

## DRAFT Meeting Record

### 1. Greetings, introductions and opening remarks.

Co-chair, Luca, called the meeting to order at 12:45 pm.  
Members in attendance are listed in *Appendix A*.

### 2. Approval of October 29, 2009 Meeting Agenda

The committee requested that the project updates be moved up the agenda to Item 4. Several items were added to the agenda under 'other business': Paul asked to speak on the Lou Romano Plant (recurring project updates), Natalie asked to speak on a funding opportunity in 'other business', and Giovanni asked to speak regarding the David Suzuki School.

**MOTION to approve the agenda as amended by Giovanni. Seconded by Matthew. Carried.**

### 3. Approval of March 24, 2009 Meeting Record (refer to the Decisions and Actions document)

Luca reviewed the action items listed in the 'Decisions and Actions' document from the last meeting.

- Add the City of Windsor RTB information on the Outreach Committee's agenda to promote the RTB with the public. **(Requires follow-up)**
- Natalie to attach the Turkey Creek Report to the next meeting package. **(Done)**
- Natalie to make arrangements to have a site tour of the restoration at the WFCU Arena **(Requires follow-up: Summer 2010)**
- Natalie to invite someone from the Amherstburg Water Treatment Plant to speak about their upgrades **(Requires follow-up; ACE will help with this item).**
- Add 'Trenchless Technologies' project to the list of recurring projects **(Done)**
- Request that the Outreach Committee get involved in the Boundary Waters Event hosted by the IJC in Windsor Oct. 7-8 2009 **(DRCC Committee members attended meeting; Done)**
- Write a letter of support for the Naturalized Area on University of Windsor campus **(Done; berm near the stadium naturalized but the EcoHouse, supported by the OC, was torn down but will be relocated to California Avenue).**
- Natalie to work with Giovanni on having the IC added to the Agenda for the large emergency response meeting **(Not feasible due to liability issues but Giovanni will alert Natalie if anything comes up in the future).**

**MOTION to approve the March 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting Record by Giovanni. Seconded by Paul. Carried.**

### 4. Recurring project updates:

#### a. LaSalle Riverfront Fish Habitat (09/10)

Matthew notified the group that this project has received \$155,000 from GLSF, \$25,000 from the DRCC, \$5,000 from the OMNR as well as funding from the Town of LaSalle. He described the location of the habitat restoration project: south of Gil Maure Park in LaSalle Ontario. He explained that a small committee was struck for design of the site. There was a meeting with the consultant in late September to view the site. They also visited other similar City of Windsor restoration sites. The preliminary concept will be completed in the next few days and the project will be moving forward for tendering with construction starting this fiscal year. Recent monitoring at the Fighting Island sturgeon spawning reefs has found lake whitefish at the site which is a fall spawner. Therefore, they have had to reconsider the

construction period in order to accommodate fall spawning fish. They will be in contact with Paulette Haché from the OMNR about the site. Overall, the project is progressing quite well.

*Ranta Park Habitat Restoration Project*

Matthew provided an update on the habitat restoration project that is being planned at Ranta Park in the Town of Amherstburg (located next to the Ranta Marina). The site is just south of the Canard River. There was an initial meeting with the Town of Amherstburg, the DRCC (Natalie Green), EC (Luca Cargnelli), ERCA (Matthew) and the consultant (Dan Krutsch) on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Matthew explained that Dan is currently working on the design and will follow-up with him shortly. The project is not intended to go into construction until the next fiscal year. Giovanni asked how the sale of the marina will affect the habitat project. Matthew noted that it may impact some of the shoreline work but that the majority of site is still available for restoration. Giovanni explained that Honeywell owns some property near the site that may also be sold. He said that if there is an interest in selling the property to a public buyer, he'll let the IC know. Gord asked if the DRCC should get involved with the Ranta Marina sale. Dave replied that the Amherstburg Committee on the Environment (ACE) will be discussing the issue and he can communicate the DRCC's interest in restoring the property.

**ACTION: Add the Ranta Park Habitat Project under the recurring project update list.**

*b. Detroit-Canard River Stewardship (09/10)*

Brett reported that there are some projects planned and they will begin once the ECSN receives its completed funding agreement from GLSF for \$70,000.

*c. Study of Private Sewer Connections*

Andrew reported that this project was not funded by the GLSF this year but the City will be putting the application forward for funding again next year. Andrew gave a brief description of the proposed project: a study to investigate, track, and disconnect illegal sewer connections in the west part of the City of Windsor. This project will aim at reducing and removing untreated sewage from entering the Detroit River.

