

1. Greetings, introductions and opening remarks

Meeting Chair, Marcia Valiante, called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Marcia welcomed everyone and thanks them for attending at this busy time of year. (*Meeting Attendance is attached in Appendix A.*)

2. Approval of December 14, 2009 Meeting Agenda

Ric Coronado added an item new business regarding meeting location. Natalie amended item #5 to be: 2009 – 2010 Projects.

The revised Meeting Agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of September 10, 2009 Meeting Record

Moved By: Gord Harding Seconded By: Phil Roberts.

Discussion: Caroline Biribauer noted a change in the spelling of the name Dawne Faye in the September Meeting Record, it should read: 'Don Fay'.

Natalie reported that all action items have been completed, except for the last one, which will be moved to the next meeting due to December's busy agenda.

The Meeting Record was approved by consensus.

4. Elections (Outreach Committee and Public Advisory Council)

Motion: Phil Roberts moved that we defer elections for OC/PAC until such time as the Steering Committee has presented us with a reorganized structure. Seconded by: Ric Coronado. Carried.

5. 2009 – 2010 Projects

a) *See Detroit River Outreach Projects attached in Appendix B.*

Members also suggested potential ideas for the 2010-2011 funding cycle:

- Andrew Dowie suggested an eco-tourism bike race that connects to all of the sites on the Detroit River. At each stop participants would learn something about the River. This could be paired in the launch for the watershed tour brochures.
- Phil Roberts suggested the development of an Ojibway shores information package (media package) which would encompass the location, the linkage, the issues, the importance, etc.
- Derek Coronado noted that 2010 is the international year of bio-diversity. This could be another tie-in for the brochures launch, etc. Since we are an international RAP it is a good idea to take advantage of international themes.

Motion: Ric Coronado moved that the Outreach Projects presented for 2009-2010 funding be approved. Seconded by: Andrew Dowie. Carried.

6. Roundtable Updates

1. Stage 2 RAP Report Update (including Open Houses)

Natalie provided a report on the Stage 2 open houses and public promotions. The open houses took place Oct 27 – 29 in Amherstburg, LaSalle, and Windsor. There were a total of 25 attendees for all venues combined. Natalie received a lot of questions about the RAP and the Stage 2. Natalie thanked the DRCC members who helped out with the open houses and who participated in the

public review. She added that we have received three written comments, but they contained nothing that required revision of the document.

Natalie also reviewed the Waterlife event – noting that it was the Stage 2 kickoff. The DRCC website received the most hits the following day. The website featured a link to the commenting module, and there were over 300 visits to that module, but not a lot of comments were provided.

After the public review was completed the Steering Committee met by conference call in November and endorsed the RAP report to go to Agency Review by the Ministry of the Environment and Environment Canada. It did go through bi-national review of the 4 agency managers and we did receive some comments from this. Natalie added that the Stage 2 is moving along on-time and hopefully it will continue to proceed. Ric noted that it shouldn't be called a report as it isn't completed; he suggested that it be called an analysis. Natalie added that since we have started our process, Rose Ellison reported that the Americans have since started on theirs.

Natalie concluded her report noting that the comments due back by January 29th, and that a copy of the timeline is available from Natalie by request. The Full Stage 2 will be ready in May/ June 2010 if all goes according to plan. The Outreach Committee will have to talk about how we want to release the Stage 2. Chris Vilag asked if it would be possible to post those 9 posters used at the open houses in the Ford plant.

Action: Natalie to provide laminated posters to Chris.

b) Public Advisory Council Update on Ojibway Shores

Phil Roberts reported that after a second meeting with Jeff Watson, one of the major challenges identified was the fact that the zoning was not natural heritage feature zoning. The properties are industrial water front port zoned. The City planning department agreed that the zoning should be changed. City planning was looking at it as a housekeeping item, with other zoning changes to be done regarding DRIC.

Phil added that parallel to this, the other committee of council is the WECEC. A presentation was made on Ojibway Shores, and out of that came two motions: 1) to present to City's plan advisory committee 2) with a report from city planning, PAC would make a recommendation to city council to change the zoning. This was to go to the PAC on the 19th of November, in the meantime, Michael Duben, a City of Windsor representative on the DRCC Steering Committee who was supportive of this project, has taken a new position with ENWIN. The intention is still to use this strategy. We are on the agenda for the 14th of January. The group is worried that since Michael has left, will the administrative report actually make it to the City's PAC agenda?

The strategy was to have two committees of council to make the same recommendations at the same time to change the zoning around the port authority property. Now we need to continue to communicate with City to ensure that the report is written and that it gets to the PAC.

Michael Duben and Jeff Watson were going to bring this to the Port Authority. Ken Schmidt has spoken to the Port Authority. The Port Authority is maintaining a position that 'you will have to come and get it', the property has a great deal of economic value.

