



DRCC Implementation Committee

Meeting Record

Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 11:30 am

Honeywell ASCA Inc., 395 Front Rd.N. Amherstburg, ON

1. Tour of Honeywell facilities with light lunch.

Generously provided by our host Giovanni Grande of Honeywell.

2. Greetings, introductions and opening remarks.

Co-Chair Luca Cargnelli called the meeting to order at 3:15pm. Luca began with a thanks to our host, Giovanni Grande of Honeywell, for the interesting tour and amazing lunch. Luca added that because of time constraints, only urgent time-sensitive items on the agenda would be addressed at this meeting. Meeting Attendance is attached in *Appendix A*.

3. Approval of January 27, 2009 Meeting Agenda

Approved by Consensus

4. Approval of December 16, 2008 Meeting Record & Review of Action Items

Terri Gilbert reported on some errors in the December 16th Meeting Record, and provided corrections; please note these corrections now appear in the amended December 16th Meeting Record (attached).

Andrew Dowie noted that he may also submit changes, once he confirms information he provided about the Windsor RTB. This information appears in the amended December 16th Meeting Record (attached).

Motion to accept the amended December 16th Meeting Record made by Giovanni Grande, Seconded by Brett Groves, and carried by Consensus.

5. Stage 2 RAP work plan

Natalie reported that the Stage 2 Work Plan to 2015 must be completed soon. Natalie suggested that it might be helpful to create subcommittees for this task. She explained that once the work plan is drafted it will be brought to the IC for further review. Natalie announced that she will organize a meeting over the phone or locally very soon.

ACTION: Natalie will send an invitation for participation on the work plan sub-committee.

Stewart offered information on how the St. Clair RAP developed their Work Plan, and suggested it as a model for our subcommittee.

6. Initial comments for draft Stage 2 RAP document

Natalie noted that comments on the latest draft of the Stage 2 RAP report should be submitted by email, preferably in 'track changes' mode, within the next week. Some revisions have already been received.

Matthew asked if there would be a separate Delisting Criteria review process. Natalie replied that it will not be a separate process - it is anticipated that the revised delisting criteria will be reviewed and accepted as part of the Stage 2 RAP document.

7. Endorsement of 2009-10 GLSF proposals

The Implementation Committee has received a request for endorsement of six proposals that have been submitted to the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund (GLSF) for funding in 2009-10. A report on each proposal was provided by a representative of that organization (details on each report can be found in *Appendix B – GLSF Backgrounders*).

1) Matthew Child (ERCA)

a) LaSalle Riverfront Park Fish Habitat Restoration Project

b) Rural Non-Point Source Remediation Program for Detroit River

Has many additional benefits; reduces soil erosion in priority areas, septic upgrades, no-till farming, adds value to the properties, adds recreational and other uses, etc. A guarantee is made not to alter or destroy the works for 15 years.

c) Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation for the Detroit River

The focus is on achieving a small number of larger projects. The work plan would be to implement at least 50 acres of tree plantings in the spring of 2009, and an additional 75 acres in the fall of 2009 and spring of 2010. The focus is on the lower end of the tributaries with the DR as a main focus.

Discussion ensued around the projects. Ian asked if ERCA charges a fee to the landowners. Matthew replied that 70% of the funds go directly to the project, 30% goes to promotion and technical staff. He also added that ERCA donates approx \$25,000 in-kind per year from management staff (30% of a person year), financial staff, office space, etc.

2) Brett Groves (ECSN)

a) Detroit River / Canard River Corridor Stewardship Initiative

This project will connect fragments to core areas through habitat rehabilitation, wetland creation and enhancement, *phragmites* control, public workshops, updating information, tree planting program with Amherstburg Sportsman's Club, etc.

Discussion ensued. Ian asked if there is water monitoring at the Canard to determine if these projects have a quantifiable result. Matthew responded that Rajesh Benjankiwar monitors many sites throughout the county and some stations are improving, some are staying the same and some stations are deteriorating. Matthew noted that this monitoring does not report on site specific findings, more on a larger area's water quality for the watershed. Ian asked for a report on the water quality in the 3 tributaries to the DR and the Canard River.

