

St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

Meeting Minutes

Place: BT 202, Essar Convergence Centre, Algoma University
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

When: September 26, 2012
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

Present: Kristina Denison (via phone), Bretton Joldersma (via phone), Mike Ripley, Catherine Taddo, Corrina Barrett, Paula Antunes, Greg Zimmerman, Kira Fry, Haley Tasiemski

Guests: Jason Bertrim (Q104 Radio), Katie Williams (via phone)

Regrets: Don Marles, Klaas Oswald, Crystal Bole, Amanda Bosak, Barbara Keller, Don Elliott, Lorelei Premo

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- July 31st, 2012 approved.

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Corrina has arranged a member of the U.S. Coast Guard to come and speak to the BPAC about how they deal with spills and the response protocol. They will also be providing the information from the Canadian Coast Guard as well.
- Corrina followed up with Kathie Brosemer with respect to the breach in the AECOM silt curtain. Kathie responded “I took photos [of the breach], reported it to Corps of Engineers, stopped the dredge, was on a conference call with the various parties, new curtain was laid, dredge started again, I went up and took more photos, etc. I ended up presenting on this at a GLNPO Quality managers conference last December.”
- Corrina shared a Survey Monkey with the BPAC with respect to the DEQ’s assessment of the “aesthetics” BUI and it’s request for a Letter of Support. The Survey had 3 possible answers for BPACers to side with and asked for their reasoning. Attached are the questions and anonymous answers. Mike Ripley felt that the BPAC should draft a potential letter similar to that of the St. Clair River (attached). Bretton mentioned that topics of concern such as Sugar Island could be referenced specifically in the letter (meaning the BPAC can support the DEQ but also highlight the existing problems and the avenues the group expects the agencies to use to address those problems).
- Members still feel the 2 sampling events during fair weather conditions were not conducive of a sound scientific study, and should therefore request in the letter that the DEQ demonstrate why they feel that there is a rigorous scientific approach/sampling method used to back up their results. Bretton to follow up with John and Rick about this and see if more discussion is possible on the monitoring process / protocols, as well as clarification on some of the wording (such as persistent), possibly shared with the BPAC in a summary outlining why they feel it is ready to delist.

4. Memberships

- For new members, applications must be received & prospective members present for confirmation – standard procedure.
- Paula mentioned that it would be worth will to make an active effort to engage new members.
- Greg knows a couple of people who may be interested in becoming involved in the BPAC, maybe not as members, but to help on projects etc. Travis White (graduated from Michigan Tech) does charter fishing expeditions on the St. Marys River. Also, the gentleman that owns “Wild Bill’s Last Resort” on Portage in Michigan (he could possibly hand out flyers etc.). Lastly, we may try to engage Rod Stewart again.

- Paula hopes each member could try to think of 3-5 people that they may like to bring out to meetings, in an effort to engage the public more.
- Maybe try to open a couple designated student representative positions on the BPAC. We could amend the terms of reference for the BPAC.
- The Executive also needs to meet to discuss the Aesthetics BUI.

5. Office Reports

- Update on the little rapids project - as referenced in the DEQ agency update, a teleconference was held with the project personnel where they presented the different design alternatives, and the pros and cons of each. A public presentation will be coming up in the near future.
- Officially introduced the new BPAC student, Haley. She is responsible for the Summit and other public outreach events.
- BPAC represented at Oktoberfest by Corrina.

6. Agency Updates

- Attached.

7. New Business

- Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund – is for \$25,000. SSMIC will be applying to for signage along the Hub Trail. Trying to collaborate with NORDIK.
- Community Environment Fund for \$20,000 that Paula will also be applying for. Restoration initiatives such as tree plantings etc.
- Michigan side – missed the deadline for money needed for Ashmun Creek, so still working on the data needed for acquiring those funds.
- Mike Ripley got a hold of Jim Selegean (Army Corp) – who works with Kelvin Creech – both of who work with the sedimentation group in Detroit. They look at hydrology that contributes to sedimentation in Federal harbours or AOCs, of which the SMR is both. Ashmun Creek is right at the head of the locks, and therefore the Corps is very interested in the Creek. They hope to work on a model of the hydrology of the Creek, estimating the amount of water washing off of parking lots and roads during high rains. The result of the model would be able to help determine where the best places are for stormwater retention ponds.
- The Corps also came out with the final report for the Western Lake Huron Study, where Ashmun and Munuscong Creeks are considered high priority areas.
- There is a clean-up in October for Ashmun Creek being held by the students at LSSU.
- Mike talked to the Custers again and they have sent out an update (attached).

8. Public Comments

9. Next Meeting

- Date in early November to be determined – will send out **Doodle Poll**.

10. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.