Jeff Watson was going to get the Federal DRIC people involved. No word on this to date, except that Tom Hunt of City Planning has been assured that the plaza design is in its very preliminary stages. They are able to incorporate a natural heritage neighbour element into their plan.

Andrew reported that the PAC was made aware of this and the deferral. So, it has been brought to their attention, and he expects it to come back to their attention in the near future.

Natalie reported that she recently met with the harbour master, Peter Berry, his biggest issue is that the property now is being destroyed by trespassers with 4 wheelers and other all-terrain vehicles. Phil added that another challenge is the fact that the property currently is in a very degraded state. However, the bright side might be the fact that people won't be launching themselves into the river, when there is a trillion dollar international border crossing next door with high stakes security. 'I would suggest that it would be the most protected natural area around.' That will be a major mitigation on the area.

Derek noted that the PA has not just inadequately protected that area, they have actively degraded that area themselves.

CAW 200 member (Naresh Pal Manku) noted that the issue might go to the OMB; it might be a good idea to have a feel about Brighton Beach and where they stand on this, etc.

Phil added that if we don't get any action on this, our committee should request a meeting with George Wilke, and to put this specifically on his agenda.

Action: Marcia requested that Phil send out information through Natalie regarding the January agenda, or advise on our next course of action.

Motion: Mike Walsh moved that the PAC be authorized to send a letter of support regarding this issue, if and when it is needed. Seconded: Phil Roberts. Carried.

c) Steering Committee & Implementation Committee Updates

Natalie reported that the Steering Committee last met in-person on Oct 15, 2009, and then met in conference call on Nov 26th to discuss the DRCC Stage 2 RAP. The in-person meeting discussed the structure of the DRCC. The funding agencies main concern was to have more involvement in how projects move forward, how they are implemented, etc. This evolved from the survey in March which suggested that the DRCC does not need to have a Steering Committee.

The two new Steering Committee Chairs, saw the inefficiency. They have now met with Natalie to revise the agenda, to change the way they meet, and to change how decisions are made, and so on.

Natalie reported that the Steering Committee wants to see a new structure; what we talked about is something more streamlined. There would still be a PAC. There would be no OC and no IC, just the SC and workgroups to implement. There have been discussions on what they would like to see, how issues would move forward and how we could go further into our implementation phase. The Chairs of each committee are involved, and nothing has been voted on yet.

Action: Natalie and the Chairs will inform the group of the status after the next SC meeting.

There could be an opportunity to clarify the PAC role and its voice in the DR.

Derek commented that this is a fundamental violation of the volunteer participation in the process. Marcia added that her interpretation of one member of the SC's comments were that streamlining meant reduced public voice / involvement.

The committee has to strategize how it is to be more effective in meeting its goals. Phil added that Jon Gee said the MOE / EC couldn't get involved in the Ojibway Shores issues – even when you ask for support, you can't get it. You have ground driven acquisitions, cleanups, projects, etc.

Andrew suggested that we indicate to them what we think their role is in the process (from a PAC and/or OC perspective). This is what we need a Steering Committee for. This is a good opportunity to note that they have the potential to help make a difference.

The Implementation Committee met on October 29th and discussed project updates from the last year. Their next meeting is on Thursday, December 17th and that meeting will specifically focus their 5 year work plan for projects in the DR AOC.

7. Other Business

- i. Ric Coronado suggested that the group meet at the airport, and noted that there is a \$50 room fee.

Motion: Ric moved that the next meeting be held at the airport. Seconded by: Gord Harding. Carried.

Caroline cautioned that we will never get LaSalle people or Amherstburg people if we are constantly meeting in Windsor. She suggested that we move the meetings around to different locations within the AOC. Phil noted that the airport is considered central to both county and city residents.

Action: Phil Roberts to provide the room booking contact information to Natalie and Kris.

Gord supported including Amherstburg and LaSalle as meeting places. Marcia suggested that we commit to meet at least once per year in those locations.

Ian suggested that we advertise in local papers to attract people.

- ii. Pearl Bradd noted that our wetland is still in the running as a project for the Devid Suzuki school.
- iii. Derek Coronado reported that December 15th, the IJC is releasing its final report on St. Clair River affecting the Great Lakes, it is a conference call at 10:30am, interested persons should call the IJC to get involved.
- iv. Peter Benz of the US PAC, reported that they have good attendance from Ontarians at their meetings. He thought it was time to return the favour. The only way to actually get any international involvement is to do it. He noted that they have an event coming up: The Shiver on the River, at Belle Isle the first Saturday in February. It is a family fun ecology fair. The only one in Michigan during the winter. The Coast Guard station will be open, and other special opportunities will be available including the aquarium, the nature zoo, etc. Contact Peter (peterbenz@peterbenz.com) if you want to have a booth at Shiver event. He added that he feels Canadians place a greater emphasis on human health related to environmental decisions.

Phil noted that Peter should be brought up to date on the Ojibway Shores, related to the IWR component on the Canadian side, that we do not have.