*d. Stormwater Quality from Parking Lots*

Andrew reported that this project was not funded by the GLSF this year but the City will be putting the application forward for funding again next year. He gave a brief description of the project: a study using storm interceptors (that separate grit, oil, and water) in large parking lots to determine whether the interceptors work as advertised. Do they have a meaningful impact on reducing the pollutants entering the storm system (non-point source runoff)? Are they worthwhile to install everywhere? The City may also look into another funding source to complete the project. Paul mentioned using a large parking lot such as at the Devonshire Mall or a parking lot at Chrysler.

*e. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (BCS) and Non-Point Source (NPS) Program (09/10)*

Matthew reported that this program has been ongoing for many years. Funding for both the BCS and NPS was received from the GLSF valued at \$150,000 which is matched with the Clean Water-Green Spaces program. There is additional funding for 2010 through the Ontario Power Generation. Matthew proceeded to give an update on related projects from the past spring (April/May 2009). Examples included a report on 23 projects including buffer strips, tree plantings, septic system upgrades, and workshops for landowners. He also mentioned a targeted mailing list using modeling of areas with high total phosphorus or total suspended solids (53 properties) due for the spring of 2010. A lot of work is also being completed with landowners and the Friends of Watersheds. For more details, please contact Matthew.

f. *City of Windsor Retention Treatment Basin (RTB)*

Paul reported that the City of Windsor received infrastructure stimulus money for the RTB (40 million) and that the total cost of the project is \$60 million. The RTB will collect 90% of overflow in that catchment area for storage until it can go to Lou Romano Plant for treatment or it will receive primary (F-5-5) treatment before being released. The RTB will be completed by March 2011. The Certificate of Approval for the RTB will be completed soon and the sheetpile driving will begin in late January or early February. C of A is coming. Matthew asked if there would be an opportunity to do some soft shoreline engineering treatment at that location and also asked who he should contact. Paul replied that there are some drawings showing soft shoreline treatment at the location and that he should contact Ken Madill at StanTech. The final decision was not made yet and Paul agreed to mention it at his next meeting regarding the RTB.

*Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant Upgrades*

Paul reported that the Upgrades to the Lou Romano WRP will be declared substantially completed in January 2010. They are meeting the limits set out in the Certificate of Approval. There are still some deficiencies which will be addressed in the next few months but only one relates to water quality. He noted that ammonia has been reduced from 20 ppm to 3 ppm, total phosphorus from 0.9 ppm to 0.1 ppm, and BOD from 40-50 ppm to 4-5 ppm. He explained that it is probably the largest improvement in water quality for the Detroit River. Luca asked if there was a media event planned for the completion of the upgrades. Paul replied that they may have an event in the spring of 2010. Dave mentioned that it would be informative to have PR on the costs of disposing waste and where the resident's money is spent.

g. *Trenchless Technologies (08/09)*

Andrew reported that this project is well underway. The installation of the material to repair the sewer was completed in one day in August. They will be monitoring the sewer line over the next year to ensure that it is performing the way it should. There was a media event on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 which received good coverage on the radio and the CBC Television. There was also an article about the project in the Windsor Employee newsletter.

**ACTION: Keep this item on the agenda for monitoring updates.**

**ACTION: Prior to the next meeting, Natalie will forward the trenchless video provided by Andrew.**

h. *Turkey Creek/Grand Marais Drain (08/09)*

Teri reported that the project was completed in the summer 2008 and a media event to celebrate its completion was held in May 2009. Also, there was a tree planting event on the site on October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Monitoring of fish will take in place in 4-5 years and then there will be a follow-up to see if anything else needs to be done at the site. Also, ERCA will do some monitoring on the material relating to erosion. The report was forwarded to the IC in May and was available in hard copy at the meeting. Teri reported that the source of PCBs has been remediated now it's the non-point sources that may have an impact.

A member asked about the Little River system. Teri explained that the study did not find any issues relating to PCBs but there was a concern with metals. Is there a work plan being pursued? Teri mentioned that there will be a meeting with the City of Windsor soon. An update can be provided at the next meeting.

