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**DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Location: FDR Office**

20600 Eureka Rd

Taylor MI 48180

**Suite 250**

**Monday Jan 13th, 2020**

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Call-in option: 515-603-3160 access code 572023**

**1.0 PAC Administration**

-Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions

-Introductions

**2.0 Presentation:**

Dan Beauchamp from EGLE to discuss the newest Great Lakes Water Authority permit and Combined Sewer Overflows

**3.0 Agency Updates**

***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup*** - Gina Pannunzio/ Claire Sanders

***EPA*** – Rose Ellison

***EGLE*** – Melanie Foose

**4.0 Grant Updates:**

- 2020 PAC Support Grant – *Tricia Blicharski*
- NOAA Regional Partnership 1-2017 – *Sam Lovall*
  - Okonoka Construction
  - Sugar Island Feasibility and Design
  - Hennepin Feasibility and Design
- *NOAA Regional Partnership 2-2019 (year1)*
  - *Sugar Construction*
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*

**5.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable**

**6.0 Next Meeting Dates –**

**March 9th**

**May 11th**

**Adjourn**



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**DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Location: FDR Office**

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**Suite 250**

**Monday March 9th, 2020**

**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Call-in option: 515-603-3160 access code 572023**

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-Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions

-Introductions

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  - *Sugar Construction*
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*

**4.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable**

McLouth CAG – First Meeting March 12<sup>th</sup>

**5.0 Next Meeting Dates –**

SPAC, Lansing – **March 25 – 26, 2020**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>**

**July 13<sup>th</sup>**

**Adjourn**



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**DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday May 11th, 2020  
1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Meeting URL**

[https://bluejeans.com/380223697?src=join\\_info](https://bluejeans.com/380223697?src=join_info)

**Meeting ID**

**380 223 697**

**Dial one of the following numbers:  
+1.408.419.1715 (United States(San Jose))  
Enter the meeting ID and passcode followed by #**

- 1.0 PAC Administration**
  - Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions
  - Introductions
  - Special Announcement
  
- 2.0 Agency Updates**
  - Detroit River Canadian Cleanup*** - Gina Pannunzio/ Claire Sanders
  - EPA*** – Rose Ellison
  - EGLE*** – Melanie Foose
  
- 3.0 Grant Updates:**
  - 2020 PAC Support Grant
    - First Quarter Report Submitted
    - Report Card – Mary Bohling
  - NOAA Regional Partnership - *Sam Lovall*
    - Okonoka Construction
    - Sugar Island Feasibility and Design / Construction Funding
    - Hennepin Feasibility and Design
  - Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*
  
- 4.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable**
  - McLouth CAG – Next Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup>
  - SPAC Meeting
  
- 5.0 Next Meeting Dates**
  - **July 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**

**Adjourn**



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**DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday July 21st, 2020  
1:30 – 3:30 pm via BlueJeans**

**Attendees:** Mary Bohling, MI Sea Grant/PAC; Rose Ellison, EPA; Andy McDowell, SmithGroup; John O'Meara, FDR/ECT; Anita Herrington, City of Detroit; Barb Aylesworth, Healthy Urban Waters; Melanie Foose, EGLE; Tom Henderson, Canadian PAC; Jackie Serran, DRCC; Steve Nadeau, DRFC; Bob Burns, FDR; Sam Lovall, FDR; Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Kaylee Peterson, FDR; Mebbly Pearson

**1.0 PAC Administration**

- Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions
- Introductions

**2.0 Guest Presentation: Uniroyal Sediment Site Clean-up**

- Steve Nadau, HONIGMAN LLP

**Legacy Act Project:**

RiverWalk Uniroyal Cap

- Sediment Remediation and Habitat Restoration Project which spans from MacArthur Bridge at Belle Isle Michigan to the west, and continues downstream past downtown Detroit (40 ft x 1,250 linear ft)
- Objective and Challenges:
  - o Complete Riverwalk
  - o Geotech evaluations
  - o Additional support of large rip rap along existing wall
  - o Presence of contaminated sediments will need to be factored in
- Installation of a cap under rip rap so they did not need to dredge
  - o Cap consists of isolation, filter, and armor layers
- Construction is supposed to take roughly two months

