

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

Place: CC202, Algoma University
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

When: October 3, 2018
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- June 7, 2018

3. Business arising from previous minutes

- BPAC letter to City of SSM (Review of Official Plan)
- BPAC membership

4. Presentations

- NA

5. Office Reports

- Office reports will be provided during the meeting.

6. Agency Updates

- Updates from ECCC, MECP, MDNR, and USEPA provided on reverse.

7. Memberships

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

8. New Business

- 2019 Watershed monitoring recommendations for MDEQ
- Chromium Smelter Proposal

9. Public Comments

11. Next Meeting

Four Agency Report to the St. Marys River BPAC Meeting

October 3, 2018

CC202, Algoma University, Ontario

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)

The ECCC-MECP approvals process to officially remove the three beneficial use impairments supported by BPAC on the Canadian side of the AOC is progressing. The submission to redesignate “Beach Closings”, “Degradation of Aesthetics”, and “Eutrophication/Undesirable Algae” to Not Impaired was made to senior management for final decision. These three BUIs have already been removed on the U.S. side.

This summer, ECCC’s contractor (Riggs Engineering) completed fieldwork with staff from the Batchewana Natural Resources Department and Parks Canada needed to produce engineered designs for naturalizing the channel bed and bank areas of the Whitefish Channel and constructing islands and shoals east of Whitefish Island to benefit native fish populations. Assessment of physical landscape and measurement of water flowing from the culverts through Whitefish Channel has helped to better understand the area’s geomorphology and hydrology. Depth soundings and bathymetry data conducted off the eastern end of Whitefish Island has aided detailed designs. A presentation on the work will be delivered to BPAC later in 2018.

ECCC and MECP are furthering the development of a multi-agency contaminated sediment management strategy for the Canadian side of the AOC. The process will involve BPAC and community consultation, which will begin in late 2018/early 2019. A BPAC meeting in the near future is proposed, where ECCC/MECP will present an overview on the current situation with respect to contaminated sediment on the Canadian side of the river that summarizes the data collected over the past 10+ years, and outline a plan with timetable for seeking BPAC and community input into the AOC management strategy. A “Conceptual Site Model” is being drafted that will capture all of this information, and it will be shared with BPAC when completed in March-April 2019. ECCC/MECP will return to BPAC to provide an update on the results of the 2018 sampling and to discuss the next steps. BPAC and community engagement will continue throughout 2019, with the objective of having a sediment management strategy developed by December 2019.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

Following the provincial election in June, the Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change was renamed the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

John Perrecone, USEPA’s Great Lakes National Program Office point person for the St. Marys River Area of Concern, retired very recently. A replacement has not yet been assigned.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

MDNR’s Office of the Great Lakes intends to have a draft Removal Recommendation for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and the Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations BUIs in one document before the end of the calendar year.