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## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday January 9, 2023**  
**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Meeting Location:**  
Friends of the Detroit River Office  
20600 Eureka Rd., Suite 250  
Taylor, MI 48180

**Meeting URL**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88462361824?pwd=T2FsY0s0bGJxbEIKdG1lbjE0VHVqZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 884 6236 1824  
**Passcode:** 2023  
**Call-in Info:** +1 309 205 3325

### Meeting Notes & Action Items

#### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions

Introductions – John O’Meara, Tom Henderson, John Myers (Jefferson Chalmers project) Arianna Zannetti ([zannettia@detroitmi.gov](mailto:zannettia@detroitmi.gov)), Anita Herington, Tricia Blicharski, Mary Bohling, Jay Juergensen ([juergensen@j-assoc.com](mailto:juergensen@j-assoc.com) - representing Jefferson Chalmers water project), Bob Burns, Antonio Cosme (Black to the Land Detroit [swgrows@gmail.com](mailto:swgrows@gmail.com)), Paul Drca, Lisa Perez, Melanie Foose, Erma Leaphart, McKenzi Waliczek

#### 2.0 Agency Updates

**Detroit River Canadian Cleanup** – Paul Drca, RAP Coordinator

- completed 3-year habitat restoration and erosion control (EC) project at Peche Island.
- Looking at similar project for Fighting Island (owned by BASF), though it is very preliminary. BASF has new rock glue product where they can pre-cast / replace big rocks / boulders used for EC. Replacement is porous, so vegetation takes well and it absorbs wave energy well. They may pilot the new rock glue at Fighting Island.

**EPA** – Amber Falkner no agency updates

**EGLE** – Melanie Foose

- Liesl Clark is no longer Director. Interim Director is Dan Eichinger (with DNR)
- Working on PAC support grants – Detroit’s is in process
- The Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) subcommittee would like to see PAC’s with By Laws to update them to be inclusive to everybody. If PACs don’t have By Laws (like Detroit), they should create them with DEI in mind.
  - Melanie has 2 AOC By Laws that were just updated, for reference
  - Lisa Perez is in favor of PAC being inclusive and open to all
  - Tricia – we would like to see the PAC grow and extend participation. welcome packet? invitation material? recruitment process?
  - John Myers supports recruitment package and is happy to help
  - Melanie is happy to be a part of this effort
  - Next steps: Melanie to share by law examples ([add folder on website](#), so people can access). Start conversations via emails.



Include By Laws on future meetings for reference, until subcommittee is formed at next few meetings / throughout the year

- Melanie is working with SPAC so that all PACs have link to other PACs by laws. She would want us involved in that too
- Tricia – we can develop a “welcome statement” to share at next meeting so it’s clear that all meetings are open to participants

### 3.0 Project Updates

- PAC Support Grant waiting on status of next agreement.
- NOAA Regional Partnership – *Mary Bohling*
  - Sugar Island Construction
    - continuing to work on completing shoals
    - in mid-October, the shelf was being worked on
    - contractor’s continuing to work on shelf to include trench
    - ~300 lf completed and 100 lf excavated
    - work will continue until ice over (likely through end of January) then shift over to Hennepin
    - waiting to hear about permit for shoal 5 extension
  - Hennepin Construction
    - installation of original layout of shrubs on N and S shoals were completed in late October
    - permitted – another extension on Hall property (Hall’s were not original landowners when project started but they are now and liked the work that was happening so the project is extending onto their property). This area will be planted in late Spring 2023
  - Stony Island
    - protected shoal will be added in Spring 2023 after Hennepin and before they head back to Sugar
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – Amber Falkner
- Upper Riverfront Parks
  - Permit applications and design will be finalized and put together in one package so when the project is green lighted, it will be ready to go. In the meantime, EPA will periodically get updates from the City of Detroit on the status of the flood mitigation project.
  - Arianna - City has its own park renovation project going on too
  - Jay Juergensen questions for Amber
    - Since federal resource funds are restricted because of new flood zoning, will there be any impacts on flood projects because of the recent flood zone designation?
    - What does ‘greenlight’ mean in this context? What specific phase are they in (NEPA approval, etc)?
    - Can they help mitigate the flood plain designation? Since marshes fill up, they work as good flood mitigation. They are hoping to use marshes as a mitigation strategy.
    - Coordination with FEMA’s H&H engineering document could be helpful for community
  - John Myers – confirmed with Arianna that Lakewood East and another Park project are currently on hold.
    - Marina funding fell through because of construction prices (even after reducing scope), so they need another source of funding
- Wilson Park
  - The project now has established weekly calls between EPA, USACE, upland contractors, and marine contractors. Marine contractor will now install the



- sheet pile wall in mid-January based on material availability and scheduling. The marine work is still set to start in April 2023.
- **Melanie to share design information with PAC.** 3 acre habitat portion.
  - For overall design, Riverfront Conservancy is best contact.
  - <https://detroitriverfront.org/riverfront/ralph-c-wilson-jr-centennial-park-development>
- **Sediment Projects – Amber Falkner**
- **MCUTC:** The 50% design may be delayed due to pause in the design process. The final design is expected in Fall of 2023. The project has worked through the design issues regarding shoreline stability issues/approach. The solution for the design is to install temporary sheet pile wall to excavate and then backfill in small sections. This approach will need further geotechnical sampling which the project team is planning on doing in the spring, if possible. Original approach was leaving most of the contamination (30%) behind.
  - Access: The project team has also decided to stop pursuing access from the Grosse Ile Bridge Company. Three options were originally explored; (1) BATO pay for access (seemed to not make a difference to owner); (2) go through warrant process with EGLE (lengthy and EGLE would need to be a contributing partner to execute); (3) remove parcel from design. Luckily, the MCUTC project is not heavily impacted (removes 300 CY from proposed footprint) by the removal of the bridge parcel.
- **McLouth/Grosse Ile Shoreline:** Final RI has been received and will be scheduling a meeting with the SD committee to determine final decisions for the future of the project.
- **Harbor town Upstream/Riverside Park Sampling:** No updates
- **PRP Engagement / Future Projects:** EPA/EGLE have finished drafting proposed sample locations and sampling cost estimates are currently being developed. We expect two sampling events in 2023 and 2024, with finalized reports by 2025. (EGLE to expand if needed).
  - Melanie - all RIs will be done in next 2 years and then start on new projects, so partner engagement is crucial right now
- **Upper Trenton Channel (from Heather Williams, EPA GLNPO):** GLNPO has completed the water treatment treatability study and will be incorporating those results into a final design in 2023. GLNPO has now received the NFS application for the remedial action phase. The application will go through our review process for GLLA RA and will involve input from the GLLA Sediment Technical Review Committee and EGLE.
  - Melanie - this is a huge update! They have been waiting very long to hear this news. The upper Trenton project will move forward. Volunteer application was submitted. More outreach will happen as this moves forward, so they will look to PAC to assist

#### 4.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable

Jay J – seems like there’s an opportunity to advance policy agenda (esp. with Joe Tate). Are there initiatives/ issues that we can rally support? Advancing a state like NEPA that would create a robust EGLE like organization that requires large scale projects to go through vetting process. In other states they set up fee schedules to generate a pot of money so state isn’t just a pass through of Fed \$. How can we create more robust environmental advocacy?