Action: Matthew to invite Rajesh Benjankiwar to the next meeting to report on water quality in these areas, trends, etc.

Stewart noted that these projects can take a long time to have an effect, not an immediate result. Stew also added that water quality is not equal to water science / chemistry. A better measurement Stew feels would be to look at an ecological measurement, benefit monitoring, etc. Matthew said that the monitoring does look at benefit monitoring and other items in addition to water quality.

Action: Matthew to forward an electronic copy of an article from the TRCA, who have done a study on these types of projects in the Thames River watershed, to the group via Natalie (see attached).

Ian added that if there is a gap in the water quality monitoring, then funding should be allotted to cover that gap to get us the information that we need. Jen added that there is never enough money to do all of the monitoring that should be done; the money that is available is usually funneled to habitat projects rather than water quality testing. Luca reported that although EC doesn't have special monies for monitoring, they do have specialized staff who do this sort of work and could come down and do some monitoring if it were coordinated.

3) Andrew Dowie

a) Study of Stormwater Quality Originating from Parking Lots

The goal is urban stormwater and combined sewer overflow control. A controlled study – one with an SPR and one without to give quantifiable data. If you have the same conditions, what are the differences? Then, implement the outcome of that study next year. Test sites have not been determined at this time.

b) Study of Private Sewer Connections in Partially Serviced Areas

They have found that homes in some areas of the City that were annexed in 1966 (e.g., the former Sandwich West township areas: west of Crawford and south of Tecumseh) are connected to storm sewers, but not sanitary sewers. Therefore,

untreated sewage could enter the DR. Their proposal is to examine approximately 500 properties for illegal connections.

Discussion ensued. Teri inquired as to what the solution would be for someone who is not able to have a septic tank, or where a proper sewer does not service them. Andrew replied that corrective action would be implemented and sanitary sewers would be constructed where they do not already exist. Giovanni asked whether this project is a facts-finding machine. Andrew confirmed that fact-finding is the purpose of this project.

Luca concluded the discussions by mentioning that if the committee members have more questions, they can bring them directly to Andrew, Brett and Matthew. Luca reminded the committee that the Coordinator normally drafts a letter of support / endorsement and that this is considered by the funding committee. Luca continued by reporting on levels of funding 08/09 funding, in order to put the amounts requested for 09/10 into context.

Motion: Gord moved that the Implementation Committee endorse all projects.

Seconded by: Ian; Carried by consensus.

ACTION: Natalie to write a letter of endorsement on behalf of the Implementation Committee for the above mentioned Detroit River applications to GLSF.

Luca added that if someone felt that certain projects should be prioritized that they could submit those comments to him directly. He added that some AOCs vote on the projects and submit them as a prioritized group. He noted that it might be a method to consider in the future. Jen asked the applicants if there were any projects that couldn't happen if they didn't get the full funding that they sought. Andrew replied that this happened last year and the City was able to adapt the projects to meet the available funding. Brett and Matthew agreed that they could do the same.

8. Business arising from previous meetings:

- a. City of Windsor RTB
- b. Grand Marais Drain
- c. Downspout Disconnection / Rainbarrel Project
- d. WFCU Arena Project
- e. General Chemical
- f. Canal Project – City of Windsor

Due to time constraints and the fact that project updates were provided at the December meeting, these items were not discussed.

9. Update from Work Groups (Habitat; Monitoring and Research)

None given due to time constraints.

10. Update from other DRCC Committees (Steering; Outreach; PAC)

None given due to time constraints.

11. Other Business

None.

12. Announcements

None.

13. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday March 24th 12:30pm**. Luca extended his thanks to Giovanni and Honeywell on behalf of the IC for a great tour and for being such hospitable hosts. Giovanni thanked the group for coming and for the opportunity to present Honeywell's efforts.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm. **M: Ian, Second: Gord; Carried by consensus.**

Appendix A

DRCC Implementation Committee **Meeting Attendance - January 27, 2009**

Members

Luca Cagnelli	Implementation Committee, Co-Chair
Matthew Child	Essex Region Conservation Authority
Andrew Dowie	Outreach Committee, Vice-Chair
Jen Esbjerg	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Teri Gilbert	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Giovanni Grande	Honeywell, General Manager
Stewart Thornley	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Brett Groves	Essex County Stewardship Network
Gord Harding	PAC, Vice-Chair
Karina Richters	City of Windsor

Resource

Natalie Green	RAP Coordinator
Kris Ives	Assistant
Dave Munro	PAC
Ian Naisbitt	Outreach Committee

Regrets

Ted Briggs	Ontario Ministry of the Environment
Jim Drummond	Implementation Committee, Co-Chair
David McGregor	Brighton Beach Power

Appendix B

DRCC Implementation Committee
2009/10 GLSF Proposal Backgrounders

SECTION 1: BACKGROUNDER

Project Title: LaSalle Riverfront Park Fish Habitat Restoration Project

Primary Contact:

Agency: Essex Region Conservation Authority
Contact Name(s): Matthew Child
Address: 360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario N8M 1Y6
Phone: 519-776-5209 ext. 368
Fax: 519-776-8688
Email: mchild@erca.org

Other Contact:

Agency: Town of LaSalle
Contact Name: Larry Silani
Address: 5950 Malden Road, LaSalle, Ontario N9H 1S4
Phone: 519-969-7770 ext. 288
Fax: 519-969-9852
Email: lsilani@town.lasalle.on.ca

Legal Name of Applicant: Essex Region Conservation Authority

Signing Authority Contact: Ken Schmidt, General Manager – Secretary/Treasurer

Project Start Date: 2009 **Project Status:** New

Project Priority: Habitat Rehabilitation

Member(s) of Parliament: Jeff Watson, MP, Essex

Other Supporting Organizations: Essex Region Conservation Authority
Town of LaSalle
Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
University of Windsor
Detroit River Canadian Cleanup

Project Description:

In 2006 the Town of LaSalle purchased the project site, consisting of 1.9 ha (4.7 ac) of Detroit River riverfront, for \$625,000. This property is located immediately south of and contiguous with the Town's Gil Maure Park, and occurs a short distance downstream of the mouth of Turkey Creek. The project site is also adjacent to the Fighting Island Lake Sturgeon Habitat Restoration project site that was completed in 2008 with Great Lakes Sustainability Fund support.

The Detroit River is used by over 60 species of resident and migratory fish. The majority of these fish species, and other aquatic species, utilize the nearshore for all or parts of their life processes. Currently, shoreline conditions at the site include sheet steel walls, with a number of abandoned finger docks

extending from the sheet steel shoreline. A rock filled steel mesh finger breakwater is also located at the site. These existing shoreline structures provide poor fish habitat. A unique opportunity exists at the LaSalle Riverfront Park site to improve fish habitat conditions using rock shoreline treatments.

The Town has received \$1.3 million from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, primarily to develop the upland portion of the Riverfront Park. A limited portion of that funding will be used to remove the existing dilapidated boat docks. Funding from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund and other partners is being sought to 'piggy back' shoreline restoration works as part of the planned construction phase to maximize opportunities for cost effective construction and minimize disturbance and environmental impacts. The existing Concept Plan for the site is being used to develop functional and detailed designs. In general, the design concept for the subject site entails removing part of the finger breakwater and adding rock on either side of the retained portions to complex habitat and enhance flows at the site, and diversifying the sheet steel shoreline sections of the site utilizing a diversity of rock types. The shoreline treatment, which will result in a crenulated shoreline that offers a diversity of interstitial spaces, will create significant additional fish habitat at the site. In total, approximately 550m of shoreline will be enhanced at the site. Due to the site's proximity to the Fighting Island Lake Sturgeon Habitat Restoration Project (where 12 spawning reefs were constructed in autumn, 2008) the subject site is ideally suited to provide nursery habitat for lake sturgeon, in addition to a diversity of other fish species.

