

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Minutes- Draft

Place: SH402, Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
Virtual option available via Webex

When: Thursday December 1, 2022
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Call to order/introductions

Members: Aubrey Maccoux-Leduc, Al Wright, Brian Wesolek, Erma Leaphart, Don Marles, James Dukes, Mike Ripley, Mike Langendorf, Mary Rossiter, Melanie Foose, Ron Prickett

Agency Reps: Gurpreet Mangat (ECCC), Mark Chambers (ECCC), Ted Briggs (MECP), John Riley (EGLE), John Rankin (AU), Megan Neal (AU), Candace Huard (AU), Lisa Derickx (AU)

Guests: Fred Post (Algoma Steel Inc.)

Regrets: Peter Greve

Approval of Minutes

- Add James Dukes names to members and otherwise approved as presented.

Presentation/Discussions

- Building a new era in steelmaking – Fred Post, Algoma Steel Inc.
 - Transformation to Electric Arc Steelmaking.
 - Steering away from coke and iron making and using scrap metal to make steel.
 - This will result in a huge reduction in Algoma’s environmental footprint. 70% reduction in GHG, 82% reduction in SO_x emissions, 52% reduction in NO_x emissions, and 100% reduction in coke-making emissions. There will also be less waste, cleaner air, cleaner water and it will be quieter.
 - EAF starting in 2024, decommission of Coke Oven #7 in 2025, in 2026 the two EAFs will be in an alternating mode, and then in 2029 they will phase out the #8,9 coke ovens and #7 blast furnace and using only EAFs.
 - Additional Decarbonization Strategies.
 - Using local biomass for fuel substitution
 - Process electrification
 - Carbon capture, utilization and storage
 - Hydrogen based fuel substitution
 - Legacy Environmental Action Plan.
 - Site greening (creation of naturalized green buffer strips)
 - Shoreline stabilization (supporting naturalized green buffer strips)
- SPAC’s Environmental Justice & Diversity, Equity and Inclusions Committee – Erma Leaphart
 - How to bring in more people from the public with participation, awareness, and support.
 - Priorities include creating a mission statement, creating a PAC recruitment package, hosting “implicit bias training, offering online equity training, and providing information on DEI for continuous learning.

- Recruiting diverse members (BIPOC, youth).

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- Proposed local criteria for US fish tumours BUI
 - A proposed changing in delisting criteria.
 - A study of at least 100 resident benthic fish (e.g. brown bullhead OR white suckers) with a minimum age of 3 years, collected from at least two sites within the AOC, indicated a cancerous liver tumor rate of 5% or less.
 - Letter of support from BPAC suggesting they support the change in criteria.
 - Possibly combining efforts with both Canada and US assessment of fish tumours.

New Business

- No new business at this time.

Agency Updates

- MECP- Ted Briggs
 - No new updates
- USEPA- Not present
 - No new updates
- EGLE- John Riley
 - No new updates
- ECCC- Mark Chambers
 - Working with Batchewana First Nation on the Whitefish Island Project. They are aware that BPAC is interested in a presentation with them. Work plan and funding is in place.
- SPAC- Mike Ripley
 - No new updates. Next meeting in February.
- RAP (Ontario)- Lisa Derickx
 - Status report on the degradation of fish and wildlife populations BUI. Meeting with Batchewana First Nation.

Standing Items

- Ferrochrome plant
 - No new information at this time.
- PFAS/benzene at Pointe des Chenes/airport
 - No new information at this time.
- Official Plan for the City of SSM, Ontario
 - No new information at this time.

Public Comments