Melanie - we are 100% Federally funded. Melanie solely works in AOCs so she's not sure how to respond. EGLE encourages us as a PAC to connect with our local representatives. Matt Doss has sheet with all state representatives contacts, and they should have it updated by the next SPAC meeting.



McKenzi – MI Sea Grant / MSUE recently put together a Watershed Packet to help newly elected officials familiarize themselves with Detroit River issues (attached). McKenzie asked **Melanie to share Matt Doss's updated representative contact list** for Packet distribution.

Erma - hasn't seen the PAC as a group that would address items Jay is bringing up.

Lisa – we are still missing a watershed management plan for a major part of Detroit (upper area).

There's a separate group that's addressing this. Erica Clites, Erma Leaphart, and Melanie Foose are involved in the process.

Erma - Wayne State University stepped up to lead the effort. Now they are waiting on a decision for funding.

Melanie - this should be funded under EGLE 319. There is a clear connection between this and the AOC so she will remain connected to keep track of how it benefits the AOC.

**Make this standing agenda item at next meeting and share map of area in reference with PAC members. Erma / Erica / Melanie to keep us in the loop**

Antonio - Are there any plans coming for Zug Island? Curious what the plans are after US Steel.

Erma –an example of a similar situation where they turned a polluted site into a beautiful park.

Jay – Goodyear site example where SmithGroup restored a similar site.

Mary - DTE energy owns a portion of Zug Island but not sure who else owns / operates on site.

- Mary – Jan 12 meeting with Laurence Sobsen (DNR) to get more info about Belle Isle Flatwoods tree canopy. Information will be shared at next meeting / with meeting notes. DNR may be invited to future meeting to give update, if needed. Melanie also asked Bob and Greg to give update to PAC so their requests may align.
- Mary – NOAA and partners are launching a new pilot project to develop methods for integrating equity into planning decisions and to make transportation systems in southeast Michigan more resilient to flooding impacts from climate change. The pilot project, “Climate and Equity Centered Transportation Planning for southeast Michigan,” includes an investment of more than \$150,000 from NOAA across fiscal year 2022-2023. This pilot was developed through a partnership between NOAA, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), Fernleaf Interactive and the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research.
- Tricia – Shiver on the River is coming up on February 4!  
(<https://www.detroitriver.org/events>)
- Tom – book recommendation “Great Lakes Champions” by John Hartig
- John Myers – working on Jefferson Chalmers project and looking for PAC support/guidance. Raw sewage is still being discharged into Fox Creek even though they thought they resolved this issue in the 90s.
- Jay J –Jefferson Chalmers project - formed 4 committees. Working on identifying a group of leaders. He would like to follow up with Erma about water testing. EGLE requires specific testing that costs \$500 + for each test. Funding to support?
  - Jay shared screen with slides on expanding proposed habitat and marshland on Detroit river in all parks and vacant lands. He is looking for pro-bono expertise on costs for converting land into marshland (even if it's an educated guess from someone with experience with this). They are trying to finalize this report within next 30 days. **Mary to Connect him with John O'Meara.**
  - [www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org](http://www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org)
  - [info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org](mailto:info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org)
- Antonio – about to tap maple trees in Rouge Park. They are also building trails here. <https://www.blacktothelandcoalition.com>
- Melanie – 2 big studies:
  - E. Coli – looking to do multiple samples at PAC requested sites in 2023.



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- measurements will be done in way so they can get 30-day mean water quality standard testing (weekly testing)
  - they also added in wet-weather sampling
  - results should come in a narrative so it's easily read
  - Tumors – there are 2 other AOC with this BUI (Rouge and St. Mary)
    - collect brown bull head from 3 AOC and control site (Huron River)
  - Both projects were conducted through a contractor. They are working to get funds transferred now and work plans are coming.

**5.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- PAC Meeting – March 13, 2023

**Adjourn**



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## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday March 13, 2023  
2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Attendees:** Mary Bohling, MSU Extension/PAC Chair; Bob Burns, FDR; Tricia Blicharski, FDR; McKenzi Waliczek, FDR; Paul Drca, DRCC; Amber Falkner, EPA; Bailee Pasienza, SEMCOG; Christian Bako, EPA; Gina Pannunzio, DRCC; Jay Juergensen, Jefferson Chalmers Water Project; John Myers, Jefferson Chalmers Waterfront Parks/ Water Project; Meghan Price, ECT; John O'Meara, ECT; Liza Perez, USFS; Tom Henderson, DRCC/Canadian PAC Chair; Rose Ellison, EPA; Sam Walsh, FDR; Melanie Foose, EGLE; Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter/Healing Our Waters Coalition; Shakiyla Kirkwood; Ted Tansley; Mike Reed, Resident of Jefferson Chalmers;

### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions  
Introductions

### 2.0 Subcommittee to Establish Priority Habitat Projects

- Original list was originally created in 2002 by USGS and included 104 potential projects. **14 priority projects** came out of the 104 potential projects.
- Of those 14 projects, only three are still under planning and/or construction. Those three projects are Upper Riverfront Parks, Sugar Island and Hennepin Marsh. Completion of these 14 projects will result in the removal of the two Fish and Wildlife Beneficial Use Impairments.
- The document that lists the 104 Projects is on the PAC webpage under Project Documents titled "104 Habitat and Remediation Sites" [www.detroitriver.org/pac-1](http://www.detroitriver.org/pac-1)
- Direct link to the 104 Projects Document:  
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60db36505996a936718ad61b/t/636a85aa0fd0aa2e9518692e/1667925442527/USGS+104+Habitat+Sites%2C+Detroit+River.pdf>
- Direct link to 14 Projects Document (found on page iii),  
[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60db36505996a936718ad61b/t/612facb4fb89e3661465f6cf/1630514360547/\\_FW+BUI+Report+FINAL\\_051214\\_compressed.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/60db36505996a936718ad61b/t/612facb4fb89e3661465f6cf/1630514360547/_FW+BUI+Report+FINAL_051214_compressed.pdf)
- This subcommittee will revisit this list and come up with the next priority projects. These projects are not required for BUI removal, but MAY result in FDR seeking funding to complete them. **We will plan to have a kick-off meeting sometime in April.**
- If you are interested in joining this subcommittee please respond to Kaylee via email at [kpeterson@detroitriver.org](mailto:kpeterson@detroitriver.org).
- Attendees interested in this subcommittee: Melanie Foose, John O'Meara, Jay Juergensen, John Myers, Erma Leaphart, Bob Burns, and McKenzi Waliczek

