awards project. To date, one nomination has been received. Bud reminded the group that the application deadline for the Friends Env. Awards is the end of February.
- ! **Friends:** Tim Lozen described efforts to obtain a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) audit of Friends to permit State funds to be received by the committee. Tim also mentioned the existence of the Bluewater Land Conservancy capable of receiving land or development rights. Contact Tim for more information.
- ! **St. Clair County Task Force:** Tim and John Jones described the recently assembled St. Clair County Task Force which has been struck to address watershed issues in St. Clair County, Mi. The committee also has representation from the St. Clair County Planning Commission, SCC Health Dept. and the SCC Drain Commissioner. The committee has developed a proposal to the MDEQ to prepare a watershed study. It is anticipated that this work will assist in achieving RAP goals through addressing tributary and watershed source issues.
- ! **St. Clair Stewardship Initiative:** Gary Johnson described the Stewardship Initiative work which has occurred in Lambton County. Projects such as tree planting, habitat protection and Non-point source controls are being cost shared with Env. Canada (Great Lakes 2000 Cleanup Fund) funds in the amount of \$40k are planned to go ahead.\

8. Other items:

! **Public Hearings on wetlands:**

Cheryl Collins indicated that EPA is currently conducting a review of the wetland program in Michigan. Issues to be addressed include:

- ▶Incorrect wetland boundaries;
- ▶Permits not being applied for;
- ▶Very little enforcement.

Ms. Collins is concerned over the loss of small parcels of inland wetlands and cited an example at the Mercy site south of Birchwood Mall in Fort Gratiot Twp. She is not opposed to development but stressed that wetland boundaries must be accurate and agreed upon and that mitigation issues should be considered. She is opposed to the construction of a parking lot on a wetland at the Mercy site and is not confident that the boundaries are accurate.

Moved: By Frank Schoonover and seconded by Dean Barnett to write a letter to MDEQ requesting that there needs to be agreement on the boundaries of

the wetlands at the Mercy site and that they should be retained and the parking lot built elsewhere on the site.

Carried (Sharon Bender to assist in the preparation of the letter).

Next meeting March 23, 1999 at the H.G. MacLean Building, Front Street Sarnia beginning at 6:30 p.m.