

Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Monday, July 20, 2015 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.

2. Updates

- a. Michigan Water Strategy – Mary Bohling Community Conversations, Detroit 7/28 6pm @ the outdoor adventure center; Ann Arbor 7/29 7pm
- b. Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – no update
- c. Green Infrastructure – Mary Bohling
 - i. MI Sea Grant and SEMCOG presenting a series of 4 workshops. 3rd in series is tomorrow from 9am-2pm – code audits. Online registration. 8/20 is the 4th workshop.
 - ii. Earlier workshops presentations should be available on the SEMCOG website.
- d. Sediment map poster – Sam Lovall
 - i. Maps are available and here.
 - ii. Submitting for an award in the communication category Michigan Chapter ASLA. Awards will be presented in October at meeting in Ypsilanti.
- e. EPA Sediment Characterization Status – Rose Ellison, EPA
 - i. Report not finalized but they have identified 7-8 sediment hot spots in the lower Detroit River (from toll bridge down).
 - ii. PAC support grant will form technical committee to focus on the impacts from the contaminated sediment on the benthic community.
 - iii. PAC provided comment during public comment period on project to build fishing pier and boat dock at Humbug Marsh requesting that the project personnel review the EPA sediment report and take appropriate measures.
- f. Grants
 - i. Stony Island – Application, John O’Meara
 - 1. Unofficial notice from NOAA of award. Year 1 guarantee (north shoal), year 2 (west shoal) and 3 (south shoal) will be dependent upon additional funds available from federal government for GLRI. New QAPP and construction documents this fall, then construction will start next year.
 - ii. Belle Isle Invasive Species Control project – Sam Lovall
 - 1. Contract going to Plantwise. To address concerns of EPA and DNR, there is the possibility that they will extend the contract to allow for additional treatments. Due to the low overall cost from Plantwise, this additional scope and schedule will likely be at no additional cost.

2. Educational component – bulk was done last year. Last week 38,000 students on the island that were exposed to invasive species education. Wayne State University is also doing sampling of plant DNA to determine if there are any invasive species that may become nuisance.
 - a. Educational brochures were printed to educate and peak interest of the lay person. MNFI books will also be on permanent display at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo.
- iii. Lake Okanoka
 1. This Wednesday there will be a workshop to present analysis work and brainstorm design solutions.
 2. Last 4 months working in flat woods to get better understanding of the hydrology. Based on studies, bringing Lake Okanoka online to surrounding features will not have a negative impact on the hydrology of the island.
 3. Finished aquatic sampling and geotechnical. 3 heavy metals (close to SE MI background levels) in sediment of the lake.
 4. Will provide project update presentation at PAC meeting in September.
- iv. Milliken State Park – Jeff Braunscheidel, no update. Mary requested a 20 minute update at September 21st meeting.
- g. Detroit River Reefs Status – rock is being ordered, mobilizing for pre-construction survey. Faust Corp was awarded the contract. Signs posted at Wyandotte boat launch, Ecorse boat launch, several bait shops. Letters to land owners went out. Information provided to municipalities. Grassy Island complete by end of summer.
- h. SPAC, Facilitation and PAC support grants – Mary Bohling
 - i. Meeting tomorrow (Bob and Mary will attend). Office of the Great Lakes will be facilitating the PAC support grants now instead of GLC.
 - ii. Our PAC expressed our concerns to John Allen via a letter.
 1. AOC Coordinators are already overburdened.
 2. If potential issues come up with the local PAC and EPA, the MDEQ may be in a position that diminishes the concerns of the local PAC because the independent contractor is now removed from the equation.
 3. OGL decided to keep the grant facilitation responsibility.
- i. PAC Member Updates
 - i. Bob Burns – Detroit is creating a Stormwater ordinance.
 - ii. Jeff B. – Outdoor Adventure Center now open at Milliken State Park. \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and children 2-12, free for kids under 2.
 - iii. Peter Benz – 20 people from working group of Detroit City Council’s sub-committee on green infrastructure will be heading to San Francisco in late fall for a fact finding mission on utilizing green infrastructure for stormwater treatment.

- iv. Dean T. – Has any flow monitoring been conducted in the vicinity of the Ft. Wayne reef expansion location? (no) Can the sensors be installed and left in place? (no – they are interested in using side-scanning radar).
- v. Sam Lovall – FDR in collaboration with Wayne County on an invasive species control grant – providing information on locations of invasive species as well as some educational opportunities.
- vi. Tricia B – FDR River Cruise September 3rd.

3. Next Meeting dates:

- a. September 21, 2015; 2-4pm @ ECT Detroit Office
- b. November 9, 2015 – may be moved to different date

4. Adjourn