

St. Marys River Bi-National Public Advisory Council (BPAC) Meeting Agenda

Place: Thompson Room, Civic Centre
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

When: January 18th, 2011
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of minutes

June 29, 2010
November 18, 2010
December 8, 2010

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Possibility of obtain funding for a minutes recorder
- Sediment containment in the area involving the lock construction on the state side

4. Office Reports

5. Agency Reports

- Sediment Management Plan Update (attached)
- MCM Marine Update (attached)

6. Public Comments

7. Memberships

- For new members, applications must be received & prospective members present for confirmation – standard procedure.

8. New Business

- Sediment contamination in the area involving the lock construction on the state side.
- Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership Call for Project Proposals for 2011
- Funding opportunity for Michigan's AOCs -- Michigan Sea Grant Invites Pre-proposals
- Restoring Michigan's Great Lakes: Opportunities in Year Two of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, Mike Ripley & Corey Jerome
- Bottled water <http://www.bottledwaterfreeday.ca>
- Ellsin Environmental Ltd. <http://www.ellsin.com>
- Final St. Marys *E. coli* Monitoring Report <ftp://ftp.deq.state.mi.us/deq-outgoing/>
- DEQ/MNR Departments now separate

9. Next meeting

- Date to be determined 7 pm LSSU Cisler Center

10. Adjourn

Additional Information:

Sault Naturalists annual dinner meeting Sault College February 8, 2011

Sediment Management Plan Update: January 11th, 2011

Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of the Environment are in the process of developing the Sediment Management Plan for the St. Marys River. We are adhering to the "Canada-Ontario Sediment Management Decision Making Framework", the first stage of which requires an assessment of multiple lines of evidence to determine if sediment contamination is causing biological effects.

Currently, we are focusing on three areas of the river: Bellevue Marine Park (BMP), East of BMP (EBMP) and the Lake George Channel (LGC). BMP was the first priority site identified in the Stage 2 RAP Report after the Algoma Slip; however, in 2006 EBMP and LGC (next priority area) were added for assessment. Additional samples were taken from EBMP and LGC in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Please be advised that it is only after all the relevant studies (assessment of sediments, site and risks) are completed that a decision can be made on whether active sediment management action(s) are needed.

Samples from EBMP and LGC were collected in September and November 2010 and we are expecting the data this Summer. Once the data is available and analysis is done, the SMR Sediment Technical Team (for which Greg is BPAC's rep., along with Paula Antunes for Algoma University/SSM Innovation Centre) will determine if sufficient information is available to make an informed decision, and if so, to then advise whether active sediment management action(s) are needed. So by the end of the Summer, we should know whether we have sufficient data to make a decision on EBMP and LGC. If the decision is that we need to collect more information, then sampling will be done this Fall.

For BMP, sediment samples were taken in September 2010 to support the sediment transport and fate model for BMP. We were expecting the results by Dec. 31, 2010, but due to delays in obtaining the data, this has been pushed back several weeks. We are hoping to have this study completed by the Spring so that a decision can be made on whether or not management actions are required for BMP.

Please be advised that the BPAC will be engaged throughout the process. We're just waiting for the studies to be completed.

In terms of next steps, it is to review and discuss these pending studies:

1. Benthic assessment of sediment toxicity study

-- You will recall Danielle Milani presented her 2006 and 2008 data to BPAC last January; she's now finishing up her 2009 data analysis. She took samples from EBMP and LGC in late 2010 to better delineate the EBMP and LGC and is currently waiting for the data results.

-- It is expected to be completed by early Summer, at which time the results will be shared and presented to BPAC; perhaps in late Summer/early Fall.

-- Sediment samples were taken for porewater analysis to identify contaminants present in porewater to see whether these contaminants could have caused the observed toxicity in the organisms tested.

2. Sediment core analysis

-- In November 2010, core samples were taken in EBMP and LGC to assess contamination levels at depth to obtain a vertical profile of contamination.

-- This is also expected to be completed by early Summer, and can be shared at the same presentation/meeting with BPAC in late Summer/early Fall.

3. Sediment transport and fate model for BMP

- The work of Dr. Krishnappan will assess the stability of surface sediments to determine if the deeper, more contaminated sediments might be exposed under various scenarios.
- Samples to support the model were taken in September 2010 and we are currently waiting for data. Once the data is available and model is completed, a presentation to BPAC will be arranged for early Spring.

4. Conceptual Site Model

- To assist in addressing contaminated sediments in the St. Marys River, the company ENVIRON is preparing a Conceptual Site Model. This will be a narrative and pictorial tool for illustrating sources of contaminants, migration pathways, and their impacts.
- Algoma University is administering this contract, and Paula Antunes is an important adviser.
- When this is finalized in the coming weeks, a copy will be shared with you and BPAC. It will help everyone understand the current conditions in order to aid in effective decision-making.

Again, it is not until all these studies are completed that a decision can be made on whether active sediment management action(s) are required or not. But rest assured, BPAC will be engaged throughout the process. I will be following up with you on points #3 and 4 in the coming weeks, but if you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Mark Chambers

MCM Marine Update: January 5th, 2011

The Great Lakes Legacy Act, Phase 1, cleanup of a section of the St. Marys River near the MCM Marine facility was completed in the spring of 2010. Phase 2 of the project is currently in the design phase and is focused on the contaminated sediments located near the shipping channel. Implementation of Phase 2 is expected to begin in the spring of 2011. The goal of the \$4 million project is to reduce impacts to human health and the environment and improve water quality in the St. Marys River.

Michelle Selzer