

ST. MARY'S RIVER BPAC MEETING
Sault Ste Marie Civic Centre
December 12, 1994

Minutes

In Attendance:

BPAC Members/Alternates

Roman Aikens	Member, Elected Officials
John Bain	Alternate, Municipal Representatives
Marilyn Burton	Member, Citizens, Chair
Tony Martin	Member, Elected Officials
Donald Marles	Member, Environmental
Martin McPherson	Member, Environmental
Marvin Besteman	Member, Environmental
Jarl Hiltunen	Member, Citizen

Agency Representatives

Rod Stewart	Sault Ste. Marie District Office - MOEE
Jerry LaHaye	Sault Ste. Marie District Office - MOEE
Jan Linquist	Mid Ontario Regional Office - MOEE
Roger Eberhardt	RAP Team
Patrick Morash	RAP Team

Other Stakeholder Representatives

Joan Aikens	Applicant for Citizens category
Matt Gibbons	Georgia-Pacific Flakeboard

Discuss Action Items from October 5, 1994

Action Item #1: Invite Mr. Thomas Baldini, IJC US Section Chair to future BPAC meeting. Accomplished.

IJC staff have indicated that Mr. Baldini would like to attend the April BPAC meeting.

Action Item #2: Invite a representative from Georgia-Pacific to make a presentation to BPAC. Accomplished.

P. Morash spoke with Mr. Pablo Vasquez, Manager, Building Products Environmental Engineering, who indicated that he would be pleased to attend a future BPAC meeting and make a presentation. In addition, Mr. Matt Gibbons was in attendance and offered to answer questions.

Action Item #3: Acquire a copy of the site plan and list of required

Certificates of Approval for Georgia Pacific. Accomplished.

R. Stewart provided a summary of the environmental considerations for the establishment of the plant. He commented that with water use less than 50 000 L and discharge to the city sewer, there are no related permit requirements. He added that there is a requirement for a noise assessment and that there are setback requirements to provide a shoreline buffer.

D. Marles asked whether the buffer area was Conservation Authority property. R. Stewart suggested that this property was previously owned by Algoma Steel and was subsequently sold to GP.

M. Burton commented that the plant will use a urea formaldehyde based glue and asked whether this material would pose a problem for the sewage treatment plant. R. Stewart indicated that the small amount released from the plant would not create a treatment problem. M. Gibbons added that the adhesive contains less than 0.8% free formaldehyde, a percentage similar to that found in ordinary white glue.

D. Marles inquired as to whether this plant will be similar to the one in Gaylord, MI. M. Gibbons suggested that they are not the same.

Approve Minutes of October 5, 1994

As there was no quorum, this was deferred until the next meeting.

Discussion

1. BPAC Public Involvement Survey

P. Morash thanked those who participated in the survey and indicated that the results will be helpful as we move forward in the development of the RAP. He added that there was only a 50% response rate. M. Besteman suggested that this response rate is probably quite good as it is similar to the proportion of BPAC members who remain active. M. Burton added that in order to move to Stage 2 and beyond, we need to commit money to the process. Copies of the survey will be distributed to BPAC members not in attendance at the meeting.

2. Task Team Reports

Cleanup and Restoration

R. Eberhardt presented a summary of the work of the Cleanup and Restoration Task Team including the mandate, participants, evaluation methodology and site rankings. The mandate includes the application of the most stringent water quality standards; meeting biological-based sediment quality criteria; and the reduction and prevention of the discharge of persistent toxic chemicals and other contaminants.

The result of the task team work is a ranking of contaminated sites requiring remedial actions. This list has been separated into Canadian and U.S. sites. D. Marles asked why the distinction was made. R. Eberhardt commented that the task team discussed this in depth and determined that it would be the most useful methodology.

M. Burton inquired as to whether BPAC members will get copies of the Task Team reports. D. Marles suggested that BPAC should review these reports. R. Eberhardt indicated that copies of the reports will be available. J. Linquist added that the reports are largely composed of technical information. P. Morash commented that the Task Team reports will form the basis for the Stage 2 document which will be reviewed by the BPAC.

