

ST. MARYS RIVER BPAC MEETING
East Ballroom, Cisler Centre
Lake Superior State University
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan
7:00 P.M., October 19, 1995

Attendance:

BPAC Members/Alternates

Don Marles	Chair,	Environmental
Roman Aikens	Member,	Small Business
Joan Aikens	Member,	Citizen
Mary Rossiter	Member,	Shoreline Property Owner
John Campbell	Member,	Recreation & Tourism
Jim Moreau	Member,	Public servant
John Bain	Member,	Public Servant
Martin McPherson	Member,	Environmental
Arnett Maurer	Member,	Environmental

Agency Representatives

Ken Cullis	MNR
Roger Eberhardt	MDEQ
Rod Stewart	MOEE
Jim Bailey	RAP Facilitator

Regrets

Lou Quinlan	Member,	Industry
Jarl Hiltunen	Member,	Environmental

Absent

Walter Sarich	Member,	Labour
Larry Conway	Member,	Citizen
Kathleen Brosemer	Member,	Other
Harry Graham	Member,	Environmental
Verna Lawrence	Member,	Elected Official
Tony Martin	Member,	Elected Official
Bob Collins	Member,	Recreation & Tourism
Michelle Ribant	Member,	Medical/Health

William Cryderman	Member,	Environmental
Jarl Hiltunen	Member,	Environmental
Marilyn Burton	Member,	Citizen
Kara Flannigan	Member,	Public Health
Marvin Bestman	Member,	Elected Official
Terry LeBoeuf	Member,	Academia

Other

Jim Dukes
Donna M. Babbitt

CHAIR: D. Marles

Approval of Minutes from August 16, 1995.

Arnett Maurer noted that the name J. Bain should read J. Campbell on pages 4 (paragraph 2,) 5 (paragraph 3,) and 8 (second action item.)

Discuss Action Items from August 16, 1995.

1. Action Item re: S. Stoddart to work with MOEE and Health Canada to provide information on the interaction of chemicals from various Sault Ste. Marie industries.
Accomplished

D. Marles said he had received information from Sue Stoddart and that this would be posted with the next minutes. R. Stewart noted that information on this topic had also been distributed at a meeting at Sugar Island in May of 1994.

2. Action Item re: L. Quinlan to forward information on dredging in the St. Mary's River to M. McPherson.
Carried Over

M. McPherson said he had not yet received this information.

3. Action Item re: Don Marles to send a letter to Jake wishing Sue well and asking that a new coordinator for Sault Ste. Marie be put in place.
Accomplished

D. Marles read the letter he had composed and noted concensus amongst BPAC members to send this letter.

4. Action Item re: Sue Stoddart to provide response to letter dealing with fish contamination.
Accomplished
5. Action Item re: John Campbell to forward names and numbers of pertinent Amax tannery project contacts to Jim Bailey.
Accomplished.
6. Action Item re: Lake Superior Programs Office to provide list of ongoing or approved Clean Up fund projects for Sault Ste. Marie for next BPAC meeting.
Accomplished.

K. Cullis gave an update on the St. Mary's River Sediment Impact Zone Characterization. He said the following work took place between Sept. 12th and Sept. 22nd, 1995. Bottom characterization was completed for four areas - Belleview Marine Park; East End Wastewater Treatment Plant; Algoma Slip; and the nearshore area by the slag dump. He said that diving work at 18 locations at Belleview Marine Park resulted in sediment core samples, surficial sediment samples for benthic community evaluation, and additional sediment sampling for toxicity work (metals and organics - including PCBs and PaHs.) He said that Peter Kauss would prepare a preliminary report for BPAC and that the timing of a final report would be determined by the lab's ability to complete the PaH analysis (presently about one year.)

K. Cullis then listed three St. Marys River RAP Cleanup Fund Projects which had been approved for the St. Marys AOC for 1995/96.

- A sub watershed plan for Fort Creek.
- Fish and wildlife habitat restoration potential
- Optimization study of the East End Wastewater Treatment Plant.

K. Cullis went on to say that the fish and wildlife habitat project would provide the information necessary to complete the fish and wildlife habitat section of stage two for St. Marys River. He also emphasized that funds were now available to initiate work on an East End Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade, beginning with a feasibility study. He recommended the BPAC encourage Sault Ste. Marie city council to proceed with this project.

M. McPherson asked whether the fish habitat project would give an overall picture regarding both fish and wildlife. K. Cullis said that this was definitely the case and that the reports look at concerns regarding both fish and wildlife. M. McPherson stressed that the whole picture, or ecosystem should be looked at.

