

Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Monday, July 22, 2013 2 – 4pm

Friends of the Detroit River Office

1. PAC Administration

- a. Introductions – see attached sign in sheet.
- b. Agenda comments/revisions/additions/updates shared electronically
 - i. Updates were shared electronically via email.

2. BUI Pathways Presentation

- a. Loss of F & W Habitat/Degradation of F & W Populations
 - i. Currently revising plan with updated list of required projects
 - ii. Once projects in updated plan are completed, the BUI can be recommended for removal.
- b. Restrictions on F & W Consumption
 - i. Need a study of comparison of Detroit River fish tissue as compared to control site. (New or existing data)
- c. Fish Tumors
 - i. Wait to see what comes from other collections in the Trenton Channel and revisit this in the fall to determine what our next steps are.
 - ii. This delisting metric is a little confusing across the basin.
- d. Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems
 - i. Per statewide assessment (complete), Detroit River AOC is still impaired.
 - ii. Gathering forage fish data and nesting bird data (next spring) to see trends and potentially move farther on the removal pathway.
- e. Degradation of Benthos
 - i. Sediment Mapping Project
 - 1. 5 regions identified as contaminated sediment areas.
 - a. Need to perform site characterization of those 5 regions (100% federally paid – 2 should be done this year, 3 next year)
 - b. Identify specific locations where sediment remediation needs to take place.
 - c. Develop approved site remediation plans.
 - d. Implement projects (need non-federal partners).
 - e. Remove BUI.
 - ii. Mudpuppy scheduled Ecorse/Rouge shoreline late September.
 - iii. Mudpuppy scheduled for Celeron in October.
 - iv. Canadians are finding in-river reference sites to be used as comparison for their own BUI removal process.
- f. Beach Closings
 - i. CSOs must be corrected prior to BUI can be removed. May need policy change.

3. Committee Updates

- a. Sediment Mapping Project
 - i. Complete. No money to print final deliverable.
 - ii. Copies will be available for distribution at next PAC meeting.
- b. F&W Technical Committee – Revised timeline
 - i. Should have completed in September.
 - ii. RFP will be coming out possibly before the revised project list is finalized. PAC approved that the next projects to propose for funding (until further review of updated list) would be:
 - 1. Lake Okonoka
 - 2. Milliken State Park Pocket Marsh
- c. Tainting of F&W Flavor (first BUI redesignation on Canadian side of Detroit River, first bi-national BUI removal for the Detroit River AOC)
 - i. Bob, Mary, Tricia, Natalie, Melanie – met to plan BUI removal event.
 - ii. Looking at possible venues (Fighting Island?).
 - iii. Early October.
 - iv. Fish fry via portable fry truck.
 - v. Inviting high level officials (Oct 1, 2, & 3 will not be good for feds).

4. Report from Summer SPAC meeting on July 10-11 in Muskegon

- a. Saw GLLA video – Mary will send out link to video to PAC members
- b. Rick Hobrla – gave history of the AOCs
- c. Mark Tuchman – gave report from US EPA
 - i. Mary talked with Mark regarding the work that is happening in the Trenton Channel. Should be a public meeting in September. You should hear about that via email. (feasibility/design)
 - ii. Listed Priority AOCs that we all knew about already (St. Clair River, River Raisin, etc.)
 - iii. Listed “Contenders” for 2018 (will likely get pushed off)
 - 1. **DETROIT RIVER AOC**
 - 2. Clinton River
- d. Upcoming dates:
 - i. FDR Dinner Cruise – September 5
 - ii. Great Lakes Week – September 9-12 in Milwaukee, WI
 - iii. SE Michigan AOC Summit (Raisin, Rouge, Clinton, Detroit, St. Clair) – October 18
 - iv. State of Lake MI Conference – October 15-17 in Sheboygan, WI
 - v. Great Lakes AOC conference moved to Spring 2014 (NOT during Great Lakes Week).

5. Member Updates

- a. Fort Wayne Reef – Sea Grant and U of M collected bids last week. Added acreage to some of the reefs (4 bids for the St. Clair reefs and 3 bids for Ft. Wayne)
 - i. For St. Clair and Detroit River land owners are the riparian land owners NOT the state or feds.

- ii. Lake Carriers Association submitted letter opposing the project due to the potential for the props to tear up the constructed reefs.
 - iii. USGS announced Fighting Island and other Middle Channel Reefs are already accumulating sand buildup. USGS will take river velocities to confirm model.
- b. Canadian updates
- i. Natalie and Melanie put together a report to update the 4 agencies.
 - ii. Submitted Beach Closings redesignation report on May 24 to the Canadian Ontario agreement annex implementation committee. (waiting for the Canada/Ontario Agreement to get signed)
 - iii. Working on delisting strategy – similar to the pathway to delisting.
 - iv. Listed as AOC for delisting by 2017 or 2018.
 - v. Aesthetics survey – data compiled to report. Dealing with issues with turbidity.
 - vi. Events
 - 1. Boat Tour
 - 2. Detroit River Evening
 - 3. Pesche Island Day event and Film Screening – in November
 - vii. Great lakes Sustainability Fund – federal. Funded 5 projects for the Detroit River. Watershed Projects, non-point source remediation, habitat projects, lake sturgeon spawning habitat (expansion of fighting island reef), shoreline project at Le Farge (near 350m shoreline softening)
 - viii. Benthics survey conducted on entire river in the next year.
 - ix. Ojibway Shores – last remaining natural shoreline on Canadian side. Port Authority wanted to clear cut and fill. Public came out to oppose (350 people).

6. Other Items

- a. HOW grant letter of intent for invasive species control on eastern tip of Belle Isle (Paul, Suzann, Sam, etc).
- b. Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant RFP out now.
- c. Report handout for the 4 agencies meeting.

7. Next Meeting Dates – 2-4pm

- a. Monday, September 16, 2013 – location TBD
- b. Monday, November 18, 2013 – with social after meeting

8. Adjournment