

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

Meeting Minutes

Place: LSSU Cisler Center
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

When: June 29th, 2010
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Call to order/introductions

Approval of Minutes

Mike Ripley sent minutes from April 15th out on June 4th 2010
March 23rd minutes approved

Proposal to build community in wetlands has been turned down by the conservation authorities.

Discussion on the Binational Forum connecting Land and Lakes workshop: there were quite a few presenters, information on the ballast water of the great lakes ships and the connection to invasive species, along with the legislative control with this issue.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding: three projects proposed from the St Marys River Area - none were funded but there are hopes for a pot of left over moneys, and the word is that the St Marys River is of importance.

Greg Zimmerman Recommends Port Huron boat Tour

State of Michigan confirmed commitment to the Rock Cut Project - Core of Engineers is receiving a large amount of funding and they are looking into the Neebish Island Rock Cut. Different opportunities of funding are being looked into, it may be a staged process due to funding, possibly one side of the rock cut at a time.

Discussion on who sets priorities for the RAP coordinator, it would be nice to have someone manage the shelf ready projects but who sets the RAP coordinators priorities.

RAP coordinator - the funding has been unofficially offered. No problems are foreseen at this point - many good applicants - job will be offered within the next two weeks - we need someone with good motivational skills to stimulate the BPAC community, with a strong science background.

RAP teams were done in the past and could be very beneficial in the future.

Report from BPAC office - Paige Filice produced a flyer for the St Marys River Quality Watch; these flyers/signs were posted throughout the community centered around the St Marys River.

BPAC Office library online website really needs some attention.

Study on Air Quality - what are people actually breathing in when near Essar Steel - very good study, BPAC would like to invite Dr. Bob Dale to present on this.