

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Minutes

Place: CC202, Essar Convergence Centre, Algoma University
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

When: January 25th, 2016 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

Members: Kristina Denison, Chris Graham, Klaas Oswald, Ron Prickett, Don Marles, Brian Wesolek, Jessica Wesolek, Matt Konieczki, Megan Kelly, Paula Antunes
Agency Reps: Catherine Taddo (City), Gary Leith (Algoma Public Health)
Guests: Jerry Suurna (Port of Algoma), Fred Leech (AECOM), Rebecca Bolen
Regrets: John Riley (MDEQ), Emily Martin, Nancy Griffin, Marilyn Burton

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- December 16th, 2015 -

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- Discussion on the Draft Dredging Administrative Controls Document was postponed until the next meeting to allow sufficient time for Port of Algoma presentation and questions.

4. Presentations

- Jerry Suurna and Fred Leech presented on the Port of Algoma and provided a brief overview of the developments to date. Highlights of the discussion include the following:
- The project is a brownfield redevelopment of the existing port facilities. No new berths/slips will be constructed as part of this proposed redevelopment. This facility will not be a deep water port as it is limited by draft allowed by lock system.
- Stage 1 Archaeology studies have been completed. Neither the terrestrial archaeology assessment of the port lands nor the marine archaeology assessment of St. Mary's River adjacent to the port lands found there to be any potential significant archaeological opportunities due to the history of those areas over the past 100 years.
- A Fisheries Effects Determination study has been completed. These included both spring and fall fisheries assessment including diving at dock faces and in areas of proposed dredging. No significant fish habitat or spawning areas were found in the zones proposed for dredging.
- A Terrestrial Effects Determination study was completed. This included a spring and summer breeding bird survey, spring wildlife observations, spring and summer wetland observations and summer vegetation observations. No significant terrestrial organisms were identified within the areas of proposed redevelopment.
- No work is to be conducted in Leighs Bay or in areas that have protected species (bank swallows). No dredging in areas of significant fish habitats. Areas of potential dredging are mostly limited to areas previously dredged and to maintain 28 foot draft equivalent to locks for navigational safety.
- Further information is available at www.algomaport.com.
- The following presentation links have been provided by Jerry:
 - <http://www.algomaport.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Port-of-Algoma-Presentation1.pdf>
 - <http://www.algomaport.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/Port-of-Algoma-First-Nations-Presentation1.pdf>

5. Office Reports

- RAP Office (Ontario):
 - Submitted an application to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund to continue the RAP Coordination position for another year.
 - Corrina Barrett will be coming back from maternity leave on February 1, 2016.
 - Implementation Annex is getting a new design.
 - A student will be hired for 2 months to help with RAP projects.
- Annual AOC Conference, March 2-3 in Dearborn, Michigan – Megan Kelly & Matt Konieczki will be attending.
- SPAC update – next meeting is March 1 in Dearborn, Michigan (opening in conjunction with regional AOC meeting).

6. Agency Updates

- **Environment Canada (EC)**
Bird/Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems BUI
On January 22, EC and the MOECC sent a letter to the International Joint Commission confirming the change in status of this BUI to *not impaired*. BPAC voted in support of this measure in February 2015. The letter is attached.

Great Lakes Sustainability Fund www.ec.gc.ca/raps-pas
EC received one application pertaining to the AOC. It was from AlgomaU seeking a one-year extension of funding for the local RAP Coordinator office. EC is now reviewing this and all other applications, with funding decisions anticipated before May 2016. The MOECC has been identified as the other proposed funder, and will undertake its own review process.
- **Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (MOECC)**
MOECC, EC and the RAP Coordinator are revising the RAP Implementation Annex for the Canadian side of the AOC. It will account for activities and accomplishments in 2015, and identify work items for 2016. The updated copy will be circulated to BPAC.

7. Memberships

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

8. New Business

- Klaas Oswald has an update from Peter Tonnazo at City Planning – In October (2015), BPAC sent comments on draft official plan for SSM Ontario – sometime in April or May he will reply with a detailed letter in response to our comments and afterwards they will be holding open houses.

9. Public Comments

- Rebecca Bolen, who is currently working on St. Marys Area of Concern Habitat Restoration at Little Rapids, presented informational materials to BPAC. She will accept any questions or comments in regards to the materials that will be sent out to members electronically.