

# Detroit River PAC Meeting notes

Monday, September 15, 2014 1 – 3pm

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

## 1. PAC Administration

- a. Introductions – see attached sign in sheet.
- b. Agenda comments/revisions/additions – None

## 2. Updates

- a. Detroit River Canadian Cleanup – Claire Sanders
  - i. Light summer. Looking forward to the fall in setting the habitat targets and the wildlife population targets.
  - ii. Not much information back on tumor work. Waiting to hear from GLEAR.
  - iii. Municipal elections take place at the end of October.
  - iv. Next PAC meeting next week Wednesday(9/24/14).
  - v. Discussion on how the US Detroit PAC was able to come up with the list of projects required.
  - vi. Meghan mentioned that the Buffalo River AOC had a scoring system for potential projects to determine what needed to be done to achieve BUI removal
- b. Grants
  - i. Stony & Celeron Island (Bob Burns)
    - 1. Preliminary work complete
    - 2. Proposals of plans have been presented to EPA and DEQ
    - 3. Some sediment areas around Celeron have forced us to alter the design
    - 4. Alternatives have been created for both islands.
    - 5. Based on sizes of projects and monies available, we are prioritizing the projects and placing them in stages.
    - 6. Tremendous cost but tremendous benefit with these projects.
    - 7. Public outreach meeting Oct 16 1:30pm @ Pt. Moullie State Game Area in South Rockwood.
  - ii. Belle Isle Invasive Species and Control project – Sam Lovell
    - 1. Open house October 11, 2014 11am-3pm
      - a. Displays
      - b. Education Handout unveiling
      - c. Grant paid for 4 of the invasives, MDNR paid for the mapping of the remaining.
    - 2. Mapping contractor (Plant Wise) did an excellent job and worked well with the kids.
    - 3. Eradication started today.
    - 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> round of eradication will occur in 2015

5. Meghan suggested keeping an eye out for the CWMA funding from the State to assist with addressing the honeysuckle and other invasives that were found throughout the island.
- iii. Lake Okonoka Application Status through NOAA
  1. AWARDED!!!!
    - a. Hydrology study of whole island
    - b. Feasibility and Design for Lake Okonoka
- iv. Milliken State Park Application Status through SOGL – submitted by DNR Parks
  1. AWARDED!!!
    - a. Design/build
    - b. PAC will have representatives on the project team to provide updates and ensure compliance with the PAC supported project details.
- c. Sediment Characterization Status
  - i. Update at next meeting.
- d. Detroit River Reefs Status
  - i. MI Sea Grant is managing the projects with MDNR, USGS, USFWS, etc.
  - ii. Grassy Island next spring – seeking letters of permission from property owners on the island. Permitting is underway. Build in 2015.
  - iii. Expansion of Belle Isle reef in 2015
  - iv. Fort Wayne is still a possibility adjacent to Ft. Wayne but far enough out of shipping channel. Would be smaller scale but needs to be of a certain size and location to be beneficial to fish.
- e. SPAC meeting in White Lake Oct 30-31, 2014 noon - noon
  - i. Tour of White Lake AOC 10am-noon on Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - ii. At night on Oct 30<sup>th</sup> is the delisting celebration
- f. PAC Member Updates
  - i. FDR annual meeting Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> at Portofinos. \$35 per person.
  - ii. Fisheries just finished the bathymetric survey of Lake Okonoka.
  - iii. City of Trenton voting on zoning for McClough property for additional “unnamed” industrial activities onsite.
  - iv. Rob Mylloya – funding for MI restoration conference. Location near Cadillac Oct 2015. Save the Date from Huron River Watershed Council. STREAMS.
  - v. MI Sea Grant for Open Channel design standards for Macomb County.
  - vi. Belle Isle
    1. Unlimited volunteers
    2. Speed limit has been uniformed to 25 mph
    3. Goose round-up was initially successful, but the geese returned shortly after.
    4. Many of the issues on island have been greatly reduced by the increased police presence.
- vii. Rouge Update

1. Kayak tour of Main Branch on Sat.
  2. Run 4 the Rouge
  3. Canoe trip on Lower Rouge ends at City of Wayne Rouge-a-Palooza on Oct 11.
  4. Wrapping up survey at fish community on Lower Branch to evaluate the removal of the Wayne Road dam.
- viii. Wayne County
1. Applied for some grants
    - a. GLRI grant for invasive species control looking County wide. Formation of advisory council. Will be modeled after the Belle Isle invasives grant
    - b. CMI – aquatic invasive species. Inventory fragmitis on County property. Prioritize
    - c. Habitat improvement on approved 319 plan.
    - d. CMI grant for something.
  2. Awarded SAW grant to inventory County storm sewer structures. Signing contract now.
- ix. FDR
1. Wednesday, planning meeting for Water Festival
- x. MDEQ
1. Last meeting Joe Bohr talked about tumors and deformities.
    - a. Tumors – nothing to update
    - b. Deformities – can't use ring billed gulls, they are too transient. Herring gulls
    - c. Bald Eagles – data will be available. Continue to survey next year and hopefully additional survey in future.
    - d. Other data will be used as support of Bald Eagle data.
  2. Jen T. and Melanie had a meeting to discuss the CSO issues with Phil.
    - a. Suggested joint Rouge/Detroit PAC meeting focused on CSOs in January 2015.
    - b. Send questions to Melanie or bring questions to November meeting so Melanie can give them to Phil and we can talk to him about it at the January meeting. (30 minutes for November meeting to come up with questions for Phil)
  3. Updated language for Beach Closings and Eutrophication not available yet. Will advise when available.
- xi. DRCC
1. Aesthetics and Beach Closings at COA and expect response end of year or early next year.
  2. Peche Island day October 4<sup>th</sup> 10am-3pm. Free.

3. IJC meeting next week for the Science Advisory Board. Melanie and Claire will provide updates BUIs as well as how well we've worked together.

xii. MI Sea Grant

1. October 28<sup>th</sup>. National program office is coming to review the local program. Comment opportunities on the web site. Boat tour that evening. Mary will send the invitation to Tricia to send out to everybody.

**3. Next Meeting dates:**

- a. November 10
- b. Jan TBD Joint mtg w/Rouge River AOC to focus on CSOs

**4. Adjourn**