### 3.0 Subcommittee to Establish Bylaws

- In the SPAC DEI subcommittee, there has been conversation around the need for bylaws. With having bylaws, you can add language regarding the AOC program. It's a way to codify being inclusive and welcoming, something we are already doing but could be done better.
- Melanie will send the PAC some examples of other bylaws.
- **Plan to meet as a subcommittee in April.** If you are interested in joining this subcommittee please respond to Kaylee via email at [kpeterson@detroitriver.org](mailto:kpeterson@detroitriver.org).
- John Myers said that Community Development Advocates of Detroit is a good resource to look into in regard to bylaws.
- Attendees interested in this subcommittee: Melanie Foose and Mary Bohling.



#### 4.0 Habitat Restoration Celebration

- With the NOAA cooperative ending in 2024, FDR would like to host some sort of celebration in the Summer of 2024 as a way to thank all of our partners and supporters who helped make these projects possible.
- 2024 is an election year and we could get a lot of participation from potential candidates.
- Another celebration could be planned for when the BUIs are removed (may take a year or so after projects are completed)

#### 5.0 Agency Updates

##### *Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Paul Drca, RAP Coordinator*

- Have secured all funding for RAP projects through next year.
- New member of steering and implementation committee represents the First Nations.
- Canadian PAC meeting is scheduled for 3/14. Mike Fisher will give an update regarding the Ojibwe National Urban Park. Paul stressed that there are very few national parks in Canada, so this is a huge win for the Windsor area.
- Paul to ask Mike if he would like a letter support from the Detroit River US PAC.
- On February 16 DRCC had screened “The Erie Situation”. A movie about the harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie/Toledo, OH area. The two screenings had with an expert panel to answer questions from attendees.
- Discussions with BASF regarding Fighting Island are still proceeding.
- Earth Day events happening on April 23 and on April 15. For more information head to, <https://essexregionconservation.ca/education-and-events/>

##### *EPA – Amber Falkner*

- Today is Rose Ellison's last Detroit River PAC meeting. Rose is retiring at the end of April, so please continue to coordinate with Amber on anything regarding the Detroit River AOC.
- Thank you to Rose for all of your hard work and dedication to the Detroit River!!

##### *EGLE – Melanie Foose*

- Flatwoods project – Will ask DNR to come to PAC meeting in May to discuss post-construction monitoring.
- The Fish Tumors BUI is still impaired in the Detroit River. Original plan was to go out this spring to collect fish in the AOC, still looking through the design parameters for this collection. Will plan to start this collection in 2024.
- Fish Consumption Samples have been collected from select AOCs, Detroit was one of them. Results will be shared once they are publicly available.
- AOC Conference will be September 12-14, 2023 in Green Bay Wisconsin.
- New Lake Erie AOC Coordinator is [Andrew Bahrou](#).
- Rick Hobrla is retiring on March 31<sup>st</sup> after 45 years. Melanie Foose will be taking over his role. Two positions will be open for the Kalamazoo River AOC and Detroit River AOC. Once these positions are open, they will be shared with the PAC.

#### 6.0 City of Detroit Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

- Significant part of SW Detroit is not covered by the Watershed Management Plan. Once it is a part of the WMP it opens the door for potential funding opportunities. Jack Cotrone (EGLE) is providing advice from the state of Michigan on this effort.
- **Map of the Watershed Management Plan Coverage Area is included at the end of the notes.**





## 7.0 Project Updates

- PAC Support Grant – 2023-2025 agreement has been signed with funding.
- NOAA Regional Partnership – *Bob Burns*
  - Sugar Island Construction – Working on the shoreline restoration portion of this project. Still are working on topsoil. Worked on this until ice came in. Will continue working on that throughout the summer.
  - Hennepin Construction – When ice moved in, contractor moved to Hennepin. Put extension piece on Haul piece, that was constructed this February topsoil and rock.
  - Hennepin will be a vegetation management for the next year.
  - Due to cost savings, there will be a new extension on Stony that will occur this summer.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Amber Falkner*
  - Upper Riverfront Parks – The last project to be completed before removing the habitat BUI, but this project is still on hold. USACE to coordinate a check-in meeting between EPA and City of Detroit to further define the alternatives that we'd be analyzing in a future FS.
  - **Jay Jurgensen** – Wants to challenge the results by Army Corps. He believes that there are better ways to address the flooding issues.
  - **Amber Falkner** – project is on hold to see how we can accommodate both. Nothing has been said about not completing the project, it's just a matter of when. Amber has requested that Jay send her an email regarding his concerns.
  - **Erma** – Regarding reducing flooding and overflows of sewage/stormwater, it's not an either/or it's a yes/and. In the watershed management plan, we will be pushing for shoreline softening.
- Sediment Projects – *Amber Falkner*
  - Wilson Park - Construction has begun on both the upland and the marine portions of the project. Sheet pile wall installation commenced February 2023 with capping construction to begin in April 2023.
  - MCUTC - The 50% design is still on pause until additional geotechnical data can be collected. A sampling event has been scheduled for April/May 2023 to collect additional data to continue with the design. The final design is still expected in 2023. Additional data will inform the project team on potential alternatives for remediation. High level cost estimates were developed already but until we have more data, not sure which remedy will be pursued.
  - McLouth/Grosse Ile Shoreline - No updates. Final remedial investigation has been received and will be scheduling a meeting with the sediment committee to determine final decisions for the future of the project.
  - Harbortown Upstream/Riverside Park Sampling - No updates, data is being validated. Once received, RI reporting will begin.
  - Upper Trenton Channel - No update. Project is progressing. Technical review committee is scheduled for tomorrow as part of the application process for remedial action.
  - Potential Responsible Parties (PRP) Engagement/Future Projects - Work to be completed under Cooperative Agreement (CA) with EGLE. EPA/EGLE have received a formal cost estimate from the contractor for upcoming RIs in the Detroit River. Next steps will be to get the funding in place before work can begin (either on current CA or new CA). Troubleshooting this since an extension to finish reporting on all RIs may not be completed with the current CA expires. Sampling events are tentatively scheduled for Fall 2023 (Gibraltar Canals, Elizabeth Park Canals, and Rouge River-Ecorse) and Spring 2024 (Harbortown and Riverbend).





