

# St. Marys River Bi-National Public Advisory Council (BPAC)

## Meeting Minutes

**Place:** Biggings Room, Civic Centre  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario

**When:** September 15, 2010  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### 1. Call to order/introductions

Present: Susan Hamilton Beach, Mike Ripley, Greg Zimmerman, Al Wright, Amanda Bosak, Crystal Bole, Klaas Oswald, Paula Antunes, Don Marles  
New: Trisha Westman, Local MOE office  
Corrina Barrett, St. Marys River RAP Coordinator  
Regrets: Suzanne Lieurance, Barb Keller, Lora Premo, Craig Perdue, Christine Daley

### 2. Approval of minutes June 29, 2010

Minutes not available at this time, member working on them, should be available next meeting.

### 3. Business arising from previous minutes

Discussion of “minutes taking” – see New Business.

### 4. RAP Coordinator position update

Paula Antunes introduced Corrina Barrett as the new St. Marys River RAP Coordinator

### 5. Office Reports

Greg's application for the PAC support grant for BPAC Office along with a letter of support from BPAC has been sent and we expect a positive response by end of September and a new BPAC office student Paige Filice is expected to start in October.

### 6. Agency Reports

MOE presentation on *Renewable and Alternative Energy* by Trisha Westman

- City wants to be alternative energy capital of Ontario – promoted by former mayor and Municipal EDC.
- Prince Wind power – Brookfield
  - 126 wind turbines in 3 townships producing 190 Megawatts power
- Starwood Energy – Solar
  - 4 locations – Baseline, etc
  - 60 Megawatts power
- Essar Steel Algoma Co Gen

- 70 megawatts
  - Waste gases from steel – reduce emissions create electricity – started last year
- Lake Superior Power Natural Gas Co gen
  - 119 Megawatts
  - Produced steam for St. Marys Power
  - Fed from main Natural Gas Pipeline
- Elementa Energy from Waste
  - Existing Pilot Plant (landfill) and Commercial/Demonstration operation planned
  - Steam reformation
  - Commercial Plant Next to GP FlakeBoard BaseLine
  - 7.5 Megawatts
- Ellsin Tires Energy and By Products
  - Yates Ave.
  - 900 tires/day, microwave tires in a nitrogen enriched environment, Syn gases produced will be used to generate power
  - There is an ON Tire Stewardship Program
- St Marys Paper Biomass Co Gen
  - Wood waste – not approved yet – 200,000 tonnes/year(design)
  - 30 Megawatts
- Smaller scale projects
  - SSM PUC water treatment plant is gravity fed – place turbine into line to create power
  - SSM methane gas collection at landfill site-\$1.5 M contribution by the MOE.
  - New solar panel manufacturer (Haliene) – Allen Side Rd and Second Line.
  - Sault College Wind Turbine learning site
  - Possible wind farm in Lake Superior shoreline areas
  - POSSIBLE Blind River Solar Farm
  - SITTM MOBILE Bio diesel plants
  - FIT projects – 250 KW solar power private panels into grid
  - Bow Lake Wind Turbine Project – north of city

#### Discussion points

- Declaring City as renewable energy of North America has brought a lot of attention to area.
- There is a scorecard.
- City has a RENEWABLE energy Committee
- Ontario has a Green Energy Act

#### Four Agency Report

Provided by MOE: No time for discussion – will be sent to all members (attached)

## 7. Public Comments

None.

## 8. New Business

Possibility of obtain funding for a minutes recorder

- We need an electronic device at meetings to help with taking of minutes.
- We need someone to be at all of our meetings to consistently take minutes and prepare them well in advance of our next BPAC meetings.
- Past BPAC office student had no passport to cross border.
- Bay Mills hope to have person on board who could be given this responsibility but it is a 2-year contract and not approved as yet.
- Mr. Al Wright has volunteered to write Environment Canada regarding specific constant funding for BPAC for minute taker on behalf of BPAC Chair.
- MOE Trisha Westman will also look into matter.
- Problem not resolved as of yet.

The Lake Superior Binational Forum website available to St. Marys River Area of Concern

- Members approved working with Jim Bailey Eco Superior who manages Bi national form Website to have BPAC agendas and minutes as well as some BPAC information posted on their website.
- Chair will send confirmation to Eco Superior to confirm this.
- New RAP Coordinator Corrina Barrett will be responsible for posting material on the website.

RAP Coordinator duties were discussed briefly; BPAC was informed that there was a work plan in place that is currently being revisited. The Work Plan will be circulated within BPAC upon approval from Algoma University.

Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership Call for Project Proposals for 2011

- We will not be applying this time

BMIC 319 Public Comment Period –The Bay Mills Indian Community (BMIC) lands are affected by some point sources of pollution, but by and far the most influence on surface waters comes from non-point sources of pollution. BMIC is committed to environmental protection efforts on and around the Reservation. As part of this commitment, a Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Assessment and Management Plan, in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), has been completed for the BMIC. The Tribe is seeking authority from the Environmental Protection Agency to implement a Nonpoint Source Pollution Program on Tribal Lands. The assessment has been conducted in cooperation with the Bay Mills Indian Community, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan Inc. (MITC), and the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). We have put the document up for

public comment from September 3, 2010 until October 2, 2010. If you would like to view and or comment you can contact Amanda Bosak, abosak@baymills.org

- Chair will send out link regarding this to members.

Sediment containment in the area involving the lock construction on the state side.

- No information has been received to date – we are still looking into this

No findings available, as Health Canada has just initiated their data review and Assessment process. Results will be available in the spring. Presentation regarding scope of study may be presented at next meeting and results in spring.

Protecting the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin and Drinking Water Sources

- For information go to [http://www.pollutionwatch.org/pub/PW\\_SWP\\_Report.pdf](http://www.pollutionwatch.org/pub/PW_SWP_Report.pdf)
- Alternate Address provided by Corrina:

[http://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.pollutionwatch.org/pub/PW\\_SWP\\_Report.pdf](http://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http://www.pollutionwatch.org/pub/PW_SWP_Report.pdf)

Article passed out

- Companies back fight for park on gateway site

War of 1812-14 celebrations in SSM planning ongoing

- We should use this opportunity to promote BPAC and Cleanup River issues

Chair is planning to call a special BPAC meeting inviting PIAG Circle of Influence contacts and all interested in Water level studies to a presentation By Dr Scudder McKay, UGLS scientist doing ecological studies in the Upper Great Lakes including St. Marys AOC.

## 9. Next Meeting

Thursday November 18, LSSU at 7:00 pm

## 10. Adjourned at 9:00 pm

### Additional Information

The **Ontario Land Trust Alliance (OLTA)** is proud to announce its ninth **Annual Gathering, "Expanding Horizons"**, celebrating the Ontario land trust movement and the power of partnerships. The conference runs **October 28-30, 2010**, centered at the **Holiday Inn in Peterborough, Ontario.**

# **Four Agency Report to the St. Marys River BPAC Meeting**

**September 15, 2010**

**Thompson Room, Civic Centre, SSM – Ontario**

## **Joint Four Agency Activities**

- The Sugar Island Monitoring Workgroup released its 2009 report in late June. The formal workgroup has been disbanded, because its original charge and objectives have been achieved. Individual agencies continue with monitoring and other activities through existing programs.

## **Environment Canada (EC)**

- Phase 2 of the St. Marys River Sediment Fate & Transport Study is progressing, and is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The work will assess the stability of surficial contaminated sediments to determine whether bottom, more contaminated sediments can be exposed under various scenarios.
- Analysis and interpretation of 2009 sediment chemistry, toxicity and benthic community study is near completion. The preliminary data from sampling east of Bellevue Marine Park and the Lake George Channel were presented to the Technical Team in July 2010; a report is expected soon.

## **Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE)**

- A funding agreement is in place with AlgomaU to support local RAP coordination. Corrina Barrett has been hired as the St. Marys River RAP Coordinator, and started on September 7. EC is also negotiating a contribution agreement with AlgomaU to support this position.

## **Michigan Department of Natural Resources & Environment (DNRE)**

- AOC staff will be working with LSSU to acquire contractor support to do some pre-construction work to advance the Little Rapids Habitat Restoration project that was proposed under the 2010 EPA and NOAA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Request for Proposals. This is an ideal opportunity to support two key activities: 1) a detailed hydraulic investigation that will help quantify project impacts; and 2) an Environmental Assessment to identify and assess prospective project impacts consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act. A conference call with the Little Rapids project team is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss specific details.
- The AOC program currently has ~\$175,000 in PAC support grants available to PACs and their stakeholders to advance AOC priorities. LSSU is proposing to develop a delisting strategy for the Michigan portion of the AOC and general PAC support. It is expected that the final strategy will include elements required for a Stage 2 Implementation Annex. AOC staff are currently reviewing 2010 PAC support grant proposals submitted. Funding decisions will likely be made by the end of September.
- The DNRE, Office of the Great Lakes, is hosting a U.S. (domestic) Lake Huron Binational Partnership meeting September 16<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting is to provide U.S. partners with an update of the current Partnership activities, help set the priorities for the next 2011 Action Plan Update (a LaMP equivalent document), and begin planning the 2012 Lake Huron Coordinated Science and Monitoring Initiative, which may also include work on the St. Marys River.

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA)**

- Phase 1 of the sediment remediation at the former Manufacturers Gas Plant site occurred throughout the summer in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. Plans called for the removal of ~ 6,000 cubic yards of PAH contaminated sediments from the boat slip next to the MCM Marine dock.