Coordinators Report

D. Marles read a letter from Richard Powers, Assistant Chief, Surface Water Quality Division for the state of Michigan, saying that Mark Hargitt had been named to replace R. Eberhardt as American coordinator for the BPAC. D. Marles thanked R. Eberhardt for his efforts over the past three years and asked Mr. Eberhardt if he had any comments. R. Eberhardt said that he would be moving on to work with the Lake Michigan LaMP. He said that Mark Hargitt regretted not being able to attend this evening but would be at the next BPAC meeting.

R. Eberhardt said that there had been some changes in Michigan, especially the addition of a new department, the Department of Environmental Quality. He distributed brochures containing information on the new department and said the Department of Environmental Quality would be working closely with Ontario. D. Marles asked if there was a substantial difference between the Department of Natural Resources and the new Department of Environmental Quality. R. Eberhardt said that the DEQ would be taking over from the DNR in the areas of water quality, air quality, waste management and land and water management. J. Campbell asked who the DEQ reported to and R. Eberhardt replied that the DEQ reported to the governor and that the head of the DEQ was appointed directly by the governor. J. Campbell asked if the direction of the DEQ could change along with a change of governors. R. Eberhardt said that this was possible, but that basic environmental laws do not change and the direction of the DEQ would remain more or less constant.

D. Marles asked if there would be continued input to the BPAC from the DNR and DEQ. R. Eberhardt replied that there would be.

R. Eberhardt reported that he had attended an SPAC meeting with Jarl Hiltunen earlier in the day. He said that J. Hiltunen had asked him to deliver a message to the BPAC requesting a new SPAC representative be appointed to replace him.

D. Marles continued by introducing K. Cullis of the MNR, from the Lake Superior Programs Office in Thunder Bay. K. Cullis began by saying that he was the coordinator of the Nipigon Bay Rap and that he was also the MNR coordinator for the Lake Huron RAPs. K. Cullis said there had been great disappointment at Sue Stoddart's resignation and that this could not have happened at a worse time during such massive government cutbacks and layoffs. K. Cullis said that J. Vander Wal would now be taking over as the coordinator for the St. Mary's River Area of Concern.

D. Marles asked what services would continue to be provided by the Lake Superior Programs Office.. K. Cullis replied that technical support from the LSPO would be difficult. He said that BPAC support had been vital in getting the Sault Ste. Marie PAC to where it is, but that operations budgets were very constrained at present. K. Cullis said that service would not be stopped but rather there would be a reduction in service. He said that every attempt would be made to attend at least some meetings but that J. Bailey would not be coming to Sault Ste. Marie in order to produce meeting minutes. K. Cullis continued by saying that resources must be focused on writing the stage two document. He said that very good background data for the Sault Ste. Marie area had already been procured and that it was time to write the stage 2 document.

D. Marles replied that he understood the position being presented but that as a public body, the BPAC should not accept this as the final position. He said that he felt the agencies involved had a responsibility to support the BPAC with minutes production. He continuing by saying that the BPAC was a legal entity created by the federal and provincial governments and that support should definitely be forthcoming. He concluded by saying that the reduced support and lack of support for minutes specifically, was totally unacceptable.

R. Aikens said that the BPAC would only be spinning its wheels without sufficient support. Arnett Maurer added that this was unfair as she felt there was money being wasted. She said that she could understand the cutbacks given the present economic climate, but said that money allocated to the BPAC was spent in a dictatorial manner with no voting by the BPAC itself. D. Marles asked about the financial status of the BPAC for the current fiscal year and K. Cullis replied that there had actually been cuts to the budget within the current fiscal year. A. Maurer asked about the money saved through reduced services. R. Aikens also asked where this money would be going and asked for actual figures. He said that no financial figures had been received by the BPAC within the last two years. K. Cullis replied that this money was part of the overall MOEE budget.

J. Aikens asked whether some AOCs required more funding than others. K. Cullis said that Nipigon, for example, required less funding because the stage 2 had been completed there. He went on to stress however, that cutbacks had been province wide. M. Rossiter asked what the budget was for the BPAC. K. Cullis replied that the budget was much less than what it would cost to be done through a private consultant as had been done

previously. He said that as an example, J. Bailey was acting as a facilitator for 5 AOCs.

John Campbell said that the BPAC was supposed to be part of the stage 2 process. He said that if there was not going to be BPAC involvement as the stage 2 evolved, then there would be little purpose to the BPAC. K. Cullis replied that the number of meetings for every PAC was being reduced, along with the level of support. D. Marles said that this topic could be further discussed at an executive meeting. He said that while he sympathized with some of the problems which were occurring, he felt that someone from Thunder Bay should be attending the meetings on a regular basis. He said that minutes could also be taped and sent to Thunder Bay to be completed and that there was no excuse for not having minutes. J. Campbell said that in this case meetings would have to be conducted differently so that speakers identified themselves. J. Moreau suggested using a video camera. J. Bain said that a complete set of minutes might not be needed and that instead, action items could be recorded and forwarded to Thunder Bay for production.