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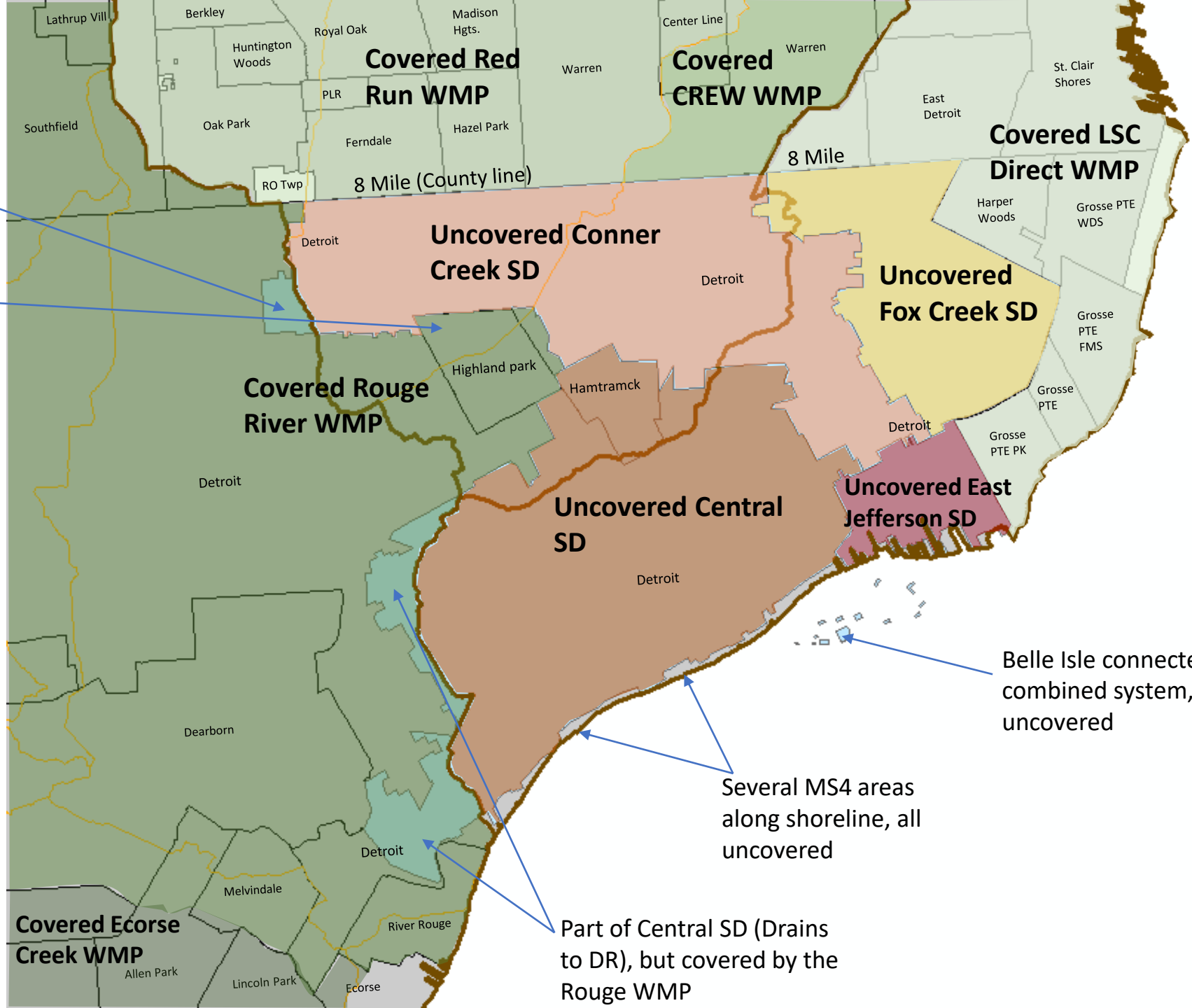
**8.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable**

- Liza Perez – Federal Grant Opportunity <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners>
- Shakiyla – Thank you for allowing me to participate. I look forward to helping with these efforts.
- Bailee (SEMCOG) – Green Infrastructure Planning Guidelines are open for public comment. For more information, please visit <https://semcog.org/public-notice>
- Erma - A TEDx event is scheduled for July. Erma will send invitation to participate to Kaylee and Mary to be shared with larger group. <https://countdown.ted.com/attend-events>
- FDR – Has two upcoming events. Our annual Riverkeeper Dinner fundraiser is on Saturday, April 1 at the Wyandotte Boat Club. On Saturday, April 22 FDR is hosting our annual spring cleanup. For more information on those events, visit [www.detroitriver.org/events](http://www.detroitriver.org/events)
  - Friends of the Detroit River is encouraging residents to take an online survey and attend community meetings, first public meeting is March 23 at Lincoln Park High School. By completing the survey, participants are entered in a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card. The survey is available in English, Spanish, and Arabic. Link to survey: <https://www.detroitriver.org/ecorse-creek>
  - Link to public meetings: [www.detroitriver.org/events](http://www.detroitriver.org/events)
- Mike Reed – working on a project with high school students in Jefferson Chalmers on water quality and water sampling.

**9.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates**

- PAC Meeting – May 8, 2023
- AOC Conference – September 12-14, 2023, in Green Bay Wisconsin.

**Adjourn**



Part of Conner SD (Drains to DR), but covered by the Rouge WMP

The northern part of Highland Park is uncovered, but the boundary is unclear, need to verify with GLWA

— HUC 8 Boundary  
— HUC 12 Boundary

Belle Isle connected to combined system, uncovered

Several MS4 areas along shoreline, all uncovered

Part of Central SD (Drains to DR), but covered by the Rouge WMP



## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday May 8, 2023  
1:30 – 3:30 pm

**Attendees:** Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Melanie Foose, EGLE; Mary Bohling, MSU Extension/PAC; Robert Burns, FDR; Erica Clites, Michigan SeaGrant; Sam Walsh, FDR; Kaylee Peterson, FDR; Lisa Perez, USFS; Tom Henderson, Canadian RAP; Paul Drca, Canadian Cleanup; Michal Helman, WSP/Green Task Force; Andrew Bharou, EGLE; Lisa Herron, EGLE; Shakiyla Kirkwood, Resident of Detroit; Amber Falkner, EPA; Bailee Pasienza, SEMCOG; Robert Clancy,,DNR; McKenzi Waliczek, FDR; Susan Rusinowski, US Army Corps of Engineer; Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club/Healing Our Waters Coalition; Arianna Zannetti, ; John Myers, ; Liz Rooney, Park Planner/City of Detroit; Steve Check, US Army Corps of Engineers; Jay Juergensen, Jefferson Chalmers Water Project;

### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions

Introductions

- SPAC Representative needed – Statewide Public Advisory Council meets 3x a year to report on updates and identify common goals. One rep from each Area of Concern (AOC) has a representative.
  - Erica Clites (Michigan Sea Grant) has been elected to represent the Detroit River Area of Concern.

