

St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Council (BPAC) Meeting Minutes

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

When: March 17, 2015
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

- Members:** Paula Antunes, Don Marles, Jessica Wesolek, Kristina Denison, Chris Graham, Klaas Oswald
- Agency Reps:** Mark Chambers (EC), Corrina Barrett (Algoma U), Gary Leith (APH), Ron Dorscht (OMOECC), Catherine Taddo (City), Carrie Ginou (Algoma U)
- Guests:** Cal Nichol, Carol Nichol, Jason Bertrim (Country 104.3/KISS 100.5), Grant Nichol (Morrison Hershfield), Chris Cummings (Parish Aquatic Services), Angela Belleau (RAP Research Assistant)
- Regrets:** Mike Ripley, Barb Keller, Crystal Bole, Sheri Glowinski, Emily Martin, Alexis Shefka, Brian Wesolek, John Riley

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- January 22nd, 2015 - approved as presented
- February 25th, 2015 - deferred to next meeting

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- (Feb 25th minutes) BPAC is looking for more information regarding the Port of Algoma before writing any letters (i.e. how big the development will be and any other particulars).

4. Presentations

EC's contractors are coming to present their work and findings on the rapids habitat feasibility study.

Presenters include:

- ⇒ Grant Nichol, Morrison Hershfield [project manager]; and
- ⇒ Chris Cummings, Parish Aquatic Services
- Presentation is available on the BPAC website: http://www.lssu.edu/bpac/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/DRAFT2_SMR_Feasibility_Study_Presentation_Mar16-2015_RVSD.pdf
- Background: This project was launched in late 2013 in response to specific actions outlined in the Stage 2 RAP Report (2002). A series of recommendations were made on how rapids habitat / wetlands habitat could be enhanced within the AOC.
- The purpose of this feasibility study is to look at those recommended actions and determine which ones are feasible. A lot of work went into the recommendations but EC wanted to take it to the next level to see what was ecologically, economically and physically feasible, as well as create specific details around the options and ultimately figure out which of the potential options could be worked towards in the future.
- The full report (that the presentation is based on) is currently out for review with the agencies who have a direct role (whether as a potential funder or land owner or regulatory agency) for comment. Once the comments are received, the report will be revised and the final copy will be shared with

the BPAC.

Carrie Ginou will be presenting the findings from this past summers water quality study:

- Presentation is available on the BPAC website: http://www.lssu.edu/bpac/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/WQ-presentation_BPAC-March-17-2015.pdf
- Final Report available on the website as well: http://www.lssu.edu/bpac/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Water-Quality-Technical-Report_March-2015.pdf

5. Office Reports

Ontario RAP Office Updates

- Corrina and Michelle finalized the MOECC-Algoma U agreement for 2015/16.
- Corrina has prepared a draft Beach Closures report and shared it with Gary Leith of Algoma Public Health. She will share it with BPAC members for review this week, providing two weeks for comment.
- Corrina attended the first Green Expo Planning Committee meeting at the beginning of March. Officially changing gears and renaming it the “Sustain Algoma Expo”. Planned for the last weekend in July.
- Collaborated with the City’s Environmental Initiatives Department on the Yellow Fish Road Project. Will be aiding with marketing.

Michigan RAP Office Updates

- Environmental Summit taking place 3/27-28
 - 3/27: public school activities
 - 3/28: 10 organizations currently scheduled to participate (We are hoping to see BPAC folks attending!)
- Latest PAC funding RFP
 - Sheri Glowinski will be talking to John Riley tomorrow about this RFP. Via email, he said they are looking for projects that will measurably move delisting forward, although there is a role for education/outreach.
 - If anyone at the meeting has suggestions for what a proposal might entail, please have them contact me (Sheri) ASAP as proposals are due April 10.

6. Agency Updates

Environment Canada

- Canadian Wildlife Service are interested in coming to a future BPAC meeting to present their work on coastal wetlands, amphibians, water fowl, and water quality within a number of AOC coastal wetlands and non AOC coastal wetlands. Looking to determine the overall health of that type of habitat within the AOC. They have completed 3 years of the 5-year project, but would like to make a “half-way point” presentation to the BPAC. Will aim to have them present at the next Ontario based meeting.
- EC’s portion of the funding for Corrina’s position is currently in the works and we hope to finalize for April / May.

7. Memberships

- For new members, applications must be received & prospective members present for confirmation – standard procedure.

8. New Business

- This is not new, but we want to make sure to stay on the ball regarding the Port of Algoma and the New Official City Plan. Keep these as placeholders on future agendas.

9. Public Comments

- None.

10. 2015 Executive Elections

Chairman – USA:

Kristina Dension volunteered. All in favor. Motion carried

1st Vice Chair – Canada:

Klaas Oswald nominated **Chris Graham**. Chris accepted. All in favor. Motion carried.

2nd Vice Chair – USA:

Jessica Wesolek nominated **Emily Martin**. Emily accepted. All in favor. Motion carried.

Past Chair – Canada:

Don Marles. Auto.

10. Next Meeting

- Date in April / May to be determined. Corrina to send Doodle Poll.

11. Adjourned at 8:45 pm.