

ST. MARYS RIVER

BINATIONAL PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL



25 June 2013

Robert Laitinen, P.S.
Superintendent / Manager
Chippewa County Road Commission
3949 S. Mackinac Trail
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

Re: Support for Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development
Commission Proposal for Restoration of Little Rapids in the St. Marys River
AOC.

Dear Mr. Laitinen:

On behalf of the Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) for the St. Marys River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), I am writing to express our support for the proposal being submitted by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission (Planning Commission) to restore fisheries habitat in the St. Marys River Great Lakes Area of Concern (AOC).

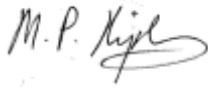
In 1988 The St. Marys' River BPAC was formed through the International Joint Commission to provide public input into the identification of environmental impairments and to establish criteria for delisting and remediation protocols for cleanup of the river. The BPAC is comprised of local stakeholders from the St. Marys River communities including municipalities, universities, Tribes/First Nations, industry/business, NGO's, and local governments.

The Planning Commission is collaborating with federal, state, tribal and local governments, private partners, citizen groups and BPAC to restore degraded fish and wildlife resources in the St. Marys River AOC. The Stage 2 RAP for the St. Marys River identified the restoration of the Little Rapids area as a crucial action required to restore the fish and wildlife habitat in the St. Marys River. In addition, BPAC has recognized the Little Rapids restoration as one of the actions required to delist the "Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat" beneficial use impairment approved by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Robert Laitinen
June 25, 2013
Page 2

I appreciate your considering this proposal and urge Chippewa County Road Commission to continue its support for the Little Rapids Restoration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. P. Ripley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mike Ripley, U.S. Chair
Binational Public Advisory Council for the St. Marys River RAP