Point Source

R. Eberhardt outlined the objectives, participants and methodology of the Point Source Task Team. The objectives include the application of the most stringent standards to point source discharges into the AOC; and implementation of best available technology for the treatment of municipal and industrial waste. Task Team actions include: ranking contaminants; compiling list of dischargers and ranking dischargers. Information was gathered from the Stage 1 Report and the Beak Options Report and priorities were set based on impaired uses and BPAC Water Use Goals.

J. Linquist described the methodology for assessing contaminant loadings and commented that there is a large volume of data because of the extensive monitoring requirements for pulp mills. M. Besteman asked how much of the loading from the sewage treatment plants is a result of the residential sector. J. Linquist commented that this is variable, but specific data is collected by each STP. R. Stewart added that the Ontario STPs are audited once a year.

D. Marles asked why iron loadings are high in the storm sewers. J. LaHaye suggested that this is a result of local soil characteristics. D. Marles questioned whether the use of slag on local driveways could be adding to these high loadings. J. LaHaye commented that this is not a problem.

R. Eberhardt summarized the recommendations of the Point Source Task Team. These include: to continue with regulations, controls and enforcement; to implement secondary treatment at St. Marys Paper; to continue with process improvements at Algoma Steel; to implement secondary treatment at the East End STP; and to implement best management practices for non-point source pollution.

M. McPherson asked whether the data compiled by the task teams will be available in an electronic format. J. Linquist commented that the databases that were used were already existing. M. McPherson also asked whether there will be any discussion of trends through time. J. Linquist indicated that this will be necessary in order to document achieved targets as the Stage 2 Report will only be a snapshot of today's information. M. Gibbons asked whether the loadings data reflect fluctuations or a normal range. J. Linquist commented that, unfortunately, some of the numbers are based on a small amount of data.

Status of RAP Coordinator

P. Morash indicated that the Coordinator's position had been advertised and that interviews would be held shortly. A new coordinator should be in place before the next BPAC meeting.

Public Comment

R. Aikens commented that the new water/sewer facility is now online for St. Joseph's Island.

D. Marles indicated that he was pleased to see a representative present from Georgia-Pacific. He asked if G-P has another similar MDF plant in Ontario or Canada. M. Gibbons indicated that there is a plant in South Carolina and in St. Steven's, New Brunswick. R. Aikens asked what type of wood is used in the process. M. Gibbons said that spruce, pine and fir are all used, as well as a small amount of hardwood.

New Business

R. Stewart reported that the MNR has recently identified the presence of zebra mussels in the area near the east end of the Canadian lock. M. Burton asked where the colony may have come from. D. Marles suggested that they may have come from Lake Superior. R. Aikens inquired about control methods. R. Stewart commented that chlorine injection has been effective.

R. Stewart also reported that the 1979-92 air quality report will soon be complete. He added that over this period, air quality has been improving.

P. Morash commented that R. Stewart had been discussing improvements to the East End STP with city staff. He will keep the BPAC informed as to progress.

R. Aikens inquired about cancer rates in the area. P. Morash indicated that Health Canada had recently distributed a health effects atlas for the Great Lakes.

Action: Get copies of health effects atlas for R. Aikens and M. McPherson.

J. Hiltunen asked whether we continue to invite First Nations participation in the RAP. P. Morash indicated that he would check the mailing list to confirm this. M. Burton indicated that Blaine Belleau from the Garden River First Nation would like to participate. D. Marles recommended that we encourage this involvement.

R. Aikens commented that BPAC membership issues need to be addressed. M. Burton suggested a membership meeting be called for the end of January. J. Aikens suggested that we make a special effort to encourage youth involvement.

T. Martin proposed that we place more emphasis on outreach activities. He added that while L. Cornacchio was the RAP Coordinator, she was particularly successful at developing community contacts.

Next meeting and objectives: Tuesday, February 14, 1995 7pm
Sault Ste Marie, MI Water Treatment Plant

1. Election of Officers
2. Membership issues
3. New Coordinator
4. Presentation by Georgia-Pacific

Adjournment: Moved and carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Patrick Morash
RAP Team Leader

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