**ACTION: Remove Turkey Creek/Grand Marais Drain from the list of recurring projects.**

**ACTION: Add Little River program to the list of recurring projects.**

i. *Downspout Disconnection / Rainbarrel Project (08/09)*

Andrew commented that the project is completed and that the City has data on its success at diverting rain from the sewer system. The next step is to address the failing rain barrels (after the second season). It seems that homeowners were not maintaining the rain barrels over the winter so some have asked to have it taken away. However, the downspout remains disconnected. There has been no decision on how to expand the program in other warranted areas. The City may designate a second downspout area but the program may not include rain barrels. The City will go over the rain barrel project as a whole this fall. Andrew noted that there has been a lot of interest in the program (city-wide) and that there may be opportunities to partner with other organizations to get more accomplished. Luca asked about the by-law: does the by-law require that everyone disconnect their downspouts? Andrew replied that the by-law is mandatory for those that live in an area that has been identified by the City for downspout disconnection.

j. *WFCU Arena Project*

Another tree planting to occur in the fall or spring. The opportunity for a meeting at the WFCU Centre was explored and is very costly but Natalie will look into having a tour of the site for the spring 2010.

**ACTION: Remove this item off the list of recurring projects.**

k. *General Chemical*

Teri Gilbert reported that the General Chemical site will be up for sale in mid-November. She noted that the OMOE is working with the Town of Amherstburg and the trustee on the proposal. There are terms and conditions dealing with the potential purchaser on how to access the restoration money. There should be information about a potential buyer by the end of January 2010. Giovanni Grande added that Honeywell (as neighbours to the site) are supporting the project. He noted that there have been many restoration activities and that the site is already improving. He gave compliments to Teri and her team. Teri explained that excess material has been tested and determined clean for potential use as cover material which is good news for the town. Some cleanup monies have already been used. She reported that the main project is to inventory all the chemicals on the property and to cleanup it up before the winter to eliminate risk to the DR. Moreover, the plant is being monitored. Teri mentioned that there is a dust control plan that needs to be put in place because the crust can dust off and affect the community. The dust compound is made up of inorganic salts—the environmental impact is null but it's a nuisance for residents. Matthew asked if there are chlorides in the dust that could pose a problem to the farming community. Giovanni noted that there is a phytotoxicologist that has been testing for effects of fluoride on plants in the area. The phytotoxicologist has reported that there has been no fluoride damage and that the general health of the vegetation in area is good.

**ACTION: Teri will look into the results of the dust material and its solubility in water. She will also acquire reports on the matter from the phytotoxicologists.**

Dave added that there is an interim control by-law on that property so that it cannot be sold in pieces (i.e, without the liability portions). There has been two public meetings relating to this site and a report will be submitted to municipal affairs—it is currently online for comments.

**ACTION: Add DRIC Project to the recurring project update list.**

## 5. Stage 2 RAP Report Update

Natalie reported that the draft Stage 2 RAP Report was released for public review on September 23, 2009. The public review period is open until November 9<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the OC planned the open houses for the Stage 2 RAP Report between October 27 and 29, 2009. The first was in Amherstburg and was poorly attended likely due to construction on Laird Avenue near the venue. The second open house in LaSalle's Vollmer Complex had 6 visitors. She noted that the final open house, in Windsor, will occur immediately following this IC meeting. She thanked those who volunteered to participate in the open houses---many of which were IC members.

## 6. Implementation Committee Priorities for 2010-2011

Luca mentioned that the IC should be planning its work plan/project priorities for the upcoming years. He asked the committee to discuss the process for developing a 5-year work plan because it should be linked to the recommendations in the Stage 2 RAP Report including dates and targets to achieve delisting targets. Process options were discussed: creating another sub-group of the IC, asking "topical" WGs to do the task, or having all members review the recommendations and come up with ideas.

**Great Lakes Sustainability Fund deadline will be moved back to at the end of January or February. The exact date is to be determined.**

**ACTION: Natalie will send the 'Recommendations' section of the Stage 2 to the Implementation Committee.**

**ACTION: The Implementation Committee members will review the recommendations and meet again in December with specific project ideas to address the recommendations. A meeting was planned for December 17<sup>th</sup> to address only this action item (developing a 5 yr work plan).**

## 7. Update from Work Groups

Luca reported that the work groups have not met since April 2009 because their main task of developing delisting criteria was completed. They will meet again when necessary.

## 8. Update on Steering Committee, Outreach Committee, and PAC

### Steering Committee:

Luca reminded the committee of the DRCC survey that was sent in March 2009. He explained that the Steering Committee has shown an interest in re-structuring the DRCC based on the comments of the survey (for the DRCC to work more effectively in implementing recommendations in the Stage 2 RAP Report). The changes in DRCC structure may happen along with the Stage 2 in the spring. He noted that each of the committees will be involved before changes are made.

### Outreach Committee:

Andrew reported that the Outreach Committee had a busy month of September. Peche Island Day, on Sept. 19, was very well attended (343 people crossed the Detroit River to visit the island). There is talk about hosting the event again in September next year, instead of July.