Action: Natalie to send Ojibway Shores information to the Friends of the Detroit River and to the RAP PAC via Peter.

8. Next meeting

Mondays are not preferred. It was decided that the next meeting will be held at the call of the Chairs in February.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the chair at 7:33pm.

Appendix A
Meeting Attendance
Outreach Committee / PAC Meeting – Monday December 14th, 2009

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| Marcia Valiante | Outreach Committee, Chair |
| Andrew Dowie | Outreach Committee, Vice Chair |
| Tom Henderson | PAC, Chair |
| Gord Harding | Vice Chair, PAC |
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| Al Stephens | Little River Enhancement Group |
| Caroline Biribauer | Essex Region Conservation Authority |
| Chris Brown | City of Windsor |
| Chris Vilag | CAW |
| David Munro | PAC Member |
| Derek Coronado | Citizens Environment Alliance |
| Ian Naisbitt | Little River Enhancement Group |
| Kris Ives | Assistant |
| Mike Walsh | PAC Member |
| Naresh Pal Manku | CAW 200 |
| Natalie Green | RAP Coordinator |
| Pearl Bradd | Little River Enhancement Group |
| Pete Thomas | CAW |
| Peter Benz | US PAC |
| Phil Roberts | Essex County Field Naturalists Club |
| Ric Coronado | Windsor and District Labour Council |
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| Regrets: | |
| Bob Hall-Brooks | Friend of Turkey Creek |
| Cecile Crouchman | Little River Enhancement Group |
| Diane de Beaumont | Environment Canada |
| Karina Richters | City of Windsor (on Maternity Leave) |
| Richard St. Denis | CAW – WREC |

*Meeting record was prepared by Kris Ives, Assistant, and Natalie Green, RAP Coordinator.
Awaiting approval by Committee Chairs: Tom Henderson and Marcia Valiante.*

Appendix B
2009-2010

Detroit River Outreach Projects – Approved at the December 14, 2009 meeting

TOTAL OUTREACH FUNDING (from MOE-COA): \$25,000

Detroit River Bald Eagle signage

- A sign about the bald eagle populations was designed and produced several years ago. The one sign was to be installed on the mainland in Windsor. The committee would like to print 5 more replica signs to be installed in public locations near the Detroit River. Because the design was already done, the only cost is for the sign, installation materials, and delivery. The DRCC will contact each municipality to find a location to have the sign installed.
- Expenditures/Deliverables: 5 signs and all hardware for installation (locations: mainland Amherstburg (e.g., Navy Yard Park), Boblo Island, Fighting Island, mainland of LaSalle, and Peche Island).
- **Estimated cost: \$3,400**
- *Working group members: Natalie Green and Phil Roberts*

- **Design and Printing of Peche Island Brochure and Printing of Watershed Tour Brochures**
- The text for the Peche Island brochure was developed with some funding from 07-08 EC funding. Design or printing for the brochure was not included in the cost. The Outreach Committee would like to have the brochure designed and printed to be handed out at future Peche Island Day events. The City of Windsor has a map of Peche Island with the significant locations on the Island that we could incorporate.
- Text and design of the Watershed Tour brochures is nearly complete. This project was completed by the Citizens Environment Alliance with some 07-08 EC funding. No printing costs were allocated. The Outreach Committee would like to use some of the funds to print these documents.
- **Estimated cost (for both): \$2,600**
- *Working group members: Natalie Green, Marcia Valiante, Derek Coronado, other Peche Island Day Organizer representatives (Karen Cedar, Bill Roesel, Phil Roberts).*

- **Drink Tap Water Campaign**
- A pilot campaign to promote drinking tap water (source is the Detroit River) and water education and conservation.
- Bottles and handouts would be given out to the community at local events, namely, Windsor-Essex Earth Day.
- If successful, the project could be expanded to target local schools.
- Expenditures: DRCC water bottles (aluminum preferred), handouts (inserts) to be developed and printed that include Detroit River facts, drinking water vs. bottled water facts, water conservation tips, info about DRCC, and “I drink tap water” promotion pins.
- **Estimated cost: \$9,000**
- *Working group members: Natalie Green, Marcia Valiante, Derek Coronado, Chris Vilag, Pearl Bradd, Kris Ives.*

- **Detroit River Video Contest**
- A video contest to engage community youth (high school, college, university students) in Detroit River issues.
- The Committee will develop themes (categories) that are relevant to the DRCC as well as rule, guidelines, and a release form (so that we can use the video).
- Videos can be uploaded to a website (e.g., the DRCC’s Facebook page or YouTube) and members will vote on winners.
- 30 second videos will be used to highlight the Detroit River on local TV stations
- Expenditures: prizes for winning videos (to be determined), posters/flyers to advertise contest, purchase air time for the winning videos on local TV stations.
- **Estimated cost: \$10,000**
- *Working group members: Natalie Green, Andrew Dowie, Al Stephens, Pearl Bradd, Kris Ives.*