

ST. MARY'S RIVER BPAC MEETING
Holiday Inn
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
April 11, 1995

Minutes

In Attendance:

BPAC Members/Alternates

Verna Lawrence	Member, Elected Official
Marilyn Burton	Member, Citizens
Harry Graham	Member, Environmental
Donald Marles	Member, Environmental, Chair
Martin McPherson	Member, Environmental
Marvin Bestman	Member, Environmental
Louis Quinlan	Member, Industry
Kara Flannigan	Member, Public Health
John Campbell	Member, Tourism and Recreation
Jim Moreau	Member, Public Servant
Walter Sarich	Member, Labour

Agency Representatives

Susan Stoddart	Canadian RAP Coordinator
Roger Eberhardt	U.S. RAP Coordinator
Patrick Morash	RAP Team
Cindy Tulk	RAP Facilitator
Rod Stewart	MOEE
Vic Huggard	MOEE, RAP team
Dave Pfiefer	EPA, RAP team

Regrets

Gladys Wallwork	Alternate Member, Environmental
John Bain	Member, Public Servant
Roman Aikens	Member, Small Business
Joan Aikens	Member, Citizen

Other

Thomas Baldini	International Joint Commission
Dee Bestman	Citizen
Patti Murphy	Sault Star
Sandra Paul	Sault This Week

Thomas Baldini, International Joint Commission

D. Marles introduced Mr. Baldini and provided a brief biographical sketch of Mr. Baldini's background in politics and education.

T. Baldini thanked the BPAC for the opportunity to discuss the IJC and RAP. Mr. Baldini discussed the formation of the IJC and its role in boundary issues between Canada and the United States that are not only limited to water quality. It wasn't until both countries realized water issues would need a special mechanism to reach a resolution for changing practices that a binational treaty was formed. After lengthy negotiation, the Boundary Waters Treaty for Shared Water was formed in 1909 and remained in effect until 1978 when Canada and Ontario signed the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Although the agreements changed to meet the changing needs of boundary waters issues, both were put in place to prevent disputes, settle questions between the two countries and protect the boundary waters to ensure against injury. As amendments were made to the 1978 agreement its purpose was strengthened to include the restoration and maintenance of chemical, physical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem.

Mr. Baldini felt that cooperation and support of political leaders at all levels must be secured and communicating with citizens and striving for consensus on binational issues are important if the IJC is to prevent further strain on the 1978 agreement.

Mr. Baldini discussed how the 6 Commissioners, 3 Canadian, and 3 American make decisions based on consensus. Once appointed as a Commissioner each individual takes an oath to represent the interests of the Treaty independent from both governments. Based on the IJC's consensus approach to resolution, Mr. Baldini felt that consensus will continue to be essential in RAP's bottom up process.

As part of their role to monitor whether governments are contributing to the preservation of the Great Lakes, the IJC will hold its Biennial meeting in Duluth, September 1995 to seek public input on the state of the Great Lakes and take note of public recommendations for change. Comments from the meeting will be published in the IJC's Eighth Biennial Report. RAP discussions will be focused at this meeting.

V. Lawrence felt that problems exist where U.S. and Canadian laws are different and often prohibit action to resolve binational problems. Ms. Lawrence questioned whether anything could be done to resolve this. T. Baldini noted that the BPAC is not the only group to have recognized this problem and resolving it will require recognition from agencies that the problem exists and their agreement to discuss alternatives. If discussion could not be arranged at the local level Mr. Baldini suggested that the IJC office in Windsor could assist in the process.

M. Burton also expressed similar frustration; when an Interconnecting Channel attempts joint projects they often find out one partner is facing government cutbacks and progress is delayed. Ms. Burton felt that binational RAPs need more attention and funding to overcome this problem. Mr. Baldini felt that people and politicians must be kept informed of the pressing and important issues on the Great Lakes.

M. McPherson asked Mr. Baldini to review a book which he felt outlined institutional problems quite well but also outlined alternative policies. Mr. McPherson thought that the IJC would be a good non-political group to present those policies to both the Canadian and American governments.

Action Items from February 14 meeting

All action items from February 14 have been completed with the following exceptions:

C) When the Certificate of Approval for Georgia Pacific has been completed, copies can be obtained from MOEE.

E) Provide information to the BPAC on the regulatory standard of using urea-formaldehyde at the Georgia Pacific Plant. S. Stoddart asked for further clarification of this action item.

Information was requested about how the chemical is used in the process, whether there is any affect on the environment and whether standards exist for its use.