Because the Town's existing concept also incorporates angling and other natural heritage appreciation aspects, the project is expected to become the Town's premier site for visitors, and significant potential for educating residents about the River and its tremendous natural resource values exists. Furthermore, the University of Windsor has received approval-in-principle from LaSalle Council to locate a new LaSalle Environmental Research Centre on this site. This Centre will focus on on-going research efforts in the field of aquatic conservation, and will be provided with the necessary on-site building space. University of Windsor biology faculty and graduate students will be staffing the Centre and will be contributing approximately \$400,000 to equip the facility. Activities at the Centre will seek to raise awareness of the Detroit River's unique fisheries values. Further partnerships with the local school boards are being pursued as part of this aspect of the project.

The proposed project will result in a soft shoreline similar to six other projects undertaken previously through partnerships with the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund at Goose Bay Park, St. Rose Beach Park, McKee Park, Fort Malden National Historic Site, and Windsor's Central Riverfront (2 projects). Completion of the current project will result in a cumulative total of over 2 ½ kilometres of shoreline that has been softened, or over 5% of the Detroit River's Canadian shoreline length.

Preliminary cost estimates for the project total almost \$1,700,000. It is estimated that the costs of the fish habitat enhancement portion of the project is approximately \$670,000. A contribution of 1/3 of this cost, or \$223,000, is being requested from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for the 2009/10 fiscal period.

SUBMITTED: December 12, 2008

SECTION 1 - BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT TITLE: Rural Non-point Source Remediation Program for Detroit River (Canard, Little River and Turkey Creek Watersheds)

PRIMARY

CONTACT: Matthew Child
Coordinator, Habitat & Aquatic Resources Services
Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Ave. West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6
phone: (519) 776-5209 ext. 368
fax: (519) 776-8688
e-mail: mchild@erca.org

TECHNICAL

CONTACT: Michael Dick
Agricultural Technician
Essex Region Conservation Authority
360 Fairview Ave. West
Essex, ON N8M 1Y6
phone: (519) 776-5209 ext. 369
fax: (519) 776-8688
e-mail: mdick@erca.org

LEGAL NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Essex Region Conservation Authority

SIGNING AUTHORITY: Ken Schmidt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

START DATE: 1996/97

STATUS: Ongoing

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT/RIDINGS: Jeff Watson, MP, Essex
Brian Masse, MP, Windsor-West
Joe Comartin, MP, Windsor-Tecumseh

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The tributary watersheds to the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC) are flat clay plains, identified by previous studies (e.g., PLUARG) as amongst the highest contributors of phosphorus and sediment loading to the Great Lakes. The area consists of three watersheds including the Canard River, Turkey Creek, and Little River, and covers 30,750 ha (76,000 ac). Over 80% of these areas are intensively farmed, with soybeans, corn, and winter wheat as the main crops.

The Essex Region Conservation Authority and its project partners have completed thirteen years of the Rural Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution Remediation Program. GIS modeling utilizing the Universal Soil Loss Equation completed in 2001 confirmed that the program is achieving good results - soil erosion in the AOC has been reduced by approximately 15% due to NPS projects funded through the program between 1997 and 2001 (reduction of 32,724 tonnes), in addition to reductions achieved through 'spin off' value i.e., other landowners adopting similar beneficial management practices.

The NPS Program addresses the beneficial use impairments of degradation of benthos, beach closings, degradation of aesthetics, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat.

The objective of the project is to reduce rural non-point source pollution in the Detroit River AOC, in particular conventional contaminants such as nutrients, suspended solids and bacteria. The following activities will be undertaken in 2009/10:

- A key focus of the program includes an incentive grant component which aims at reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacterial contamination of the target watersheds. Particular emphasis will be placed on projects located along the Detroit River itself, or in the downstream portions of its tributary watersheds. Project priorities will also be guided by the results of the AnnAgNPS model which was developed for the Canard River watershed in 2006/07. Grants will be provided to individual landowners for projects at a maximum grant rate of 1/3 of project cost to a maximum of \$3,000 (\$5,000 for septic system upgrades). The emphasis of the program will be on the incentive grants component for the fiscal period. Funding will be provided for primarily septic system upgrades, buffer strips, tree planting projects, and soil erosion control structures such as rock chutes.
- Provide technical (agrological) advice and extension services to rural landowners in the AOC regarding soil conservation and water quality enhancement. This includes on-farm calls as well as maintaining an Agricultural Liaison Committee to provide a forum for information exchange regarding environmental issues in the AOC.

