

Meeting Minutes

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Task Group Meeting

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Board Members are:

Kyle Bostwick - Director	Zigmunt Dworzecki - Director	Pete Frauson - Treasurer
Jim Hergot - Director	Steven F. Kahl - Director	David Karpovich – Director
Elan Lipschitz - Director	Laura Ogar -Vice-Chair	Glenn Rowley - Director
Bill Wright – Chair	Dennis Zimmerman - Secretary	

11 July, 2016 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bay County Building - 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room

515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action items:

- *First meeting of the Task Group for Beach Closings/BUI Review. C/Wright* convened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Team Members present included: **Dworzecki, Frauson, Ogar, Hollis, Wright, and Zimmerman.**

Absent were: **Rowley and Strasz**

Also attending were: **John Riley** - MDEQ – OGL, and **Jo Ellen Strieter**, Community Member

A brief slide show was presented by **Ogar** of pictures of the muck in Saginaw Bay and of a muck sucking device. She discussed what the machine was capable of doing and showed pictures of it in action.

Guidance for Delisting Michigan's Great Lakes Area of Concern (attachment 1) was passed out by Wright. It was mentioned by Riley that there has been some updates to the Beach Closings Restoration Criteria in 2015.

On the projector and as a handout Ogar shared Measures of Success: Addressing Environmental Impairments in the Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay – August 2000 (attachment 2). Wright mentioned that the 303D list does not list Saginaw Bay as a whole but does list specific locations in Saginaw Bay.

Discussion followed about a 2006 document. Riley referenced that in meeting minutes of the Partnership of the Saginaw Bay Watershed on May 31, 2006 the Partnership for the Saginaw Watershed unanimously approved the 2006 Delisting Criteria.

Discussion continued on Measures of Success document, **Wright** stated this format would not have worked for the State of Michigan. The State gives Local Area lots of room to adopt criteria that works for them. **Riley** – The State of Michigan disagrees, about non-point causes as a restoration criterion for this BUI, because all Michigan beaches may be impacted by non-point source pollution.. **Wright** - Where do you draw the line between a point and non-point source? **Riley** – 1988 RAP Document – not consistent with today. The 1995 document is more consistent with today(attachment 3) **Ogar** – 303D list does not fit for us. **Wright** – we will come

up with criteria for delisting. Just because it is delisted does not mean our job is done. Discussion continues about Beach Closings – Saginaw Bay/River Vision for Success. At what “Quality Status” is Saginaw` Bay/River comparable to other bodies of water?

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Ogar – there will always be beach closings. We are not tied to completely stopping beach closings. What we need to do is make a list of things that can cause beach closing. **Ogar** shared a document by Tami Sivy from SVSU about analyzing several samples of north Bay City State Rec Area beach muck (attachment 4) **Riley** mentioned a study that has shown E-coli in beach sand.

Taylor mentioned a study of the Chippewa River that found human DNA. They turned the information into the County. In some areas home wastewater systems were connected right to storm drain. Possibly those homes will have to be hooked to sewer.

Next Steps: Identify criteria and plans to address Muck/E-Coli/Beach Closings available information or ongoing research

1. Identify impacted area to target for restoration
2. Identify quantifiable desired conditions for restoration
3. Propose list of actions to achieve targeted conditions, including possible regulations with appropriate set of permits and or maintenance or replacement of existing infrastructure
4. Monitor outcomes and track progress toward attainment of target conditions.

Mentioned by **Zimmerman** – DEQ representatives have had different passions, John is a generalist.

Discussion continued about the need to stop being a one size fits all and deal directly with our area. We may never rid ourselves of the problem, but can we come up with a long term management plan for beach closings?

Long Term Strategy

Ogar asked Riley to look at comparable bodies of water. How many beaches do they have and how often have they closed Riley will look at non AOC Areas such as Green Bay and Thunder Bay.

We need to define end points as stated in Measures of Success.

Next Meeting: August 8th from noon - 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter, Administrative Assistant

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