### 2.0 Michigan DNR Flatwoods Presentation – *Bob Clancy, Ecological Restoration Specialist*

- This community type is the largest and one of the last remaining in Michigan.
- Impacts to this project: Many forest pests impacted several tree species and historic high-water levels in 2018-2019.
- Historical infrastructure on the island created surface impediments which impacted hydrologic flow of the flatwoods.
- Tanglewood berm and road were removed, and ground was regraded to help with water flow. Area has been naturalized and will not be for public use/access.
- Oakway Road was also removed and regraded. Primitive Trail was created for recreational public use.
- 12 major drainage ditches were created. Overtime vegetation will grow in these ditches for a naturalized look.
- 6 new culverts and 20 small ditches were installed across numerous roads and trails.
- 1,115 trees, 157 shrubs, 6,780 plugs were planted. All plantings were native (local genotype).
- Swale connecting the flatwoods to Lake Okonoka was installed, reconnecting the water flow that was cut off due to infrastructure.
- Invasive species control and removal happened across flatwoods.
- Post Implementation Monitoring will take place during spring, summer, and fall of 2024.
- Lisa Perez asked about tree canopy coverage in 2016 compared to canopy in 2023. Bob Clancy responded: Over this summer and next year they will begin measuring canopy coverage and with a goal of understanding the future trajectory of the flatwoods canopy with impeding infrastructure removed.
- Erma Leaphart asked what caused the drastic change in tree canopy coverage in the last few years. Bob Clancy responded: That was a direct result of 18 months of extremely high water, most of which was trapped by infrastructure. Most of which will be alleviated by this project. This forest had a lot of things stacked against it. It couldn't take the height and duration of water.



- If you have any follow-up questions on the Belle Isle Flatwoods Restoration Project, please contact Bob Clancy at [clancyr@michigan.gov](mailto:clancyr@michigan.gov)

### 3.0 Subcommittee to Establish Priority Habitat Projects

- **First meeting May 15 1-3pm.** If you would like to participate in this subcommittee, please contact McKenzi Waliczek at [mwaliczek@detroitriver.org](mailto:mwaliczek@detroitriver.org).
- Attendees that have indicated interest during the meeting: Jay Juergensen, Shakiyla Kirkwood, Michal Helman, Bailee Pasienza

### 4.0 Membership Recruitment and Engagement Subcommittee (Bylaws)

- Retitling this committee from Bylaws to Membership Recruitment and Engagement. Bylaws will be a product of this subcommittee.
- **Meeting date TBD.** If you would like to participate in this subcommittee, please contact Kaylee Peterson at [kpeterson@detroitriver.org](mailto:kpeterson@detroitriver.org).
- Attendees that have indicated interest during the meeting: Shakiyla Kirkwood, Erma Leaphart

### 5.0 Agency Updates

#### *Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Paul Drca, RAP Coordinator*

- March 14 – Detroit River Canadian Cleanup had RAP meeting. Friends of the Ojibway Prairie gave a presentation on Windsor National Urban Park. This will be the second national urban park of Canada. This proposed urban park is across the river from Ecorse/Zug Island. **Opening of the park is scheduled for December 2024.**
- April 5 – Habitat Workgroup Meeting was held to discuss delisting criteria. There are four remaining Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) on Canadian side of the Detroit River.
- April 23 – Community Tree Planting Event. 1,000 volunteers planted 1,600 trees and shrubs in East Windsor. Two cleanups on east and west end of city. 520 kgs., or 1,150 lbs., of litter was removed.
- Peche Island – Project has been completed. 9 artificial islands were constructed on the north side.
- Fighting Island – in discussion phase right now.

#### *EPA – Amber Falkner*

- In late March, Chris Korleski announced his retirement slated for the end of 2023. EPA has already begun the process of finding his replacement and will have a couple of months of overlap with his replacement.
- Rose Ellison retired on April 28<sup>th</sup>. To coordinate with the EPA on anything Detroit River AOC related, please contact Amber Falkner at [falkner.amber@epa.gov](mailto:falkner.amber@epa.gov)
- Action Plan IV
  - Plans to have a public engagement session in Detroit for ideas on APIV. Date TBD, likely will be somewhere in June-August time frame.
  - There will be two virtual engagement sessions sometime in that same time.
  - EPA will post Action Plan IV input opportunities on <https://qlri.us/> when we know them. Written feedback will also be invited online.

#### *EGLE – Melanie Foose*

- Andrew Bahrou (EGLE) is the new Lake Erie AOC coordinator. Began in early February. Lake Erie Coordinator includes the corridor of Lake St. Clair, St. Clair River and Detroit River. You can reach him at [BahrouA1@Michigan.gov](mailto:BahrouA1@Michigan.gov)
- Lisa Herron (EGLE) is the Community Outreach and Engagement Specialist. This is a new role at EGLE and she will be helping develop community engagement tools, resources and strategies. Lisa is happy to connect with community partners



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who would like to chat about how EGLE can better serve and lift up community priorities. You can reach her at [herronl@michigan.gov](mailto:herronl@michigan.gov)

## 6.0 City of Detroit Watershed Management Plan

- Wayne State University received funding from EGLE's cooperative agreement with the EPA. Wayne State, EGLE, and the US Army Corps of Engineers will be working on the management plan. This project is expected to have positive benefits to the Detroit River AOC. Planning to reach out to partners in Summer 2023. Bill Shuster is contact for this project.

## 7.0 Project Updates

- PAC Support Grant – Last quarterly report was submitted.
- NOAA Regional Partnership – *Bob Burns*
  - Sugar Island Construction – Soil and mulch was installed at Shoals 1 – 4. Plantings have also been installed. After this is completed contractors will work on shoal 5. Will begin working on south end of island after this. Plan to be done with construction by end of 2023.
  - Hennepin Construction – Extension on Hall Property has been completed. All of the plantings have been put in place. Main activities will be vegetation monitoring and maintenance of the facilities throughout 2023 into spring 2024. Due to cost savings, an extension will be constructed at Stony Island. Construction will occur in Fall 2023.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Amber Falkner*
  - Upper Riverfront – No updates. Project is still on hold while EPA and USACE continue to coordinate with the City of Detroit regarding other projects within the area that have potential to impact the Upper Riverfront Parks project area. EPA/City of Detroit/USACE had a check-in meeting to discuss potential schedules of all projects within the area, but a solid schedule has still not been finalized by the City of Detroit or USACE on a flood mitigation project. Despite the schedule delays, the Upper Riverfront Parks project remains on the Detroit River AOC management action list for future action.
  - Wilson Park – Construction continues both the upland and the marine portions of the project. Sheet pile wall installation finished in March 2023 with capping construction to begin in April 2023. The toe layer was completed, and the marine crew are now placing the chemical isolation layer component of the cap. If you pass by the site, you will see the grading of the site has changed dramatically as well as significant progress of the sport house construction as part of the upland restoration efforts.
  - Harbortown Upstream – Part of the validated data has been received. RI reporting will begin once all data is received.
- Sediment Projects – *Amber Falkner*
  - Sediment Technical Committee Meeting took place April 24. After reviewing the findings there was group consensus to remove the McLouth/Grosse Ile Shoreline from the action list. The subcommittee has confirmed and reported back to full Detroit River PAC.
  - Monguagon Creek/Upper Trenton Channel Project - The 50% design is still on pause until additional geotechnical data can be collected. A sampling event has been scheduled for June 2023 to collect additional data to continue with the design. The final design is still expected at the end of 2023. Further information from the geotechnical investigation is needed before a design approach can be decided.
  - Upper Trenton Channel - Technical review committee took place on March 14th for the upcoming remedial action, tentatively planned for 2025 construction season.