**Ralph C Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park:**

- Construction a 22-acre urban park adjacent to river
- Park has contaminated sediment along outer perimeter
- Construction of park will involve:
  - o Will be installing specific structures for fish spawning and habitat
  - o A lot of the bulkhead will be removed

**3.0 Agency Updates**

***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Jackie Serran***

- Two BUI assessment reports have been submitted for an official designation of not impaired
  - o Fish tumors and degradation of benthos
- Four remaining BUIs still impaired
  - o Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, degraded fish and wildlife populations, bird or animal deformities or other reproductive problems, and loss of fish and wildlife habitat



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**PAC – Tom Henderson**

- Citizens Environmental Alliance reports that government of Ontario has released plans to restart 30 gas power plants to meet electricity demands.
- PAC will be encouraging Ontario's government to seek out other forms of alternative energy to meet demands including solar and wind.

**EPA – Rose Ellison**

- DRFC is doing the remedial design for Ralph C. Wilson park project. EPA will review with Army Corp of Engineers.
- Another potential project site called the Railyard. Which is located between the Ambassador Bridge and Centennial Park. The core and DRFC are in discussions to get the Army Corp of Engineers to do the project design. EPA would handle construction. No official agreement yet.
- Design for the Trenton Channel project is done. Still waiting for proposal from partners who are actively working on it.
  - State of MI and EPA are refining footprint area

**EGLE – Melanie Foose**

- No updates from Sue on Upper Detroit Riverfront Parks project. The project is still on hold because of the severe flooding that they are trying to mitigate. The city is waiting for additional information.
  - Anita Harrington said the city is very supportive of this habitat project. Last time they talked they were supposed to get a contour map on the project plans.
- Wet Mesic Flatwoods Project
  - Managed by MDNR with funds from EPA.
  - Construction to begin fall of 2020.
- SPAC meeting will be held via Michigan Teams. If anyone would like to join the meeting it is recommended that you download Teams prior to meeting because the platform takes a while to download.
- Bald Eagle Genetics project by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
  - Bald eagles are reproducing but their contaminant levels are still high.
  - There is some old data and USFWS is in the process of collecting data now and, in the future, to determine why contaminant levels are still high.
  - University of Maryland will be helping on this project.

**4.0 Grant Updates:**

- 2020 PAC Support Grant
  - First Quarter Report Submitted
    - Bob has begun drafting the second quarter report, which is due this month. Rose will be in contact.
  - Report Card – Mary Bohling
    - Please let Mary know if you would like to be a part of the sub-committee for the report card.
- NOAA Regional Partnership - *Sam Lovall*
  - Okonoka Construction
    - Has essentially been stopped since the spring of 2019 because of flooding due to high-water levels
    - Temporary control measures are going to be installed, which consist of a coffer dam and a stop log structure.
      - The coffer dam will be rubber innertubes to act as a dam to control water levels.



- Stop log structure will again isolate Lake Okonoka, which will allow MDNR to pump down lake level and finish construction on Woodside Drive.
- Schedule for coffer dam agreement should be complete this week. Installation will occur after that.
- Once water levels are down, Z Contractors will be there to finish.
- Corbin Design has created the final interpretive panel design plans. Should be ready by September's meeting.
- Sugar Island Feasibility and Design / Construction Funding
  - Feasibility and Design is complete.
  - Final design construction documents - 70% complete.
    - Going through review process which should be complete around September. Documents will be sent to EGLE and Army Corp for permitting.
  - Funding is in place for the first year of construction.
- Hennepin Feasibility and Design
  - Locations of all the brine wells have been found.
  - Virtual Public Meeting scheduled for August 5.
  - Request for funding will happen early next year.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*
  - No additional updates from what Rose and Melanie provided.

