

Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Monday, March 3, 2014 2 – 4pm

Friends of the Detroit River Office, 20600 Eureka Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

1. PAC Administration

- a. Agenda comments/revisions/additions
 - i. Comments on IJC report added to Other Items
- b. Introductions – see attached sign in sheet.

2. Updates

- a. Stony & Celeron Island Feasibility study
 - i. Gathering data, working with EPA and MDEQ.
 - ii. Still need to do test pits for geotechnical investigation. Will go out as soon as ice melts.
 - iii. EPA sediment samples
 - 1. Preliminary reports – around habitat areas, low level PCBs and PAHs on the Gibraltar side. Some exceedences, but won't know how bad it really is until the toxicity data comes in.
 - iv. MDEQ meeting next week (3/11/14 @ 11am) to discuss existing data and the project teams plans moving forward.
 - v. Based on preliminary design, the Celeron shoals are focused on the SE corner of the island, extending north on the east side and northwest on the west side. Shoals will be designed to avoid areas of contamination. Rose would like a map showing preliminary design location for Celeron shoal.
 - vi. Goal is to have feasibility/design complete by late summer/early fall of this year so the PAC can apply for implementation funding next year.
 - vii. Consultation with the State Department is required when doing any structure work like shoals or spawning reefs (anything that might impact conveyance). When ready to submit the joint application to MDEQ/USACE, discuss with Rose the steps needed to begin the consultation with the State Department.
- b. Belle Isle Invasive Species and Control project
 - i. We were awarded the grant from EPA. Got final approval last week.
 - ii. FDR is fiduciary
 - iii. Whole island invasive species control. Large amount of public outreach and education
- c. Grant Submissions
 - i. Lake Okonoka
 - 1. Hydrologic analysis/feasibility/pre-design for Belle Isle
 - 2. Highlighted that this includes all of 1 project on our list (hydrologic analysis and pre-design), part of 1 project (forest), and through design of another (Lake Okonoka).

3. Huge cooperative effort with DNR parks, Detroit, FDR, etc.
 4. Confidence in the proposal. It really is a great project and the proposal reflects that.
- ii. Milliken State Park – submitted by DNR Parks
 1. Submitted for SOGL and NOAA and possibly a 3rd.
 2. Was pushed for a 2 year project combined design/build.
 - iii. DNR was not invited to the Fish & Wildlife full proposal for the hydrologic study for Belle Isle.
 - iv. Reefs – U of M/Sea Grant put in NOAA and SOGL proposal. 2 possibly 3 reefs (NE Belle Isle, Grassy Island, and maybe Fort Wayne). NOAA and SOGL for expanding Belle Isle and design for either Grassy or Fort Wayne.
 - v. Sediment sites (task order in)
 1. Finalize Trenton Channel
 2. Maybe get to River Bend area, depends on scheduling for the year.
 3. Characterization for Celeron draft complete by end of March finalized by summer
- d. EPA Trenton Channel Sediment Clean up – Education and Outreach
 - i. Remedial design meeting had about 150 people in attendance January 15 6-7:30pm @ Wyandotte Boat Club
 - ii. Main concerns were how they will address sediment mobilization during the dredging operations.
 - iii. Work will likely begin in 2016.

3. Draft Fish and Wildlife Delisting Plan

- a. Sugar Island added;
- b. Grassy Island deleted;
- c. Final Approval with some comments – one last review via email
 - i. Comments must be submitted using track changes to Mary, Tricia, and Melanie. If track changes is not used, your comments will not be incorporated into the document.
 - ii. Tricia to send doodle poll to those at the meeting asking if any edits will be submitted with deadline of 4/1/14.
- d. Name of BUI on cover missing the “s” on the end “Degradation of Fish & Wildlife Populations”
- e. Suggestion of moving site maps at the end of the project description instead of at the beginning of the descriptions.
- f. Document technically approved. Final plan will be provided at the next meeting.

4. Other Items

- a. Mary and Bob will attend the AOC Conference in Chicago March 18-19 noon-1pm
- b. SPAC meeting in Chicago March 19 1-4pm
- c. Detroit River Water Festival May 8th, Volunteers needed, contact Tricia. Just short of covering hard costs. Looking for funding opportunities.

- d. PAC support grant renewal coming up. Melanie requesting to be kept in the loop. Administrative support for PAC, printing of sediment map, web updating, Any specific ideas that we could incorporate into the PAC support grant, please email Tricia. Possibly include some train the presenter activities so Bob is not the only one who knows the presentation.
- e. April 30 BUI removal bi-national celebration on Fighting Island
 - i. Taste and Odor BUI will be removed on the Canadian side by April 30th. Claire is the new representative for the Canadian side, but she is only working part-time. Email save the date should come to the PAC soon. Matt Doss will send out formal invitation to dignitaries. Planning call will happen in 1-2 weeks. The celebration is still on track for April 30th preliminary schedule:
 1. 11-11:30am bus to the island
 2. 11:30-noon speakers
 3. Noon – 1 pm lunch
 4. 1-1:30pm bus
 - f. IJC report – Lake Erie algae substantially caused by agricultural runoff from Maumee River and the Thames River.
 - g. City of Windsor received an award for Ontario Public Works Association for sewer treatment on riverfront at the casino.

5. Next Meeting dates:

- a. May 12th – Was originally scheduled for May 19th – Canadian holiday, Mary will not be there. Meeting date tentatively changed to May 12th at 2pm at FDR office conference room.
- b. July (TBD)

6. Adjourn