## 8.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable

- Erma (Healing Our Waters Coalition) - will be conducting a series of sessions on the Great Lakes Restoration Action Plan, for more information visit <https://www.healthylakes.org/action-plan-iv-sessions>
- Lisa (USFS) – Urban Waters Federal Collaborative <https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters>. Lisa posed a question to the group to have federal partners apply to the Urban Waters Federal Collaborative for the Detroit Area. Lisa to follow up with Amber (EPA) and Susan (USACE) and they will report out on the next PAC meeting.
- Jay (Jefferson Chalmers Water Project) – Featured in OneDetroit, you can view with this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=jYTSQ9ftY9Y&feature=youtu.be>
  - Jay will be presenting to Detroit City Planning Commission on May 16. If you would like to show support, you can attend virtually with this link: <https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/85846903626>
  - EGLE has approved Grosse Pointe Parks raw sewage valve permit into
  - Jefferson Chalmers Water Project Community Meeting happening on May 17 from 6-8pm. For more information, <https://jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org/index1.html>
  - June 21 – Community Meeting with EGLE from 6-8pm to discuss the NPDES permit of Outfall 80 from Fox Creek. Plan to use this meeting to also discuss the EGLE approved permit for raw sewage valve into Lake St. Clair at Patterson Park. For more information on this meeting visit, <https://jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org/index1.html>
- Bailee (SEMCOG) – Climate Resiliency Planning Kickoff will begin at the end of May. SEMCOG will be supporting 10 GLRI projects throughout the area, in coordination with the EPA.
  - One Water Campaign will kick off June 3. Environmental Ecosystems Tool will allow users to understand how to reduce environmental impacts. Bailee offered to present at a future PAC meeting.
- Andrew (EGLE) – Lake Erie Lake Wide Action Plan is being revised this year. If folks are interested in how to get involved in that process, please contact Andrew. <https://binational.net/2023/03/13/development-of-2024-2028-lamp/>
- Lisa (EGLE) – Port Authority is holding a decarbonization event on May 11, for more information, <https://www.sdevweb.org/sdev-events>
- Susan (USACE) – received funding to partner with the City of Detroit for on a Flood Reduction Feasibility study for the Jefferson Chalmers area.
- Mary (MSUE) – May 20 Tour de Tom Bike Event with UTR Michigan. All proceeds go to the Downriver Linked Greenways. Limited to 100 riders, to register head to <https://www.swcrc.com/events/tourdetom2023/>
- Public Meeting and Point Mouillee – May 24, 5:30 pm. Discussions will cover hunting, fishing, and fundraising activities for the state game area. **– THIS MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED**

## 9.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Jefferson Chalmers Water Project Community Meeting – May 17, 2023
- SPAC Meeting – May 31, 2023
- Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Steering and Implementation Committee Meeting (Detroit River Evening) – June 14, 2023
- PAC Meeting – July 10, 2023
- PAC Meeting – September 11, 2023
- PAC Meeting – November 13, 2023

Adjourn

5/2/23





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## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday September 11, 2023**  
**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Attendees:** Mary Bohling, PAC Chair; Robert Burns, PAC vice chair; Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Sam Walsh, FDR; Bailee Pasienza, SEMCOG; Tom Henderson, Canadian PAC Chair; Christian Bako, US EPA; Amber Falkner, US EPA; Arianna Zannetti, Detroit Parks; Erica Clites, Michigan Sea Grant; Erma Leaphart, HOW/Sierra Club; Jay Juergensen, Jefferson Chalmers Water Project; McKenzi Waliczek, FDR; Kaylee Peterson, FDR; Liz Rooney, City of Detroit; Sarah Lanoue, RAP Coordinator/DRCC; Shakiyla Kirkwood, Resident of Detroit; Anita Harrington, City of Detroit.

### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions  
Introductions

### 2.0 Subcommittee to Establish Priority Habitat Projects

- Identifying new priority projects
  - Do we want to include tributaries of the Detroit River in the new projects list?
  - What are the exact boundaries of the Detroit River, how far do they go inland?  
Bob Burns (Riverkeeper) said that it goes about .5 mile inland on the US side.  
Unsure of the CA side.
    - Jay Juergensen – some marinas and creeks go in more than .5 inland from the shore of the Detroit River
  - Erma Leaphart – to be effective doing water restoration work, it needs to be done from a watershed perspective but with AOC work there might need to be more of a 0.5-1mile boundary guidance.
  - Erica Clites – maybe the boundary of AOC itself isn't as important as it was before if we're looking at life after delisting the Detroit River AOC.
    - Mary – yes how does the work of the PAC shift to support other efforts.
  - **Need a map of AOC boundary, Detroit River Basin, and Watershed Management Plan area to see how they overlap.**

### 3.0 Agency Updates

***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup*** – Sarah Lanoue, RAP Coordinator

- Redesignating BUIs – Degraded Fish & Wildlife Populations (#3) and Bird or Animal Deformities or Reproductive Problems (#5)
  - Hosting an Open House event on Oct 5 from 6:30 – 9 pm. Event will be held in person and via zoom. To register, head to <http://detroitriver.ca/bui-3-fish-populations-and-bui-5-redesignation-open-house/>
- Peche Island – shoals are completed. The Department of Fisheries should wrap up Year 2 monitoring this week.

***EPA*** – Amber Falkner

- Chris Korleski GLNPO Office Director is retiring at the end of 2023.
- New Permanent Branch Manager – Andrea Schaller comes to GLNPO from the EPA Water Division and served as acting branch manager before formally accepting the full-time position.

