

Approved Minutes

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Kyle Bostwick – Director

Jim Hergot– Director

Elan Lipschitz – Director

JoEllen Strieter- Admin. Staff

Zygmunt Dworzecki– Director

Steven F. Kahl– Director

Laura Ogar– Vice-Chair

Bill Wright - Chair

Pete Frauson – Treasurer

David Karpovich– Director

Glenn Rowley – Director

Dennis Zimmerman – Secretary

06 June, 2016 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Bay County Building - 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room

515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action Items:

- MDHHS presentation of “EAT SAFE FISH” by **Michelle Bruneau**
 - Approval of 02 May, 2016 Minutes
 - Appoint **Pete Frauson** as PSBW Treasurer
 - Renew Administrative Service Contract with **JoEllen Strieter**
 - Accept (additional) Contract Proposal with **JoEllen Strieter** for Task Force Assignment
 - Appoint volunteers to Beach Closing B.U.I Taskforce
 - Set tentative meeting date/time: 11 July, Noon to 2:00 p.m. for Task Force
 - Set tentative meeting date/time: 12 September, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Next Regular Board Meeting of PSBW
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Summary of “Hand-out” Materials

- Agenda(s) (as needed)
 - Fish Tissue Contaminant Analysis (summary) of Target Species in Saginaw Bay & Tributaries, Les Cheneaux, Thunder Bay, and Lake Huron
 - “Roles and Responsibilities of Public Advisory Councils” (also includes similar information for SPAC, and MDEQ - AOC Coordinators) Appendix A 05/30/2012
 - “History of Saginaw River/Bay RAP Program” Appendix Two 1995
 - “Those Pesky Acronyms”
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C/Wright convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Board Members present included: **Dworzecki, Frauson, Ogar, Rowley, Wright, Zimmerman.**

Absent were: **Bostwick, Kahl**

Absent, but excused were: **Lipschitz** and **Hergot** who both intended to participate by Tele-conference, but could not due technical difficulties; and **Karpovich** who was attending the IAGLR Conference in Ontario.

Also present were: **Michelle Bruneau** – MDHHS, **JoEllen Strieter**– PSBW Staff, **John Riley** – MDEQ AOC Coordinator, **Joe Toth**– PSBW Member and past-Treasurer, **Warren Smith** – PSBW Member and past-Chair, **Taylor Hollis** – Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Organization, **Tami Sivy** – S.V.S.U., and **Joel Strasz** – Director - Bay County Health Dept.

Michelle Bruneau gave a *Power Point* presentation focusing on current Fish Consumption Guidelines, and relating to the “*Eat Safe Fish*” Program. This presentation referenced testing or sample sites, and target species (including Carp, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Yellow Perch, and most recently Catfish, and Walleye). She also explained that on occasion DNE (Do Not Eat) alerts may be issued by MDHHS, but not by MDEQ. She further explained how the bio-accumulation of PFOS (PerfluorooctaneSulfanate) in fish, is now considered harmful, in that it is known to cause Thyroid problems, at all ages, as well as Brain Development problems in young children and fetuses. PFOS is used in waterproofing processes, as an agent in fire-fighting foam, in paper and packaging materials, cleaning products, and some pesticides. ‘Rain X’ contains PFOS and because of the environmental implications has been banned in Alabama. While the “*Eat Safe Fish*” brochure, unique to Saginaw Rive / Bay is now available, the complete pamphlet is now being printed and will be available by summer’s end. MDHHS has already completed both brochures and pamphlets for 2 or 3 other AOC’s, and will tentatively do all Michigan AOC’s. More information can be found on the MDHHS website.

Motion by Dworzecki to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 02 May, 2016.
Motion seconded by Frauson. Motion Carried without dissent.

Since there has not been an SPAC meeting since the previous Board Meeting, the PSBW representative to the SPAC – **Zimmerman** had nothing new to report, except that the next meeting of the SPAC will be held on 27 & 28 June, 2016 at Sault Ste. Marie.

Many of the newer members have noted that conversations can be hard to follow, at times, due to the use (sometimes over-use) of acronyms. **Zimmerman** offered a “glossary” of those acronyms commonly used in AOC work, noting that while the list is nearly 6 pages long, there may well be, that many more, that “pop up”. At least three (3) more were added, just in this meeting.

Riley – MDEQ-OGL AOC Coordinator gave a brief report, which included an oral summary of documents he e-mailed prior to this meeting: “*Roles and Responsibilities of Public Advisory Councils (and SPAC, and AOC Coordinators) 2012*”, and, “*History of the Saginaw River/Bay RAP Program 1995*”. He also mentioned that the Little Rapids Habitat Project “kickoff” will be one of the featured events at the next SPAC meeting, at Sault Ste. Marie, hosted by the St. Mary’s River AOC.

The Nominating Committee of **C/Wright** and **V-C/Ogar** presented the name of current Board Member **Pete Frauson**, as their recommended candidate for the office of Treasurer of PSBW. **Frauson** indicated he is willing to serve.

Motion by Dworzecki to appoint **Pete Frauson** as Treasurer, to replace retiring **Joe Toth**.
Motion seconded by Rowley. Motion Carried without dissent.