R. Eberhardt said similar funding problems were occurring on the American side of the border and that an evening of discussion could be summarized in a page of action items. He said that there had been a 50% funding cut under the Clean Water Act and that PACs had suffered accordingly. R. Eberhardt continued by saying that a number of PACs in Michigan had agreed to meet without coordinators, and that as long as people know in advance that agency representatives will not be attending, meetings function smoothly. He said he didn't see this as being a major issue. Meeting dates would be set a year in advance and agendas also written in advance to reflect attendance, so that a meeting to be attended by local people could reflect local issues, and a meeting to be attended by agency representatives could reflect broader issues. He said that this kind of system had been accepted with little discussion in Michigan.

J. Bain asked if it would be possible to get support from the local office of the MOEE. D. Marles replied that perhaps support could be arranged through Thunder Bay.

He said that communication was the central issue and that all members, whether able to attend a given meeting or not, must feel a part of the process and that minutes and other related information were necessary in order to keep members interested. R. Stewart said that the district office could provide technical expertise. J. Aikens said she supported what J. Bain was saying and continued by saying that bringing two people from Thunder Bay for each meeting could cost over \$7000 dollars per year. K. Cullis said it might be possible to be more effective by combining meetings, trips or workshops with BPAC meetings.

MOEE Report

R. Stewart listed several activities or projects which were ongoing or completed in the Sault St. Marie area.

1. St. Mary's Paper

Secondary effluent treatment plant to be commissioned by the end of 1995. R. Stewart said this was very good news and that it was something the PAC had recommended at the beginning of the RAP process. He said it would be complete by the end of this year.

2. Naturally Green

The Sault Ste. Marie Naturally Green program has completed energy efficiency inspections on 300 homes.

An air quality seminar will be held at Roberta Bondar Place on November 9th.

3. New Blue Box Requirements

Presently blue box service is provided only to private homes. By July of 1996, Sault Ste. Marie will be required to expand service to include apartment blocks as well.

4. Algoma Slip

Contaminated sediments are presently being removed from Algoma Steel slip. This work will be finished within the next few weeks.

5. Government Dock

Contaminated sediments have been removed from this area.

6. City Landfill Leachate

The City of Sault Ste. Marie will be installing the Southwest arm of the leachate collection system next year.

R. Stewart, referring to an earlier point made by K. Cullis, emphasized that funds were now available to initiate work on an East End Sewage Treatment Plant upgrade, beginning with a feasibility study. He concurred with K. Cullis in recommending the BPAC write Sault Ste. Marie city council informing them of the availability of funds.

R. Stewart went on to talk about the IJC meeting in Duluth, Minnesota. He said that people were interested in what had been done with PAHs on the St. Marys River. He also announced to the BPAC that there would be a seminar on air quality sponsored by the lung association on November 9th at Roberta Bondar Place. R. Stewart said he had heard that Michigan might have money to do transect sampling of water quality in the Saint Marys River. R. Eberhardt said that this was true and that the U.S. Geological Survey would be doing this work. He said that this would not be happening immediately, but that it would happen within the next two years. He said that nothing specific was needed from the BPAC to facilitate this.

M. McPherson said that at a meeting in 1993 at City Hall, R. Stewart had listed several things that were being done by Algoma Steel with regard to the environment. He asked R. Stewart what the status of these actions was. R. Stewart said that during the bankruptcy proceedings and the refunding at Algoma Steel, the company had agreed to sample the sediment in the slip, clean up the slip, and do an air quality study, in addition to several other actions. R. Stewart said that most of these actions were complete. R. Aikens asked where the sediment from the Algoma Steel slip had been deposited. D. Marles said that the sediment had been put in the slag dump and R. Aikens said that he hoped this would not effect the groundwater. R. Aikens also asked about large quantities of tires which sit about and eventually affect groundwater. R. Stewart said that he would forward

information on tire recycling to R. Aikens.

Correspondence

D. Marles mentioned receiving the letter from R. Powers in regard to the transfer and replacement of R. Eberhardt and said that this had already been covered.

New Business

D. Marles asked that the OPAC recommendations to the IJC be deferred. He then moved on to speak about the BPAC mailing address. He said that his mail comes to many different locations including city hall, to the MOEE, to the Lake Superior Programs Office and to his home address, and that this was a problem. He said that the executive committee would discuss and attempt to solve this problem. J. Bain said that the MOEE office in Sault Ste. Marie would be a practical address and asked if D. Marles and R. Stewart could discuss this problem.