

# Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Monday, May 12, 2014 2 – 4pm

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

## 1. PAC Administration

- a. Agenda comments/revisions/additions
- b. Introductions – see attached sign in sheet. Welcome to Clare Sanders, RAP Coordinator – Detroit River Canadian Cleanup.

## 2. Updates

- a. Reefs Project – Presentation by Bruce Manny (USGS)
  - i. Model data was used to determine the ideal locations for spawning in both St. Clair River and Detroit River.
  - ii. Sturgeon are using the spawning reefs.
  - iii. Walleye, white fish, dead sucker species.
  - iv. White fish spawn in Detroit River but don't seem to spawn in Lake St. Clair or St. Clair River.
  - v. Location of reefs are key.
  - vi. Local USGS trying to understand sediment movement in HEC. USGS in Colorado having problems with sturgeon spawning in Cootenay River. So, local and Colorado scientists are going to team up to solve both problems.
  - vii. Belle Isle Reef - Walleye densities have increased over time. Suckers like the cinder reefs. No sturgeon have spawned yet. White Fish love this location.
  - viii. Fighting Island Reef – spawning happens most on the reefs in higher velocity area. Sturgeon have been using it since it was built. Canadians expanded on the reef. Suckers, walleye, and white fish like this location as well.
  - ix. Rock is placed with GPS guided cranes.
  - x. Use 4-8" limestone because it is readily available, inexpensive, and has demonstrated success.
  - xi. Construction takes about 2 months. Only occurs during the week.
  - xii. Port Huron North was a GLRI funded reef, which Bruce was not aware of. Rose will send Bruce information on that site. Perhaps USGS can do an assessment of the site.
  - xiii. Bob will send Bruce coordinates of the installed Belle Isle Reef that was installed during the opening of Blue Heron Lagoon.
- b. Belle Isle Invasive Species and Control project
  - i. QAPP approved
  - ii. Ready to do the work
  - iii. RFP going out for mapping contractor to identify where the invasive species are on the island.
- c. Stony & Celeron Island Feasibility study – Presentation by John O'Meara (ECT)

- i. A design meeting was held a couple weeks ago at the DNR office.
  - ii. Sometime in July will be the large technical meeting to provide update on final design.
  - iii. Provided the plans for reconstruction of shoals and creation of various forms of habitat for target species.
  - iv. A lot of the field work has been done. Fish sampling is ongoing. Additional sediment samples will be collected.
  - v. Will have another meeting with DEQ, EPA, and project team to determine what will be done moving forward.
  - vi. Substrate is sufficient to support the new shoals with some additional support, which will be incorporated into the designs.
  - vii. Threatened and endangered species surveys are being conducted now.
  - viii. David Mifsud will be going out in the next couple weeks to do the herpetological assessment.
  - ix. Shoals will be designed as islets to allow for safe areas for ground nesting birds.
  - x.
- d. Grant Submissions (likely hear in June – earliest start date August 1)
  - i. Lake Okonoka
  - ii. Milliken State Park – submitted by DNR Parks
    - 1. SOGL walked the site with DNR. They liked the proposal but the application is scoring lower because they don't have permits in hand.
- e. AOC Conference in Chicago March 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014
  - i. Melanie, Rose, Bob, and Meghan were in attendance
  - ii. Discussed AOC successes.
  - iii. New annex to Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement
  - iv. Discussions about life after delisting
- f. SPAC meeting in Chicago March 19, 2014
  - i. Talked about PAC support grants – should hear soon
  - ii. Perception research and what will happen to PAC groups when the AOC is delisted.
  - iii. Great Lakes Days in Washington, D.C. are coming up soon.
  - iv. National priorities – trying to ensure continued funding to the GLRI.
- g. Planning summer SPAC meeting – any thoughts on the potential topics:
  - i. Role of and continued support for PACs after the AOC is delisted
    - 1. Seem to have been done repeatedly lately.
  - ii. Work on F&W list project list
    - 1. Seem to have been done repeatedly lately.
  - iii. Work on short list of restoration projects
    - 1. Seem to have been done repeatedly lately.
  - iv. Revisiting and changing BUI delisting criteria (links of some BUIs to 303d list)
  - v. Strengthening PAC membership and overall public engagement

- vi. Non-AOC funding available to support continued restoration stewardship work in the AOCs.
- vii. Interaction between PACs and the AOC coordinators – are we happy with the level of involvement.
- viii. Suggested topic – How to evaluate AOC specific conditions that may put limitations on achieving BUI removal.
- h. Bi-National BUI Removal Celebration on Fighting Island May 7, 2014
  - i. About 55 people in attendance
  - ii. Had a fish fry truck from Kingsville, Ontario
  - iii. Speakers did great – Chris Korleski, Jon Allen, Lana Pollack, Jon Gee, Ken Antaya - mayor of La Salle, and the general manager and vice president of BASF.
  - iv. Had a lot of media attention from Canada. Both positive and negative.
  - v. Indications of public perception were reflected in the comments on the articles.
  - vi. Clare will forward links to the articles to Mary so they can be shared with the PAC.
- i. Detroit River Water Festival May 8, 2014 on Belle Isle
  - i. 20 schools scheduled – 17 schools participated
  - ii. 600-700 kids; 60 volunteers; 45-55 people with presenters
  - iii. Great weather
  - iv. Best feedback yet

### **3. Draft Fish and Wildlife Delisting Plan**

- a. Document complete. Final plan is available.
- b. Tricia will send email to PAC with a link to the final document.

### **4. Other Items**

- a. Dossin Museum on Belle Isle is developing an exhibit and would like to use the sediment map developed by the PAC. PAC approves with final revisions.
- b. Sediment study – site characterization assessment of Celeron area and Ecorse/River Rouge shoreline final reports should be finalized within the next month. Scheduled Mudpuppy to do the mid to lower Trenton Channel (between the toll bridge and the head of Celeron Island) in August. Hoping to get to the river bend area this year later fall, but it may need to wait until next year.
- c. Canadian Update – had a PAC meeting in April. Bio blitz June 28<sup>th</sup> by local naturalists at Ojibway shores. This should help raise attention.

### **5. Next Meeting dates:**

- a. July 21<sup>st</sup>
- b. September 15<sup>th</sup>

### **6. Adjourn**