

Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Wednesday, January 23, 2013 3 – 5pm

Belle Isle Nature Zoo

1. PAC Administration

- a. Introductions – see attached sign in sheet.
- b. Agenda comments/revisions/additions/updates shared electronically
 - i. No changes to agenda.
- c. New PAC Chair – Mary Bohling of Michigan Sea Grant. Mary is also the Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC) Chair and is involved in many other AOCs. She is very qualified to fill this position.

2. Identifying Priority Projects

- a. BUI Tracking Matrix (Pathways to BUI removal)
 - i. Updates on each BUI – see handouts on delisting targets/status of each BUI (as available)
 1. Drinking water – removed
 2. Tainting of fish & wildlife flavor – PAC proposed removal; update next meeting
 3. Restrictions on Dredging – under state assessment
 4. Degradation of benthos – under state assessment
 5. Loss of fish & wildlife Habitat/loss of fish & wildlife populations – see Pathways handout
 - a. Delisting target states that the BUIs can be removed when all projects in Habitat plan have been completed.
 - b. Habitat plan created in 2009 with 20 projects. Needs updating based on new information from USGS. Also need to pare down the list to about 10 projects that will get the Detroit River to BUI removal for these 2 BUIs. Looking for the “no regrets” projects that are NEEDED for the river. ECT was hired by EPA to assist the PAC in updating the project list.
 - c. PAC needs a sub-committee of individuals to update the habitat projects list. Approximately 6 months to complete the update, beginning in mid-February. Please let Mary or Tricia know if you are interested in being a part of the sub-committee.
 - d. All decisions made for the update will be made by technical experts (who are on the sub-committee) and will be documented.
 6. Restrictions on fish/wildlife consumption – See Pathways presentation
 - a. Michigan Department of Community Health

7. Fish tumors/deformities
 - a. Canadians have population issues with the Brown Bullhead, so they couldn't use the Brown Bullhead because they weren't able to collect a large enough sample size for statistical analysis. Proposing to use PAHs in sediment to use for removal
8. Bird/Animal Deformities
 - a. Based on state assessment, it is due to local sources
 - b. PAC needs to determine the local sources
 - i. State identified 2 sources.
9. Benthos
 - a. Sediment mapping project as PAC support grant.
 - i. By end of April, target sites will be established
 - ii. Once target sites are identified, PAC can focus on remediation efforts
 - iii. Canadian professor is looking for funding to conduct a benthic analysis of the entire river.
10. Beach Closings
 - a. CSO discharges are limiting our BUI removal.
 - i. DWSD is applying for NPDES permit.
 1. Plan for addressing CSOs = "TBD".
 2. PAC wants to provide comment during comment period making them aware that the CSO discharges are preventing this BUI removal. If a plan is in place with a timeline, then the PAC can recommend removal based on that plan.
11. Aesthetics
 - a. Underwent statewide assessment last year
 - b. Not recommended for removal
 - i. CSOs
 - ii. 1 property that requires remediation (due to unnatural physical material)
 1. State is working with the property owner to develop a remediation plan.
 - ii. PAC supports the continuation of the Pathways process. Mary Bohling (PAC Chair), Melanie Foose (MDEQ AOC coordinator), and Rose Ellison (EPA) will proceed with the Pathways for each remaining BUI with summary of next steps. They will put together the pathways for each BUI and bring back to the PAC for approval. Natalie would like to remain involved in this process.
 - b. Update to Fish & Wildlife Project List
 - i. EPA hired ECT to assist the PAC in updating the habitat project list.
 - ii. First meeting mid-February
 - iii. Complete update within 6 months

- iv. Need individuals to participate in the committee that will be responsible for updating the list.
- v. Mary needs to give ECT a Scope of Work.
- c. ECT Database
 - i. Jeff Edstrom presented on the benefits and uses of the database developed for AOCs in geographically demonstrating trouble areas and potential project sites.
 - 1. Helps document the status of the BUIs, projects targeted to aid in removal, and set priorities
 - 2. Connected to GIS to use maps to show current areas.
 - ii. Rose is concerned that the database has little use for the Detroit AOC. The Pathways process seems to be doing the same thing. Mary is concerned about database update/maintenance. This would need to fall on the shoulders of one individual.
 - iii. PAC gave approval for ECT to input the available information into the database and requested an update at the next PAC meeting so the PAC can determine if ECT should continue with the database creation or if it is not going to serve a purpose for the Detroit PAC.

3. Other items

- a. 2013 Grant Opportunities
 - i. PAC support funding for FDR management of the PAC. Will allow Tricia to have continued involvement.
 - ii. NOAA grants (can submit 2 construction projects and 2 design/engineering projects) – due February 27, 2012
 - 1. Lake Okanoka – to be submitted as 1 of 2 habitat construction projects;
 - a. Who will be putting together the grant application?
 - b. Paul Evanoff (JJR) can put together the conceptual design and cost estimate
 - 2. Stoney and Celeron Island – to be submitted as habitat design and engineering projects. (together or separate?) Need to address the alternatives/preferred treatment options to clearly show that we have kept in mind in the design phase that we do not want to change the hydrology in a way that will re-suspend contaminated sediment.
 - a. John Bona (ECT) will assist with grant application preparation
 - b. State or FDR as fiduciary?
 - 3. Subcommittee to move forward with grant applications
 - a. Paul Evanoff, John Bona, Peter, Bob Burns
 - iii. Healing Our Waters – was not discussed further.

4. Next Meeting Dates (Meetings moved to Mondays from 2-4pm)

- a. Monday, March 18, 2013
- b. Monday, May 20, 2013 (tentative)
- c. Monday, July 22, 2013 (tentative)

5. Adjournment