A media event (Sept 18) for the Trenchless Technologies attracted several members of the media and the DRCC. A sign acknowledging the partners has now been erected at the site. A video of the material used is available upon request, contact Andrew.

On September 23 the DRCC hosted a special screening of Waterlife (documentary on the Great Lakes) which attracted 246 people. Natalie added that it was the kick-off night for the Stage 2 RAP Report.

University of Windsor students partnered with the DRCC and the Friends of Watersheds Organizer (Caroline Biribauer) to conduct a cleanup of a section of Little River on September 25<sup>th</sup>.

Natalie added that a Detroit River Seminar was held on the evening of September 28<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Local Council of Women. Approximately 20 people joined us at GLIER to hear three presentations relating to the Detroit River. Speakers were Dr. Ken Drouillard, Phil Roberts, and Natalie Green.

#### Public Advisory Council

Gord noted that the PAC has been active (and successful) in garnering attention from politicians and the Steering Committee for the protection of Ojibway Shores. The PAC continues to follow-up on matters relating to Ojibway Shores.

### **9. Other Business**

- Paul informed the committee that he recently received a small bottle of water with a note inside about his drinking water. He noted that this is likely illegal as part of the Drinking Water Act and he asked Teri if the OMOE is going to get involved in investigating the matter. Teri noted that she would alert her office (the drinking water inspectors) about the issue and she mentioned that the Source Water Protection Committee might want to know about it too. Gord mentioned that someone should bring it up to the media.
- Chris mentioned an EnviroExpo in April 2010 (Essex Region Conservation Foundation). A report to council is going forward for sponsorship approval. If the City is allowed to have a booth at the Expo they have offered a part of the booth for DRCC information.
- Luca mentioned that the IC Terms of Reference state that elections should occur annually. The last IC election was completed in December 2008. He asked the committee if they would like to have an election in December and noted that there may be re-structuring of the committees in the Spring 2010.

**MOTION: Brett made a motion to defer the 2009 IC Elections until the DRCC's committee structure issue has been resolved. Seconded by Andrew. Carried.**

- Natalie mentioned the RBC Leadership Grant Application that she recently received. Funding is available for projects relating to watershed protection or access to clean drinking water. There is a list of eligibility requirements. If a committee member organization is interested in applying, please contact Natalie to discuss. The application deadline is March 6, 2010.
- Giovanni mentioned the opportunity for the DRCC to be involved with the David Suzuki School. He noted that it could be a great opportunity for networking and educating the school kids/parents about the Detroit River. They could learn about naturalization on site with a "Centre for Rehabilitation Excellence". Natalie informed him that Pearl Bradd, member of the Outreach Committee, is in contact with someone at the school for the same purpose (to create a partnership and to create a learning wetland at the school. Perhaps a partnership between the OC/IC and the School to obtain funding for this type of project could be possible.

**ACTION: Natalie will follow-up with Pearl Bradd about her contacts with the school. Giovanni will send his contact person's name/number to Natalie. She will follow-up with him regarding any information relating to the DRCC's involvement with the school.**

## 10. Next Meeting

The next meeting is planned for **Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 10 am until 3 pm**. The focus of this meeting will be on developing a work plan based on the recommendations in the draft Stage 2 RAP Report.

**ACTION: Natalie will forward a meeting notice to all committee members along with the 'Recommendations' section from the draft Stage 2 RAP Report.**

## 11. Adjournment

**MOTION to adjourn at 3:11 pm by Andrew. Seconded by Giovanni. Carried.**

*Meeting record prepared by Natalie Green, RAP Coordinator.  
Reviewed by Luca Cargnelli, Co-Chair of the Implementation Committee.*

## ***Appendix 1***

### **DRCC Implementation Committee Meeting Attendance October 29, 2009**

#### **Members**

Luca Cargnelli	Implementation Committee, Co-Chair
Ted Briggs	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Chris Brown	Acting Environmental Coordinator, City of Windsor
Matthew Child	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Paul Drca	City of Windsor
Andrew Dowie	Outreach Committee, Vice-Chair
Teri Gilbert	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Giovanni Grande	Honeywell, General Manager
Brett Groves	Essex County Stewardship Network
Gord Harding	PAC, Vice-Chair
David McGregor	Brighton Beach Power

#### **Resource Individuals**

Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
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#### **Regrets** *(because no teleconference connection was available)*

Jenn Esbjerg	Ontario MNR
Tom Henderson	PAC Chair