



Detroit River PAC – Project Progress Meeting Memorandum

Date: 9-13-19

Date of Meeting: September 9, 2019

Issued by: Mary Bohling, PAC Chair

Attendees: Sam Lovall, FRD; Bob Burns, FDR; Tricia Blicharski, FDR; Jackie Serran, DRCC; Rose Ellison, EPA; Melanie Foose, MEGLE; Kaylee Peterson, FDR; Mary Bohling, MI Sea Grant; Jane Mackey, FDR Board; Anita Harrington, City of Detroit; Meghan Price, ECT; David Yucca, Biohabitats; Andrew McDowall, Smithgroup

Agency Updates:

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup by Jackie Serran

- Fish tumors and benthos BUI recommended for removal. Comments due by end of September
- Waiting on permits for fish habitat near Peche island
- Melanie, Sam, and Rose invited to present at their Oct 8th meeting

EPA by Rose Ellison

- Working with Detroit RiverFront Conservancy on sediment remediation, presumptive design
- Centennial Park winding down habitat sites to address contaminated sediment and shoreline
- City wants to open the park in 2020. EPA in process of drafting agreement for design.
- Negotiating cooperative agreement with state for superfund cleanup (McClouth Steel being one of them).
- Upper Riverfront Park Projects: revisions to design being done due to recent neighborhood flooding. Won't get anything out of contract by end of fiscal year. Next step for EPA looking into contracting for construction, by end of October.
- Trenton Channel: Design is 90% complete, hold up is getting proposal from partners. Per Melanie, Heather has some questions from the partners. A lot is going on, just hasn't reached the signature stage yet.
- MCUTC: new GLACC contract so on hold until have GLNPO contractor in place

EGLE by Melanie Foose

- No updates on PAC Support Grants. EGLE does not have their funding yet, so they cannot provide the funding to the PAC's.
- 4 Agency meeting set for Windsor in late October. Bob will be attending to help with tour.
- Audit – no other information besides what's in the report. OGL (coastal zone program and AOC program). Found fault with research with U of M. didn't document the science involved. Report will be forwarded to PAC (completed 09/10/19).



Friends of the Detroit River
20600 Eureka Rd., Suite 250
Taylor, MI 48180
734.288.3889

Grant Updates

2019 PAC Support Grant

- No news. Still waiting on last payment and waiting of RFP. Funding ended June 30th.

NOAA Regional Partnership 1-2017

Celeron Construction

- Construction is complete, still some landscape work. Vegetation maintenance and ecological monitoring will continue through next year.

Okonoka Construction

- High water on Belle Isle has slowed contractor down.
- Culvert is being manufactured. Anticipate culvert to be installed beginning of November. Conversation about adding stop logs to the structure – No Project Funding (DNR cost)
- A week ago, we received an update from MDOT (OHM) that they are WAY over budget. Without any compromise from MDOT, need to make cuts from the project in order to make up for unforeseen project overages (unless approved by NOAA).

Sugar Island Feasibility and Design

- Approved to final bidding/construction documents and final design/permitting. Feasibility/design has been done since January.

Hennepin Feasibility and Design

- Approved to final bidding/construction documents and final design/permitting.
- Permitting is included in scope of work of feasibility and design, still need additional funding for construction
 - Design is 35% complete
- Delays with brine wells and indemnifying with easement, BASF and Grose Ile NC
- ECT has a subcontractor out next week to locate the brine wells within the project area. Once the wells have been located the project should pick up steam and get rolling.

NFWF Grant to MDNR

o Belle Isle Flatwoods

- DNR Requested funding (\$3.7 mil) and workplan
- Need to get the funding first then advertise on DTMB. DNR is waiting to hear from EPA on the funding. NFWF was the original grant for design. EPA is going to direct fund.
- Fall 2020 to start construction.

PAC Member Update Roundtable

Andy McDowell (Smith Group)- Field Tour of Belle Isle including Lake Okonoka and walking path through the Flatwoods. October 3. Pat Hammer is co-chair with Janet Dunn represent the Belle Isle Conservancy.

Mary Bohling- Water School event Sept 26-27 at Northville City Hall

FDR- Annual Dinner Meeting at Portofino's 10-11-19

Next Progress Meeting:

November 18, 2019 and January 13, 2020 (Dan Beauchamp – speak on CSOs)



Friends of the Detroit River
20600 Eureka Rd., Suite 250
Taylor, MI 48180
734.288.3889

End of meeting minutes

If this report does not agree with your records or understanding of this meeting, or if there are any questions, please advise the writers immediately in writing; otherwise, we will assume the comments to be correct.