Toth and **Frauson** will schedule a meeting at the bank to change the check signatory card and any other relevant account information.

C/Wright, V-C/Ogar, and Riley updated the Board of Directors on the 2016-17 PAC Support Grant. Discussion Points included:

- The grant is for a fifteen (15) month period;
- The grant is for \$25,000 but also assumes \$ 10,000 in kind service from PSBW, even though this was not a requirement;
- **C/Wright** has been previously authorized by Board Resolution to sign for the grant, so no further action is necessary by the Board of Directors at this time;
- **C/Wright** is to confirm that the agreement for Bay County to continue to act as the Fiduciary, is still in effect, or will be updated, which will include a clarification of Text and Narrative in the grant, by **V-C /Ogar** that the Grant Period is 01 May 2016 thru 31 July, 2017.

Based on informal assurance from MDEQ that the PAC Support Grant is confirmed, **C/Wright** requested that the contract with **JoEllen Strieter** for administrative activities be renewed.

Motion by Zimmerman to renew the Strieter contract for administrative services in the Amount of \$ 12,280,

Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.

Motion by Zimmerman to accept the contract proposal by Strieter for administrative Services work on the Task Force to consider the Beach Closings B.U.I. in the Amount of \$ 12,000.

Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.

Toth reminded the Board of Directors, that if the organization can establish a physical address, that the PSBW already meets all other criteria required to apply for, and receive a DUNS Number, allowing the PSBW to become its own (funding) Fiduciary. A physical address would also save the annual cost of a P.O. Box. Of appr. \$ 70.00.

New Member orientation was a topic that had been previously suggested. **Riley** reviewed the history of the AOC program, and specifically the program as it pertains to the Saginaw River/Bay AOC. He then spoke about Delisting Guidance(s) and documents available to aid this process. Finally, he spoke about the role of the AOC Coordinator. In subsequent discussion there were a number of points made by other persons:

- Orientation (educational outreach) should continue as long as necessary or indefinitely;
- AOC delisting goals are NOT meant to return to Pre-Settlement conditions, but rather to become more normalized with other non-AOC communities;
- The PSBW 2000 document "*Measures of Success*" modified thinking as what was 'good enough', and likely had an impact on MDEQ Delisting Guidance(s) issued in 2006;
- One weakness of the current AOC program, is that once a BUI is removed, or an AOC delisted, there is no mechanism to relist, should a new problem be recognized. In fact, there really is no mechanism consider new problems such as a new contaminant or pollutant;
- Post-AOC monitoring programs are flexible, and delisted AOC's may still be eligible for GLRI funding, for cleanup or restoration programs. Just NOT those funds ear-marked for AOC programs.

There was very extensive discussion regarding the Beach Closing(s) BUI, and whether this BUI should be linked or 'tie-barred' with persistent muck problems. Traditionally, occasional muck problems have NOT been considered as criteria contributing to Beach Closings, because the technology has not been used to consider a presence of pathogens in muck. Excessive *E-coli* has always been the measure used by MDHHS to consider closing a swimming beach, or restricting a water body for recreational use. However, *E-coli* does not thrive in muck, and sediment samples are not taken to determine Beach Closings. Also, *E-coli* is only an indicator of the possible presence of other much more harmful pathogenic bacteria, that can and do thrive in muck. So the discussion continued that perhaps the PSBW should develop its own BUI removal criteria, and as a continuation of discussions in previous meetings, a Task Force specifically appointed to study the Beach Closing(s) BUI needs to be established. **C/Wright** called for volunteers to serve on such a committee or Task Force, and the following persons responded: **Zygmunt Dworzecki, Pete Frauson, Laura Ogar, Glenn Rowley, Bill Wright** and **Dennis Zimmerman** from the Board of Directors of PSBW; **JoEllen Strieter** – PSBW Staff; **John Riley** – MDEQ-OGL; **Taylor Hollis** – Saginaw Chippewa Tribe; and **Joel Strasz** – Bay County Health Dept. It is hoped that other volunteers and technical consultants will be added later.

The first meeting of the Beach Closing(s) BUI Task Force is tentatively set for **Monday, 11 July, 2016 Noon to 2:00 p.m. at the Bay County Building 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room 515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan.**

Joel Strasz then explained to those present that a local (Bay-wide) study of *Microcystis aeruginosa* (a blue-green algae or "cyanobacteria") will again, take place this year. *Microcystis aeruginosa* blooms are becoming a problem in many areas of the Great Lakes, and especially the West end of Lake Erie, because if the bloom is substantial enough, this algae produces a hepatotoxin known as Microcystin, which is harmful or even fatal to people, pets and other animals. In Lake Erie, *Microcystis a.* blooms can often become clearly visible in photographs from satellites, and can render municipal water intake sites unusable for brief periods of time.

The next Meeting of the Board of Directors of the PSBW will (tentatively) be: **Monday, 12 September, 2016 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bay County Building 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room 515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan.**

C/Wright asked for other Public Comment, and there was none.

Motion to adjourn by Zimmerman.

Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Dennis Zimmerman - PSBW Secretary

Also, please see three additional attachments regarding the upcoming Beach Closings BUI Task Force Meeting