

# **St. Marys River AOC BPAC Meeting Agenda**

**Place:** Cisler Center, Lake Superior State University (LSSU)  
Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan

**When:** November 15, 2018  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

## **1. Call to order/introductions**

## **2. Approval of Last Meetings Minutes**

- October 3, 2018

## **3. Business arising from previous minutes**

- Several Action Items from last meeting have updates provided in the minutes
- Status of BPAC membership & letter of intent
- Revisit 2019 Watershed monitoring recommendations for MDEQ

## **4. Presentations**

Biodiversity Atlas for the St. Marys River AOC – update provided by John Paskus

## **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**

## **9. Public Comments**

## **11. Next Meeting**

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

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### **Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)**

#### **BUI redesignations/removal**

The ECCC-MECP process to officially redesignate Beach Closings, Degradation of Aesthetics, and Eutrophication/Undesirable Algae to Not Impaired status on the Canadian side of the AOC is nearing completion, with a notification letter to be sent to the RAP Coordinator and BPAC very soon.

#### **Degradation of Benthos BUI**

ECCC and MECP are furthering the development of a multi-agency contaminated sediment management strategy for the Canadian side of the AOC. BPAC and community consultation will begin in late 2018/early 2019, starting with a presentation on the current situation and a plan with timetable for seeking input into the management strategy. BPAC and community engagement will continue throughout 2019, with the objective of having a strategy developed by December 2019.

#### ***Loss of Fish & Wildlife Habitat BUI***

The BUI delisting criteria is to *enhance rapids/aquatic habitat conditions through feasible conservation and restoration measures identified in the Stage 2 RAP*. This summer, ECCC's contractor completed fieldwork (i.e., hydrology and bathymetry) in cooperation with staff from the Batchewana First Nation and Parks Canada. The data is 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. The detailed designs are progressing, and a presentation on the work will be delivered to BPAC and the Batchewana community in December 2018.

### **United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)**

#### ***New EPA Task Force Lead***

Many of you know that John Perrecone retired from EPA this past September. Heather Williams will be the new EPA Task Force Lead for the St. Marys River AOC. Heather has worked at GLNPO since 2009 and has past experience at SMR. She was the acting EPA project lead on the first phase of the Great Lakes Legacy Act St. Marys MGP dredging project in 2010 with Consumers Energy. As part of that project Heather had attended BPAC meetings to provide updates and receive feedback from the PAC members.

A quick message from Heather: Hello SMR BPAC! I am looking forward to working in St. Marys River again with John Riley and all the BPAC members as you address the final BUIs. I hope to attend a BPAC meeting in person soon. If you have any questions, here is my contact information:

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### **Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)**

The draft Removal Recommendation for the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairments is on track to be shared with the BPAC after the first of the year. Post-construction monitoring results from the Little Rapids are still being compiled. When those data are complete and available, the draft document will be prepared.