

## St. Lawrence River Restoration Council (SLRRC)

July 5, 2017

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences

1:00 pm

**Present:**

Richard Pilon	Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA)
Chris Critoph	Raisin Region Conservation Authority
Kristin Geater	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Andrew Morley	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC)
Elaine Kennedy	Cornwall District Environmental Committee (CDEC)
Jeff Ridal	St. Lawrence River Institute (RI)
Dorothy Hamilton	Ontario Woodlot Association (S,D,G Chapter)
Will Robertson	General Public Liaison
Nick Cox	General Public Liaison
Robert Perron	Cornwall District Environmental Committee
Mark Kaddie	Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network (USLRPN)
Nicole Labelle	General Public
Walter Oeggerli	Glengarry Farmers Association (GFA)
Karen Cooper	Remedial Action Plan St. Lawrence River (Cornwall)

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm

### 2. Approval of Minutes

#### Motion to approve minutes:

Moved by: Richard Pilon  
Seconded by: Nick Cox  
Carried

### 3. Approval of Agenda

#### Motion to approve Agenda:

Moved by: Elaine Kennedy  
Seconded by: Nick Cox  
Carried

### 4. Update on Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Delisting Criteria Review Process (Andrew Morley)

- A Delisting Criteria Review for **Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae and Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat** Beneficial Use Impairments has been taking place over the past several months with a Water Quality Working Group (WQWG) sub-committee (*Dorothy Hamilton, Chris Critoph, Andrew Morley, Joffre Coté*). This WQWG group has met on several occasions to make recommendations to a wider working group on BUI de-listing criteria.

- This draft BUI review criteria has subsequently been discussed in (3) meetings facilitated by French Planning Services with a panel made up of federal and provincial government reps, the Mohawk Council of Akwesasne Environment Program, Raisin Region Conservation Authority, the Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network, and the River Institute.
- Andrew discussed potentially revising the BUI criteria by shifting emphasis from the tributaries to nearshore areas (these areas are recognized in the most recent Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement) (GLWQA)
- Dorothy expressed concern that eliminating land based activity impacts such as forest cover out of the BUI criteria is short sighted as these activities can directly impact water quality.
- The Chair questioned what could a way forward might look like that given these discrepancies?
- Andrew suggested that commitments need to be made going forward on the remaining BUIs and that BUI criteria could be action based
- Elaine stated that SLRRC needs to prepare for the creation of the new Canada Ontario Agreement (COA) to be developed for 2020. Issues that were originally identified in the St. Lawrence River (SLR) Remedial Action Plan (RAP) should be addressed in the next COA.
- It was suggested that a BUI Criteria Review Meeting be held early in the fall.

**Motion: Be it resolved that a Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Working Group meeting be held prior to September 27, 2017**

Moved by:	Elaine Kennedy
Seconded by:	Andrew Morley
	Carried

#### **5. Lake Ontario Lake wide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) (Andrew Morley)**

- The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement commits Canada and the United States to prepare and issue Lakeside Action and Management Plans (LAMPs) for each of the five Great Lakes every five years on a rotational basis. The Lake Ontario Partnership Working Group is beginning to develop the Lake Ontario LAMP which is scheduled for completion in December, 2017. The GLWQA (2012) now includes the St. Lawrence River. Subsequently the SLRRC has been invited to participate in this process. As a creature of Environment and Climate Change Canada and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lake Ontario is being worked on now (includes St. Lawrence River)
  - **Action Item:** Karen send out link to Lake Superior Action Plan (as example) with explanation of LAMP
- It was suggested that SLRRC members look at **Binational.net** to lend context to St. Lawrence River priorities
  - **Action Item:** Elaine Kennedy and Jeff Ridal have agreed to work together to draft priorities for input into Lake Ontario Lake wide Action and Management Plan – tentative meeting date: July 12/17 (9 :00 a.m.)

## 6. Current Research, Monitoring, and Mitigation Projects in the Area of Concern (AOC)

- Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) has applied for and received a Fish Habitat Enhancement project from Fisheries and Oceans Canada in partnership with the Cornwall Lunger Club and the Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network. Potential habitat sites: Snye Marsh (Akwesasne), Cornwall Waterfront, Cooper Marsh (South Glengarry), and Loch Garry (North Glengarry)
- Benthic sampling / analysis operations will be undertaken by ECCC staff in Cornwall Sediment Strategy (CSS) zones from September 11 through September 22, 2017. Some River Institute staff and volunteers will assist.
- Ongoing CSS Monitoring Plan research is comparing non CSS zones vs. CSS zones to determine rate of recovery
- MOECC's Lisa Richmond and RI's Matt Windle have also been taking core sediment samples in CSS zones.
- COA is funding a project with RI on indicator fish. Baseline sampling is being undertaken to compare contaminated areas with non-contaminated areas.
- RI research is also being undertaken in AOC tributaries relating to Algal Blooms.
- CSS related Cornwall Catch Basin Study is underway to research Cornwall's legacy industrial lands and the catch basin system. One sampling session has been undertaken already with 2 more sampling sessions scheduled for late summer and/ or early fall.
  - **Question:** When can SLRRC hear back on results of the Catch Basin Study?
    - **Answer:** January 2018  
A joint meeting of SLRRC and the Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network (USLRPN) could be arranged to present data on this project.

## 7. Other:

- Andrew was asked by the Chair about the status of Bay of Quinte RAP (BQRAP). BQRAP are tackling their remaining BUIs one at a time. They are in the process of re-designating 8 of the 11 BUIs. They are also looking at a long term phosphorous management plan to address their Undesirable Algae / Eutrophication BUI.

Adjournment at 3:15 pm      moved by Elaine Kennedy

**Next Meeting:**                      TBD