

St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda

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

When: September 22nd, 2016
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

1. Call to order/introductions

2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes

- June 15, 2016

3. Business arising from previous minutes

4. Presentations

- Sanitary and Stormwater Infrastructure Overview – Catherine Taddo (City of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario)
- Water Quality Monitoring and Analysis in the St. Marys River Area of Concern - Carrie Ginou (Algoma University)

5. Office Reports

- RAP Office updates
- SPAC update

6. Agency Updates

- Provided on next page.

7. Memberships

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

8. New Business

- SooToday (Kenneth Armstrong, Photojournalist/Reporter) has requested comment from BPAC regarding a recent permit issued by the provincial government to Essar Steel Algoma, in which the company is allowed to draw as much as 1.13 Billion litres of water per day from the St. Mary's River. Does the BPAC have any comment or concern regarding this taking permit?

9. Public Comments

10. Next Meeting

Four Agency Report to the St. Marys River BPAC Meeting

September 22nd, 2016

CC202, Algoma University, Ontario, Canada

6:00pm-8:00pm

Environment Canada (ECCC)

Pursuant to the *Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement*, the governments of Canada and the United States have finalized a Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan which is an ecosystem-based strategy for restoring and protecting Lake Superior water quality. The plan will guide the Lake Superior Partnership's work through to 2020 at which time a new plan will be developed. The plan is posted online at Binational.net

The first Great Lakes Public Forum will be held in Toronto from October 4-6, 2016. In addition to the plenary sessions, there will be breakout discussions for each lake. Registration is free and some sessions will be available via webcast.

Ontario Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change (OMOECC)

Following up on the recent discussion about Didymo (rock snot) on the St. Marys River, Tara George, Lake Superior scientist is working with provincial and federal scientists to determine the need for and type of water quality monitoring to improve our understanding of this issue.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Construction progress and schedule for the Little Rapids Project (Provided by the Chippewa County Road Commission/AECOM): The beams have all been set for the bridge deck and the construction team will pour the deck the week of September 26. This is a major step and indicates that the project is on schedule for completion this year. After the deck is poured, the railings will be poured and both the temporary access road and causeway fill will be removed. The beam setting took place the week before Labor Day and went smoothly. Communication with the community has been quiet.

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)

The Little Rapids project is progressing on schedule. The new bridge deck is set to be poured early the week of September 26th, with project completion expected in about six weeks.

The Beach Closings BUI removal on the US side became final on July 27th.

The comment period for the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae Beneficial Use Impairment removal on the US side ended September 20. One set of comments was received by the DEQ. The next step will be to forward the removal package to EPA, seeking approval for the recommendation to officially remove the BUI.