#### 5.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable

- Revere site – Public Mtg Presentation and PAC Letter
  - Letter has been sent to Andy Hartz.
  - Biggest concern is the fish spawning habitat project.
    - Unsure if sediment fall-in has impacted the spawning habitat because MDNR and USFWS were unable to do spring surveys due to covid-19.
- McClouth CAG – Next Meeting Sept 10<sup>th</sup>
- SPAC Meeting – July 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Other
  - Anita Herrington
    - Monguagon Creek sediment cleanup – The cleanup for parcel 3 will start in the fall and will be all on land. Parcel 3 is located near Riverside Park just west of the Ambassador Bridge.
  - Barb Aylesworth
    - Healthy Urban Waters was on the Detroit River with FDR to collect PFAs samples.

#### 6.0 Next Meeting Dates

- **Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**
- **Nov 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Adjourn**



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**DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Monday September 14th, 2020  
1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://msu.zoom.us/j/6036065637?pwd=cVZUVXlibGpQR2ZqTGtaclM5aTIDZz09>**

**Meeting ID: 603 606 5637**

**Passcode: 2020**

**+1 301 715 8592**

- 1.0 PAC Administration**  
- Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions  
- Introductions
- 2.0 Agency Updates**  
***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup*** - Jackie Serran, RAP Coordinator  
*EPA – Rose Ellison*  
*EGLE – Melanie Foose*
- 3.0 Grant Updates:**
- 2020 PAC Support Grant
    - Second Quarter Report Submitted
    - Report Card – Mary Bohling
  - NOAA Regional Partnership - *Sam Lovall*
    - Okonoka Construction
    - Sugar Island Feasibility and Design / Construction Funding
    - Hennepin Feasibility and Design
  - Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*
- 4.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable**
- UM AOC Student Project – Bob, Mary, Sam
  - NSF AOC Project – *Mary Bohling*
- 5.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates**
- McLouth CAG – Next Meeting Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>
  - PAC Meeting – Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>
  - SPAC Meeting – Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>
  - PAC Meeting – Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>

**Adjourn**



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## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday November 9th, 2020  
1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Attendees:** Mary Bohling, MI Sea Grant/PAC; Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Katie Grantham, SEMCOG; Gina Pannunzio, DRCC; Jackie Serran, DRCC; Tom Henderson, DRCC/Canadian PAC; Barb Aylesworth, Healthy Urban Waters; Robert Burns, FDR; Melanie Foose, EGLE; Kaylee Peterson, FDR; John O'Meara, ECT/FDR; Rose Ellison, EPA; Jeremy Waechter, MDHHS/Eat Safe Fish; Tim Karl, City of Detroit

### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions  
Introductions

### 2.0 Agency Updates

#### ***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup -Jackie Serran, RAP Coordinator***

- Peche Island Habitat Restoration project has begun construction. The project will create shoals on the north side of island and a revetment to create fish habitat and protect the island from erosion.
- The Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) has approved the redesignation to not impaired for the fish tumors and benthos BUIs. Next step is to have them approved by COA executive committee co-chairs.
- Herring Gulls and cormorants on the river are not impaired for deformities BUI. Other stressors, such as loss of habitat and reduced food availability, acting at local and regional scales around the Great Lakes are more important factors in influencing successful nesting of colonial waterbird populations in the AOC.
- Recent research indicates that there's no evidence of substantial benthification of the fish community on the Canadian side of the Detroit River across the study period.
  - o Mary: The study on benthification that was on the Canadian side, do you know of any work being done on the US side?
  - o Jackie: That was only on the Canadian side, not aware of anything on US side.
  - o Melanie: Also, not aware of any work being done on US side.

#### ***EPA – Rose Ellison***

- Riverfront Parks: Project has been reactivated but waiting on funding. Will get funding if there are leftover funds for 2021 FY. Will know closer to July.
  - o Bob: Where are you in requesting permits from EGLE and Corps?
  - o Rose: We have obtained both permits.
  - o Melanie: Confirmed.
- Riverwalk Project just wrapped up last week. 13-14,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment was capped.
- Mobilized to ~~Monagan~~ **Monguagon** Creek today. Doing some pre-design investigatory work. Hoping to get sampling done this season to be able to get the data and design work done over the winter. If not, sampling will resume in the spring.