***EGLE*** – Melanie Foose

- Michigan EGLE has a new director – Phil Roos:  
<https://www.michigan.gov/egle/about/team/roos-phillip>





- EGLE continues to work towards hiring two new AOC coordinators for Detroit River, St Clair River and St. Mary's River (all the Michigan binational AOCs)
- EGLE and EPA are working together to plan for doing the Remedial Investigations on the remainder of the Detroit River over the next couple years.
- In the St. Mary's River AOC, this past May the required minimum 100 fish were collected for the Fish Tumors BUI study. Analysis and reporting are currently in process. Next year, we will be using the same methods in the Detroit and Rouge AOCs and the Huron River as a control site to gain a data point for the BUI since the last time it was assessed was by USGS in around 2011 / 2012.
- The next SPAC meeting will be in Sault Ste. Marie in October.

#### 4.0 City of Detroit Watershed Management Plan

- Consultant was hired. She will be coordinating this effort, working under Bill Schuster (Wayne State Environmental Engineering Department). There will be an update at the next Green Task Force Meeting on 9/19.
- Wayne State is serving as coordinator and facilitator of this effort.
- **Erma will share meeting information as it comes out.**

#### 5.0 Membership Recruitment and Engagement Subcommittee (Bylaws)

- If you have any input in regard to the welcome letter, please email Kaylee at [kpeterson@detroitriver.org](mailto:kpeterson@detroitriver.org)
- Shakiyla Kirk asked if there is information related to Remedial Action Plan and suggests that this information should be included in welcome packet and/or orientation meeting.
- Liz Rooney would like to be included in this sub-committee going forward [liz.rooney@detroitmi.gov](mailto:liz.rooney@detroitmi.gov)

#### 6.0 Project Updates

- PAC Support Grant – quarterly grant report due at the end of the month.
- NOAA Regional Partnership – *Bob Burns*
  - **Sugar Island Construction** – Finishing up the outer shoals (1-4) putting bedding material and planting shrubs on those shoals. Shoal 5 needs additional stone place for the extension. Working on restoration and dredging on the south end of the island, creating final sloping and grading on that side of the island. Plan to plant submergent mats soon. The goal is to get the majority of construction work done before fall and finish up the remainder in Spring of 2024.
  - **Hennepin Construction** – finished work in Spring 2023. Put in native plantings this spring. Fish and Herp surveys will be forwarded to the PAC once they have been completed.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Amber Falkner*
  - No updates project is on hold due to US Army Corps of Engineers investigations. USACE is starting a Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 205 Study for the City of Detroit. As part of that, a Federal Interest Determination phase will be completed in the next few weeks. Expecting decision in October. They are considering inland stormwater improvements. EPA project is still on hold until Army Corps investigations are done.
  - Jay Juergensen – expressed concerns about how the 205 study might delay progress and wanting to see floodplain management integrated into project.
    - Amber Falkner – EPA will proceed with habitat project as soon as possible but EPA has to make sure that they adhere to what USACE is doing. Flooding takes precedence over habitat restoration.
- Harbortown Upstream/Riverside Park Sampling – *Amber Falkner*
  - Draft Remedial Investigation (RI) has been reviewed by EGLE/EPA and the project team is working towards receiving a revised version.



- Sediment Projects – *Amber Falkner*
  - **Wilson Park** – Demo - soft shoreline along the Detroit River can now be observed along the project area. Construction contractor encountered potentially contaminated material near the sea wall (~300 CY). Material was analyzed and properly disposed of off-site.
    - Excavation - cove and water gardens are now visible from the site as well as some of the upland structures being constructed by the Detroit River Conservancy. The marine crew is working on installing piping to the water garden so the cap can be finished in that area as well.
    - Capping - on schedule. Over 63,000 CY of cap material has been placed to date.
    - Schedule projects demobilization for the GLLA portion of the project by December 2023.
  - **MCUTC** – Sampling event took place with no major discrepancies from work plan and all data has been received. Remedial investigations will begin in Spring 2024 and end in 2025.
    - Design team working towards 50% design, expected as early as October.
  - **Upper Trenton Channel** – still proceeding with GLI marine portion. Slated for construction in 2025.
- Detroit River Upcoming RI Sampling – *Amber Falkner*
  - EPA and EGLE to push forward on planning for additional Remedial Investigations in the Harbortown, Riverbend, Rouge Ecorse Shoreline, Elizabeth Park Canal, and Gibraltar Canal target areas of the Detroit River AOC. RIs are tentatively planned for sample collection in 2024.

#### 7.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable – 1.07 min in

- FDR: Detroit River Water Festival – September 27 & 28
  - If any group is interested in presenting outdoors (Belle Isle) to 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, head to <https://www.detroitriverwaterfestival.com/> to register. For any other questions or interest, email McKenzie Waliczek at [mwaliczek@detroitriver.org](mailto:mwaliczek@detroitriver.org)
- FDR Annual Meeting – October 19 at 6pm at Portofino in Wyandotte
  - To purchase tickets, head to [www.detroitriver.org/events](http://www.detroitriver.org/events)
- MI Sea Grant: Conservation Stewards Program will begin this week (9/11). Will plan to host every two years in the area.
  - <https://ciglr.seas.umich.edu/opportunities/summits-and-working-groups/gl-connecting-waters/>
- Healing Our Waters (HOW): Great Lakes Conference  
<https://www.healthylakes.org/great-lakes-conference-2023>
- DRCC: Hoping to open national urban park when the Gordy Howe bridge opens
- SEMCOG: Healthy Climate Task Force Meeting – Oct 2
  - If you would like to get involved, please email [kerkez@semcog.org](mailto:kerkez@semcog.org)  
<https://semconnect.semco.org/Events/Events/FormBuilder/Registrant-Search.aspx?EventKey=TF100223&WebsiteKey=346ba721-3255-4fb4-9ea6-899d0eb35a62>

#### 8.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- Great Lakes Area of Concern Conference – Sept. 13 & 14
- Detroit River Canadian Cleanup Redesignation Open House at Ojibwe Nature Center – Oct. 5
- Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Conference – Oct. 12 & 13
- PAC Meeting – Nov. 13

Adjourn



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## DETROIT RIVER RAP PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

**Monday, November 13, 2023**  
**1:30 – 3:30 pm**

**Attendees:** Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Mary Bohling, MSUE and PAC Chair; Robert Burns, FDR and PAC Co-chair; John O'Meara, ECT; Amber Falkner, EPA GLNPO; Christian Bako, EPA GLNPO; Erica Clites, MI Sea Grant; Tom Henderson, Canadian PAC; Lisa Perez, USFS; Mahilet Adem, Wade Institute of Technology; Marie Garcia, Post-Doc Wayne State University; Sam Walsh, FDR; Shakiyla Kirkwood, Resident of Detroit; Lorna Jones, Wade Institute of Technology; Melanie Foose, EGLE; Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club; Anita Harrington, City of Detroit; Arianna Zannetti, Detroit Parks and Greenways;