A total grant of \$130,000 is requested from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for 2009/10.

SUBMITTED: December 11, 2008

SECTION 1 – BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT TITLE: Biodiversity Conservation Strategy Implementation for the Detroit River AOC

PRIMARY CONTACT:

Matthew Child
Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex ON N8M 1Y6
Phone: (519) 776-5209 ext. 368
Fax: (519) 776-8688 E-Mail: mchild@erca.org

TECHNICAL CONTACT:

Mike Nelson (until September 30/09) or Kathryn Arthur (after October 1/09)
Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA)
360 Fairview Avenue West
Essex ON N8M 1Y6
Phone: (519) 776-5209 ext. 303
Fax: (519) 776-8688 E-Mail: mnelson@erca.org or karthur@erca.org

LEGAL NAME OF ORGANIZATION: Essex Region Conservation Authority

SIGNING AUTHORITY: Ken Schmidt, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

START DATE: 1999

STATUS: Ongoing

PRIORITY: Habitat Rehabilitation

MEMBER(s) OF PARLIAMENT/RIDING(s): Jeff Watson, MP, Essex
Brian Masse, MP, Windsor-West
Joe Comartin, MP, Windsor-Tecumseh

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: City of Windsor
Town of LaSalle
Town of Amherstburg
Environment Canada (Habitat Stewardship Program)
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Emerald Ash Borer Response Program)
Landowners

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* (BCS) was completed for the Detroit River AOC in 1998 by the Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) and several partners, utilizing Environment Canada's *Framework for Guiding Habitat Rehabilitation in Great Lakes Areas of Concern*. Implementation of the BCS involves identifying site specific potential enhancement/restoration projects, and completing the enhancement/restoration works in the field. The Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Implementation Committee's Work Plan (developed in association with the Implementation Committee's Habitat Work Group) identifies the objectives of this project as a very high priority, in particular restoration of forest,

riparian areas, and wetland buffers. In 2008, there was growing acknowledgement by the Habitat Work Group that projects need to be targeted along the Detroit River corridor itself, or at watershed locations where the projects are likely to have a positive impact on Detroit River habitat and/or water quality. Activities undertaken through this project will focus on these project locations.

The BCS Program addresses the beneficial use impairments of loss of fish and wildlife habitat, degradation of benthos, and degradation of aesthetics.

The current proposal will provide funding for the following activities:

- Ensure the successful completion of projects initiated in 2008/09, including the restoration of approximately 20 ha (50 ac) of habitat at several private landowner sites. Projects include primarily forest and wetland habitat restoration using both pit and mound as well as conventional planting techniques.
- Provide technical services and incentive grants to restore approximately 30 ha (75 ac) of forest and wetland habitat in the Detroit River AOC, to the maximum extent possible at properties located along the Detroit River or on watercourses that drain to the Detroit River. Grants will be provided to individual landowners for projects at a maximum rate of 1/3 of the project cost. All projects will be in accordance with the priorities established in the *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* and will be consistent with the habitat priorities of the Detroit River Remedial Action Plan.
- Provide ongoing support to the Friends of Canard River and Friends of Turkey Creek, two watershed based community groups with a track record of implementing environmental improvements in the Area of Concern. Assist the Little River Enhancement Group as requested.
- Serve as a technical resource for landowners in the AOC who want to undertake habitat restoration projects on their property.

A total of \$120,000 is requested from the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for the 2009/10 fiscal year.