Public Comment

M. Burton recommended that the BPAC acquire a copy of the Smithsonian Institute's production "Ocean Plant" to have available for BPAC and public use. The program highlights scientific work on dioxin in the food chain, levels of dioxin in bodies and their effects in the Great Lakes Basin.

Action: Contact the Smithsonian Institute to obtain a copy of the program.

J. Moreau inquired whether an emissions report for Georgia Pacific's stack could be obtained once the mill is operational as a northwest wind will carry stack emissions over the river where the Michigan Water Treatment Plant's water intake is located. Vic Huggard, MOEE noted that the stack emissions will be tested under the conditions of the Certificate of Approval and will be available to the public.

M. McPherson asked for information on the process used to make urea formaldehyde and whether any byproducts are produced during the process.

Action: Determine whether byproducts are produced when urea formaldehyde is made.

Coordinators' Update

S. Stoddart noted the handouts available at the meeting.

The new Sport Fish Consumption Guidelines 95-96
Forum - Great Lakes Fishery Commission - Sea Lamprey Control article
Improvements related to discharges to the St. Mary's River
Canadian and U.S. agency management structures
Great Lake Superior Cleanup Information
RAP newsletter

Environment Canada has assembled a training kit and instructions for anyone interested in gathering information about population changes using their Marsh Monitoring Program. S. Stoddart added that this program is a good opportunity to start looking at wildlife issues in the AOC.

S. Stoddart outlined the current RAP events (attached) and added that the St. Clair River Stage II report is available for anyone interested in

seeing an example of a Stage II document.

L. Quinlan questioned whether a new group of BPAC members will be re addressing the work completed by the Task Teams. S. Stoddart assured Mr. Quinlan that there will not be a duplication of work already done rather the use impairments and problem areas identified and prioritized will now require options identification.

Messages to Ontario Public Advisory Committee

J. Bain will represent the BPAC at the May 5,6 OPAC Council meeting in Cornwall. D. Marles invited BPAC members to identify any messages they would like to have conveyed to the OPAC. J. Campbell suggested that Mr. Bain could find out what the status is of the Michigan State Public Advisory Council. P. Morash noted that each PAC representative at the meeting will be able to take advantage of the opportunity to speak to a broad audience to convey the BPAC's concerns.

Approve Minutes of February 14, 1995

moved: M. Burton; seconded: V. Lawrence.

-CARRIED-

New Business

R. Eberhardt noted that the Great Lakes Area of Concern Conference will be held on May 17, 1995, unfortunately funding is not available for BPAC members to attend, however there is no registration fee.

D. Marles informed the BPAC that Jennifer Rae is no longer with the Health Effects Program. Stephanie Berry can be contacted at 613-954-5141 regarding the Health Effects Program.

D. Marles notified the BPAC that public hearings are ongoing regarding the planned 4 lane extension of Highway 17 from Echo Bay to Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. Marles identified wetland issues as potential impacts on the AOC and suggested the BPAC invite a representative from Mc Cormick Rankin to discuss the expansion plans. Mr. Marles felt that the BPAC could be better informed and able to comment prior to the deadline for public comment after the presentation.

Action: Invite Gord Firth to discuss Highway 17 expansion plans with the BPAC.

D. Marles asked for further clarification of the role of BPAC members on the RAP Team. S. Stoddart indicated that the Coordinators recently sent a letter to all RAP team members to confirm their commitment for contributing to the upcoming Stage II work. Ms. Stoddart wanted to clarify that the letter in no way excluded the BPAC from the upcoming work, rather it was

intended to ensure the ability and willingness of RAP team members to participate.

M. Burton felt that clarification of what is expected of BPAC members during Stage II work is needed. S. Stoddart agreed to identify a list of activities and contact BPAC Task Team members to discuss their participation.

R. Stewart provided an update on MOEE activities.

The Certificate of Approval for Georgia Pacific's operation is available to the public at the Library or MOEE during the 30 day approval process ending April 24.

MOEE is working with the company who is painting the International Bridge to ensure environmental safety.

On April 12, 1995 the Municipal Industrial Strategy for Abatement (MISA) regulations will be announced for the steel industry and will address the discharge of approximately 120 chemicals. This regulation will be available at MOEE. MOEE could give a presentation to BPAC if desired.

In May 1995 MOEE will publish air quality data taken from 12 monitoring sites in Sault Canada during the last 15 years. The combined results of the data indicate that air quality has improved. This data will be available at the next BPAC meeting.

Mr. Vic Huggard will be replacing Gerry LaHaye as a RAP Team member June 15, 1995

Location: SSM, Michigan
 Lake Superior State University
 Crowsnest Room

Adjournment: Moved and carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Cindy Tulk
RAP Facilitator

Regional File TS 43-01-01 (e)