### 1.0 PAC Administration

Agenda Comments / Revisions / Additions  
Introductions

### 2.0 Subcommittee to Establish Priority Habitat Projects

- Discussion around identifying new projects.
  - The purpose of the committee is to identify projects (not necessarily priority projects) that the PAC can support and that would positively impact the Detroit AOC. Projects on the list may be implemented by PAC partner organizations or someone else. Being on the list will aid those who are seeking funding for implementation. This list is supplemental and does not replace the priority projects list of projects that are required for removing the Fish & Wildlife related BUIs. Ideally, this list will live on past AOC de-listing and the PAC.
  - How do we determine the boundaries for scope of work? Where do we want to establish a boundary for these projects? Is it at the County Line, HUC Line, quarter or half mile inward?
    - Lisa Perez – How do other AOCs draw their boundary lines?
      - John O'Meara - some AOCs are just the body of water itself, whereas some are an entire watershed. Do we want to include the whole watershed or draw an arbitrary line, such as ½ mile in from the water? Keep in mind that there are other areas of concern that feed into the Detroit River, the Rouge River being one.
    - Marie Garcia – maybe assess projects with a direct vs. secondary impacts.
      - Mary – Who decides what is direct or secondary?
  - No final decision was made on this. The PAC suggests that this subcommittee look at what other AOCs list as their boundary areas and maybe assess direct and secondary impacts.
  - <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-aocs/aoc-list-map-and-contacts>
  - Erma Leaphart – New Canadian funds going to projects that may be on the Detroit River
    - <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/great-lakes-protection/funding/funded-projects.html?sourceid=1060936&emci=23502d50-fb7f-ee11-8925-00224832e811&emdi=a13d1353-0b80-ee11-8925-00224832e811&ceid=9101641>

### 3.0 Agency Updates

***Detroit River Canadian Cleanup*** – Sarah Lanoue, RAP Coordinator



- DRCC completed their public consultation for BUI #3 and #5. Sarah wanted to thank all the US PAC members who took the time to attend and ask questions. Overall, the consultation was successful, and they received some good feedback. DRCC started First Nations consultation for BUI's #3 and #5 and should have an update next meeting on the progress of that.
- DRCC made some progress with permitting for the last two habitat projects for BUI #14, and they suspect there will be more on that to come at the next meeting once they submit permits to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO).

**EPA – Amber Falkner**

- Teresa Seidel was named new permanent GLNPO Director
- EPA and EGLE had Annual AOC Planning Meeting
- Sediment Summit – came out of this meeting with lots of ideas. EPA and EGLE will be engaging PAC on progress and involvement process.

**EGLE – Melanie Foose**

- EGLE received funding for additional remedial investigations. Expect to have contract by early January 2024 and complete five remedial investigations by 2025.
- EGLE plans to hire two AOC Coordinators. Once those listings are posted please share with your contacts.

**4.0 City of Detroit Watershed Management Plan**

- Establishing Steering Committee and Resident Riders to solicit participation in this effort.
- Marie Garcia is workshopping a Newsletter concept to keep folks informed of the progress. **If you'd like to be added to the list, please email [rmarie.garcia@wayne.edu](mailto:rmarie.garcia@wayne.edu)**

**5.0 Membership Recruitment and Engagement Subcommittee**

- The Governance Charter has been drafted. Will be reviewing with subcommittee and will share with PAC in January 2024.
- These are documents to share with new attendees to learn more about the purpose of the Detroit River PAC.

**6.0 Project Updates**

- PAC Support Grant – report submitted in October.
- NOAA Regional Partnership – *Bob Burns*
  - Sugar Island Construction
    - Working on south shore, 2/3 done, hoping to be done with construction by January
    - Finishing stonework and habitat structures, last bit of planting will happen in Spring 2024
  - Hennepin Marsh
    - Project is basically completed. The only remaining items are monitoring planting and invasive species control.
- Detroit Riverfront Parks – *Amber Falkner*
  - Project is still on hold. Waiting on flood mitigation project schedule.
- Sediment Projects – *Amber Falkner*
  - Wilson Park – Finished excavation for water garden and cove area. Placed almost 8,000 cubic yards of cap material. All shoreline construction is complete, just waiting for final placement of any settlement areas of the cap. Contractors are on break and slated to return at the beginning of December. Slated to be done with marine construction by end of January.
  - MCUTC – selected final remediation alternative, this was selected to maintain shoreline stability. Involves full dredging of areas C & D along



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shoreline of northern parcel. Survey of 200 ft. upland portion, this will be used to inform 50% design document. Expect to have 50% design by February 2024, PAC Chair and Vicechair will be reviewing design document.

- Upper Trenton Channel – slated for construction solicitation in 2025. Plan to be under construction from 2025-2027.

#### 7.0 PAC Member Update Roundtable

- **MSUE –Listening Sessions on How MSUE is serving their partners. Detroit Session Nov. 28**
  - <https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/msu-extension-announces-statewide-public-listening-sessions-in-november-and-december>
- **EGLE Western Lake Erie Basin Conference – Dec 12 in Adrian open to all.**
  - [www.graham.umich.edu/wleb](http://www.graham.umich.edu/wleb)
- **USFS – Completed grant notifications for several orgs in the Detroit area in an effort to increase tree planting opportunities in terms of climate readiness and equity. Additionally, DNR have significant funds through the IRA act which will be available through grant opportunities.**
- **FDR – FDR is hosting a Holiday Party Potluck on December 14 from 6-9pm at office in Taylor. All are welcome.**
- **Jefferson Chalmers Water Project**
  - [GLWA NPDES Permit](#) - Nick Schroeck, from U/D Mercy Law School is in touch with EGLE about the draft permit and attached are the WATER Project's proposed changes. See attached. Jay recommends being ready to mobilize resources from interested CBOs and NGOs in advance to be prepared for when it is issued and the short time frame for the Hearing. Nick's students are preparing a comment letter that we expect him to share shortly after the draft is issued. Please be aware and be ready to rock and roll when it's on the street.
  - [DEGC Brownfields Funding for Proposed Roadway Improvements](#) - As best we understand it, this will provide investments to improve truck traffic between the Stellantis and FCA plants along the Conner and St. Jean Corridor from between Warren and Jefferson to vehicle storage parking lots along the Detroit River. Jay doesn't believe that this is the best use of riverfront property. He is encouraging people to mobilize to discourage this proposal and encourage other investments to improve access to and facilitate better use of the river.
  - Those interested in more info on either of these topics should contact Jay for details via [info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org](mailto:info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org)

#### 8.0 Upcoming Meeting Dates

- PAC Meeting – January 8, 2024

Adjourn