SUBMITTED: December 11, 2008

SECTION 1 - PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT TITLE: Study of Stormwater Quality Originating from Parking Lots

PRIMARY CONTACT: Andrew Dowie, EIT, Engineer I
350 City Hall Square West, Room 302,
Windsor, ON, N9A 6S1
phone: (519) 255-6350 ext. 6734 fax: (519) 255-9847
e-mail: adowie@city.windsor.on.ca

LEGAL NAME OF BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION: Corporation of the City of Windsor
GST OR BUSINESS NUMBER (If applicable): 124135294
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL WITH SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS: John Skorobohacz

START DATE: 2009 **STATUS:** new

PRIORITY: urban stormwater/combined sewer overflow control

MEMBER(S) OF PARLIAMENT AND RIDING(S): Brian Masse, MP Windsor West
Joe Comartin, MP Windsor-Tecumseh

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: City of Windsor (Committed)
Ontario Ministry of the Environment (Proposed)
Environment Canada (Proposed)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Owing to our status of the "Automotive Capital of Canada", Windsor is home to several expansive parking lots to store the vehicles of the many patrons or employees of our larger employment and retail centres. The City of Windsor is proposing to study the stormwater runoff originating from these large area parking lots in order to determine their impact on the quality of the stormwater being released into the Detroit River.

Using staff resources and the use of stormwater pollutant removal (SPR) systems installed within catch basins, the study will monitor the quality of the flows passing through the catchbasins equipped with this technology compared with flows through a standard catchbasin. Data shall be obtained using flow monitors, standard water quality testing procedures, and field inspections. Using this data, comparisons will be drawn between the flow qualities originating from the standard catchbasins versus those originating from the catchbasin equipped with the SPR system. With major parking lots spread throughout the City (industrial, commercial, institutional) and new commercial development occurring along commercial corridors, there is great potential for reducing a significant amount of pollutants originating from high-traffic sites. The results of the study will be considered for future development standards and stormwater management regulations. The study would be undertaken throughout 2009, with implementation to occur in 2010.

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund support in 2009-2010 will be used to contribute to this study, potentially leading to improvements in water quality within the Detroit River.

SUBMITTED: December 12, 2008

SECTION 1 - PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT TITLE: Study of Private Sewer Connections in Partially Serviced Areas

PRIMARY CONTACT: Andrew Dowie, EIT, Engineer I
350 City Hall Square West, Room 302,
Windsor, ON, N9A 6S1
phone: (519) 255-6350 ext. 6734 fax: (519) 255-9847
e-mail: adowie@city.windsor.on.ca

LEGAL NAME OF BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION: Corporation of the City of Windsor
GST OR BUSINESS NUMBER (If applicable): 124135294
NAME OF INDIVIDUAL WITH SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR FINANCIAL AGREEMENTS: John Skorobohacz

START DATE: 2009 **STATUS:** new

PRIORITY: urban stormwater/combined sewer overflow control

MEMBER(s) OF PARLIAMENT AND RIDING(s): Brian Masse, MP Windsor West
Joe Comartin, MP Windsor-Tecumseh

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: City of Windsor (Committed)
Ontario Ministry of the Environment (Proposed)
Environment Canada (Proposed)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Windsor is proposing to undertake a study of partially serviced sewage areas, in order to reduce the quantity of sanitary sewage flowing untreated into the Detroit River.

Using staff resources and CCTV technology to identify connection locations and functions, the study will use several investigation methods to determine the sewage flows, including dye testing, flow monitors, camera work, and surface study. These investigations will identify the locations of improper sanitary connections to the storm sewer system and permit the City to remove them from the sewer system. An estimated 500 properties are not serviced by sanitary sewers within the City limits, and the study would be limited to areas where improper connections to storm sewers are likely to occur. The majority of the properties that are partially serviced are in the western portion of the City, in formerly rural areas. The study would be undertaken throughout 2009, with implementation to occur in 2010.

It is expected that identifying and removing these improper connections from the storm sewer would decrease the loadings of untreated sewage currently being conveyed to the Detroit River. The initiative would position the City of Windsor as a leader in accepting its responsibilities to protect the Detroit River, and taking action against initiatives within its jurisdiction that may contaminate the Detroit River.

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund support in 2009-2010 will be used to contribute to this study, potentially leading to improvements in water quality within the Detroit River.

