

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

Meeting 2008-4

**Great Lakes Maritime Center
51 Water Street
Port Huron, MI.**

**Thursday, September 18, 2008
6:30 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Archie Kerr
Judy Ogden
Stewart Thornley
Fred Fuller
Terry Burrell
Dan Collins
John Jackson

Phil Vallance
Kristen O. Jurs
Janice Littlefield
Bela Trebics
Sharon Bender
Whitey Simon

Frank Frisk
Paulette Duhaime
Patty Troy
Frank Schoonover
Nick Veriotes
Doug Steen

REGRETS:

Gary Johnson
Kris Lee
Darrell Randell
Sandra Kok

Modris Zandbergs
Tip Haagsma
Rose Ellison

Ted Briggs
Al Lewandowski
Luca Cargnelli

GUESTS:1. Welcome and Introductions

Janice Littlefield called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., followed by a round of introductions

2. Approve Draft Agenda

The Draft Agenda was approved.

3. Approval of May 1, 2008 and June 23, 2008 Draft Minutes

The Draft Minutes were approved with amendments to attendance.

4. St. Clair River Anglers Survey Fish Tainting and River Aesthetics Survey Update

Stew Thornley gave an update of the survey following the completion of 14 additional survey questionnaires by the Aamjiwnaang First Nation. The additional completed questionnaires were obtained by Sharilyn Johnson, the Environmental Officer for Aamjiwnaang, and increased their proportional representation in the survey to approximately 11% roughly equal to that of the Walpole First Nation. The 14 additional questionnaires did not alter the conclusions of the "Draft - St. Clair River Area of Concern Angler Survey: A Report on the Quality of Fish Taste and Smell". The new Draft Report will be presented to the Canadian RAP Implementation Committee (CRIC) for approval at the next CRIC meeting scheduled for October 2, 2008.

The Draft letter is to be signed by both the U.S. and Canadian Co-Chairs and submitted in consideration of the May 16, 2007 deadline for comments.

There was general agreement that a copy of the letter should also be sent to local mayors, M.P.P.s and to SLEA.

5. USEPA Corridor E-coli Monitoring Update

Rose Ellison was unable to attend the meeting, but did provide Stew Thornley with a brief update that he presented. To date, preliminary findings indicated that there was nothing close to exceedance of the allowable daily geometric mean value.

Patty Troy noted an action item from the May 1st minutes. Information was presented to the BPAC by Debbie Hayes in the form of a letter from the DEQ regarding mercury levels in fish from the SCR and proposed stricter consumption guidelines. That information was to be included with the May 1st minutes. Patty will contact Debbie Hayes to ask her to resend the letter to Stew.

6. City of Port Huron E-coli Monitoring Data

Patty Troy provided 2008 results from e-coli monitoring for the Black and St. Clair Rivers. The City of Port Huron has collected data for five points on the Black River and three points on the St. Clair River during summers since 1998. Data seems to show that tributaries to the Black River are a bacteria source. Most data points are below the full-body contact limits of 130 e-coli organisms/100ml.

7. Committees Reports

i) SPAC

It was reported that SPAC meeting will be applying for another PAC support grant. SPAC will be meeting the week of September 22nd. BPAC was also reminded of the upcoming bi-national AOC conference, September 24th and 25th in Ann Arbor, MI.

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

An invitation was extended to BPAC to attend the FOSCR Annual General Meeting to be held November 20, 2008. The completion of the FOSCR/ Rural Lambton Stewardship Network (RLSN) project for the Lambton Lagoons was also announced.

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

Janice Littlefield indicated that FOSCRW are slowly developing their website. She announced that FOSCRW will hold a stream monitoring workshop September 23rd, with stream monitoring to be conducted September 27th. A Healty Lakes Healty Lives Homecoming Reception will be held on October 10th, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Port Huron Yacht Club. The next meeting of FOSCRW is scheduled for October 2, 2008.

iv) CRIC

The next meeting of the CRIC is scheduled to be held October 2, 2008, at the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority (SCRCA) in Strathroy, ON.

v) BPAC Membership Sub-committee

Fred Fuller updated the BPAC on changes in membership and the outstanding vacancies for U.S. and Canadian BPAC positions.

vi) OPAC

John Jackson reported that at the Healing Our Waters Coalition meeting in Milwaukee last week, Janice Littlefield received the Great Laker Award for her work on the Healthy

Lakes Healthy Lives – Earth Voyager’s tour of the Great Lakes. Funding from the Trillium Foundation has been committed to hold a BPAC workshop for the three bi-national AOCs. **The workshop is anticipated to be held on a Saturday in early November, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Sarnia, ON.** The goals of the workshop include the sharing of experiences in the bi-national AOCs, uniting the 4-Agency reps and other participants, and reporting on infrastructure upgrades. A presentation from Eco Justice on Green Infrastructure is planned.

8. Other

Kristen O. Jurs announced a meeting concerning the Fish and Wildlife BUI, to be held at 6:00 p.m. September 30, 2008, at the St. Clair County Administration Building

9. Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting of the BPAC was set for **December 4, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in Sarnia, ON, in the Lambton – Kent District School Board boardroom.**

The meeting was adjourned.