

St. Lawrence River Restoration Council Meeting

February 27, 2019

The River Institute

1:00 p.m.

Present:

Walter Oeggerli	Glengarry Farmers Association (GFA)
Sara Varty	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
Jacob Orlandi	Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (teleconference)
Jake Larose	Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) (teleconference)
Barbara Schurman	Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MOECP) (teleconference)
Michael Seguin	Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MOECP)
Jeff Ridal	St. Lawrence River Institute (RI)
Dorothy Hamilton	Ontario Woodlot Association (SDG Chapter)
Patricia O'Hara	Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network (USLRPN)
Mark Kaddie	Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network (USLRPN)
Joe Belmonte	Upper St. Lawrence River Protection Network (USLRPN)
Joe Arthur	Cornwall Luncheon Club (chair)
Karen Cooper	Remedial Action Plan St. Lawrence River (Cornwall) (RI)
Brendan Jacobs	Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA)
Richard Pilon	General Manager, RRCA

Regrets:

Nick Cox	General Public Liaison
Elaine Kennedy	Municipal Environmental Advisory Committee
Will Robertson	General Public Liaison

1. **Call to Order at 1:10 p.m.**

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Motion: Be it resolved that SLRRC approve the Agenda of the meeting of February 27, 2019

Moved	Mark Kaddie
Seconded	Jeff Ridal
	Carried

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion: Be it resolved that SLRRC approve the Minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2019

Moved Jeff Ridal
Seconded Mark Kaddie
Carried

4. Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Public Consultation Strategy (PCS)

- Presentation by Karen Cooper (*see slide deck attached*)

Questions surrounding presentation:

- How will public education work on AOC and BUIs within the plan?
 - Information sheets will be created to outline each individual BUI and the remediation that has taken place thus far. These will be posted on the AOC Website and be made available in print form.
- Will the levels of government provide sufficient funds to undertake the proposed PCS?
 - Applications have been made. It remains to be seen what levels of funding will be provided to implement the Strategy.
- The ECCC is looking at this as an overarching process that serves to provide governance.

Motion: Be it resolved that SLRRC move ahead with the aforementioned BUI Public Consultation Strategy as outlined in the presentation

Moved Dorothy Hamilton
Seconded Mark Kaddie
Carried

5. Remaining Priority Actions / Status of BUIs (*see spread sheets attached*)

- **BUI #1 Fish Consumption**
 - Refer to latest Ontario Fish Consumption Guide (new guide expected in 2019)
 - Await results of latest creel survey
 - See attached slide deck from Neil Dempster Report (2017)
 - Fish Consumption results for General Population
 - Fish Consumption results for Sensitive Populations
 - Recent trends indicate slow progress

- While this was not an exhaustive study the summary is that there are more rigorous consumption restrictions within the AOC vs. outside the AOC
 - The above subject should be addressed and reviewed within 2020 State of the Great River Rapport project
- **BUI #3 Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations**
 - Undertake more monitoring in 2019
 - Refer to Canadian Wildlife Services (CWS) data / Marsh Monitoring results
 - Refer to CWS turtle egg surveys / guidelines
 - SLRRC noted that data should be updated for this BUI with at least another year of data
- **BUI #4 Fish Tumours and Other Deformities**
 - Draft report has been completed and circulated at Water Quality Working Group (WQWG)
 - Additional comments have been made on this draft from MECP and ECCC
 - This draft report should go through WQWG Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) again now that revisions have been made
 - A definition of consensus should be established by SLRRC so that reports can move ahead
- **BUI #5 Bird and Other Animal Deformities**
 - This BUI was determined to be not impaired prior to the Stage 3 Draft Report
- **BUI #6 Degradation of Benthos**
 - This BUI was determined to be not impaired prior to the Stage 3 Draft Report
- **BUI #7 Dredging**
 - This BUI was determined to be not impaired prior to the Stage 3 Draft Report
- **BUI # 8 Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae**
 - still impaired status with draft report pending
 - Recommended Action was to establish a Riparian Cover Plan by the end of 2018 with partners from: RRCA, MCA, SDG OWA, USLRPN
- **BUI # 10 Beach Closures**
 - Draft report has been completed and circulated at Water Quality Working Group (WQWG)
 - Additional comments have been made on this draft from MECP and ECCC

- This draft report should go through WQWG Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) again now that revisions have been made
- **BUI # 13 Phytoplankton & Zooplankton**
 - Draft report submitted by the River Institute
 - Awaiting ECCC workshop on refining criteria for this subject
- **BUI # 14 Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat**
 - Plans are being undertaken which include:
 1. **Coastal Wetlands** (However, wetlands located further inland than 2 kms do not meet the most recent COA criteria)
 2. **Minimum Riparian Cover** - Strategy for Shoreline Restoration
 3. **Pattingale Creek Project** – It was noted by RRCA that restoration at Pattingale is not sufficient to remediate issues in other AOC creeks that have elevated levels of TP. However, a Pattingale plan might serve as a pilot project for other tributary work in the future
 Action Plan partners: RRCA, MNRF, USLRPN, and SDG OWA

6. Cornwall Sediment Strategy (CSS)

- ECCC undertook reference sampling in 2018 for deeper water sediment sampling (10 m.) in conjunction with Human Health Risk Assessment Report that is being conducted by ECCC and scheduled to be completed by March 2019
- Awaiting funding for River Institute sampling. Both MECP and ECCC applications from RI for sediment sampling are pending
- Discussion on modelling took place re- exploring flow patterns and hydrology. A GLPI proposal has been submitted
- Fish contaminant sampling took place in 2019 as well
- The CSS needs a flowchart to document different sampling streams and time frames
- Long term monitoring of contaminated sediment in Cornwall is required
- CSS should be put onto the Agenda for the next SLRRC meeting

Next Meeting & AGM: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 (1 pm)
 River Institute

Motion to adjourn at 3 pm: Moved Jeff Ridal