SUBMITTED: December 12, 2008

SECTION 1 - PROJECT BACKGROUNDER

PROJECT TITLE: Detroit River / Canard River Corridor Stewardship Initiative

CONTACT: Brett Groves, Stewardship Coordinator
Essex County Stewardship Network
P.O. Box 1168, 870 Richmond Street, Chatham, ON, N7M 5L8
Phone: 519-354-4437 Fax: 519-354-0313
E-mail: brett.groves@ontario.ca

START DATE: 2001

STATUS: Ongoing

PRIORITY: Habitat rehabilitation; Degradation of wildlife populations; Rural non-point source control; Water quality; Public education & communications	Connecting fragments to core areas. - Increased quality habitat - Buffer strips and riparian zones. - Public workshops, tours, fact sheets and website
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MEMBER(s) OF PARLIAMENT AND RIDING(s): Jeff Watson, Essex; Brian Masse, Windsor West; Joe Comartin, Windsor-Tecumseh; Dave Van Kesteren, Chatham-Kent-Essex

OTHER SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: Duck's Unlimited Canada; Canada – Ontario Agreement, Ministry of Natural Resources; Ministry of Environment; Ministry of Agriculture & Food; Environment Canada; Canadian Wildlife Service; Community Fish & Wildlife Involvement Program; Detroit River Canadian Clean-Up Committees; Little River Enhancement Group; Essex Erie Recovery Team; Amherstburg Malden Anderdon Sportsman's Club; Southwest Outdoors Club; Friends of Point Pelee; Sanson Estate Winery; Sygenta Seeds Cottam; Monsanto Ltd.; Ontario Cattleman's Association; Essex County Field Naturalists Club; others may be added as year progresses.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC), comprises the Canard River, Little River and Turkey Creek sub-watersheds, has been significantly affected by the widespread losses of fish and wildlife habitat due to disturbances surrounding agriculture and urban/rural development. In total, Essex County has approximately 7.5% of natural habitat remaining, with only 6% and 1.5% of forest and wetland areas remaining respectively. There is less the 1% remaining Tallgrass Prairie. This lack of natural and riparian habitats, along with other factors, has affected many of the Detroit River's beneficial uses and has contributed to it being designated as an AOC.

The Essex County Stewardship Network (ECSN), through the Detroit River / Canard River Corridor Stewardship Initiative, is assisting with the de-listing of the Detroit River AOC by improving water quality\quantity and natural habitats along the main tributaries of the Detroit River (River Canard, Turkey Creek and Little River). The ECSN is working

with willing landowners and partner agencies to increase natural habitat linkages, enhance fish and wildlife habitats and populations by reducing fragmentation, rehabilitating existing areas and creating new habitats.

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund support of \$325K from 2001 to spring 2009 assisted with grants to landowners who created wetland habitats, planted native trees, shrubs and tallgrass prairie on their properties within the Detroit River AOC. Funds also facilitated workshops on wetland creation and managing private woodlands.

To facilitate this initiative, the ECSN council reviews landowner projects and sources funding, permits and partners to carry out the work. Government and non-government agencies are in place to provide technical advice, but overall decision-making resides with the landowners and ECSN council.

The Great Lakes Sustainability Fund support in 2009-10 will go toward continuation of the grant program and support the following projects:

- Three wetland creation projects (approximately 6.0 Ha)
- Continuation of Fighting Island Marsh restoration (120 Ha)
- Prairie and tree plantings across (approximately 10.0 Ha)
- Assist with a nutrient management site on a headwaters of a branch of the Canard (0.5 Ha)
- One public workshop within the AOC
- Initiate a water quality assessment with a summer student to monitor the water quality changes of GLSF created wetlands within the AOC
- Wetland Habitat Assessment on River Canard Marshes in relation to alteration of vegetation patterns

Commitments have been made from six landowners for projects totaling 15.4 hectares (38 acres) of habitat enhancement and creation along the Detroit / Canard River Corridor. Work begun in 2008-09 is continuing on Fighting Island and there are also four other sites that are in planning stages and will be potentially completed as well in 2009-10 pending additional funding from supporting agencies.

SUBMITTED: December 12, 2008