- Meeting with PAC to identify which, if any, sights the Harbor Town upland area that EPA will want to include on list of contaminated sites on Detroit River.

- Detroit Riverfront Conservancy working on design for Centennial Park

**EGLE – Melanie Foose**

- EGLE has cooperative agreement with EPA to do sediment work on McLouth project. EGLE just selected contractor, won't start sampling until spring.
- Flatwoods – continuing, in the administrative process. DNR has received funding.
- UM Project – Progressing with the recommendations from PAC and creating a four-page implementation plan for each AOC. Drafts will come at the beginning of 2021.

**3.0 Aesthetics BUI Discussion**

- Review current sites – *Melanie Foose*
  - Background: In 2011, there was a monitoring event at four sites: Mouth of Ecorse Creek, Mouth of Rouge, Ed Levy site, and around the EES Coke Coal operation site. After monitoring the aesthetics BUI was still considered impaired. Ed Levy had high levels of pH and formed precipitate along shoreline. Water Division and EGLE worked together to line the ponds to disconnect pond from potential ground water. EGLE went out again in 2019 to look at the shoreline near Ed Levy, pH was way down and only small residuals from precipitate.
- Plans for summer 2021 – *Melanie Foose and Bob Burns*
  - At least the same sites as before.
    - Two samples: wet weather and dry weather
  - Melanie does not expect to remove BUI but that we will be able to take one of the sites off as a reason for the impairment.
- Adding sites
  - If there are any sites that you think should be added please let Melanie know
    - Bob: Submitted request to EGLE to do sampling at Frank & Poet and Ecorse Creek
      - Bob to send that request to Melanie
  - Ecorse Creek and Mouth of the Rouge should stay

**4.0 Grant Updates:**

- 2020 PAC Support Grant
  - Third Quarter Report – completed and in process.
- NOAA Regional Partnership - *Sam Lovall*
  - Okonoka Construction – finishing paving on culvert. Asphalt on woodside drive has been removed and gravel has been put in. Bladder and stoplog structure will be removed by DNR in case any cold weather would damage bladder.
  - Sugar Island Feasibility and Design / Construction Funding – permits for construction should be submitted this week. Hoping to start construction by next spring.
  - Hennepin Feasibility and Design –
    - South Hennepin Marsh - construction drawings are complete, and permits were submitted to EGLE last week.



- North Hennepin Marsh – on hold. Addressing concerns that were brought up at public meetings, especially pertaining to brine wells. Waiting for report from BASF on brine wells.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Bob Burns*
  - Rose addressed this earlier.

#### 5.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable

- My Paddle Stewards MI Sea Grant: Free course. deadline to complete the course is Dec. 31, 2020. <https://www.michiganseagrant.org/educational-programs/mi-paddle-stewards/>
- MI Water School – Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm with a focus on water policy. <https://www.canr.msu.edu/water-school/schedule>
- Healthy Urban Waters Symposium – Jan. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Focused on one health. Please let Barb know if you are interested in presenting.
- SEMCOG – Updated national inventory wetland data will be available in December. Katie will share with everyone once it's public.
- Eat Safe Fish Riverwalker Program– wrapped up season at the end of the Oct. Increased outreach from 23 sites to 27 sites on the Detroit River. Working with food pantries and community organizations on presentations.
- DRCC – Have opened the public comment period for the redesignation of the degradation of phytoplankton and zooplankton BUIs, changing status from “requires further assessment” to “not impaired”. <http://detroitriver.ca/buis/buiassessments/>

#### 6.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- McLouth CAG – Next Meeting Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>
- FDR Coastal Wetlands & Climate Change Webinar – Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>
- PAC Meeting – Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>
- PAC Meeting – March 8<sup>th</sup>
- SPAC Meeting – TBD

**Adjourn**