

## Meeting Minutes

### **Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed** **Beach Closings 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

**8 August, 2016 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Bay County Building - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Personnel Conference Room  
515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan

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#### **Summary of Meeting's Action items:**

- *Second meeting of the Task Group for Beach Closings/BUI Review. C/Wright convened the meeting at 12:25 p.m.*

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

Absent were: **Karpovich, Ogar and Strasz**

Also attending were: **John Riley** - MDEQ – OGL, **Breanna Bukowski** – State of Michigan and **Jo Ellen Strieter**, Administrative Contractor

Updates were made to July 11 minutes. **Zimmerman** made a motion to accept as amended. **Frauson** seconded. All were in favor of accepting amended minutes.

**Wright** suggested that our first steps were to set an agenda and that the identified next steps were a place to start.

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.

Which would include 4 steps for delisting.

1. Location for Beach Closings
2. How good do we want the beaches to be?
3. How and by what do we measure the beaches?
4. Monitor the progress.

Discussion followed about measuring beach for closing. E-Coli is the only criterion for closing beaches. It is the easiest to test for but may not be the best and only contaminant to test for. Group asked about testing for blue green algae and swimmers itch. Discussion continued on E-Coli and its sources, it may not always be sewage, it may be there were a lot of ducks on the beach or something else that may have caused a positive test for E-Coli.

Can we link muck with Beach Closings? If it is not pleasing to the eye and odorous should the beach be closed?

**Wright** can we use the Bay City State Recreation Area as our poster child? Discussion followed on if the Recreation Area is closed, then we probably have other problems on other beaches, maybe not so in the thumb. **Frauson** has visited the Recreation Area the last three Wednesdays and reported that week one no muck, week two a little muck and by the third week the thick muck had returned. **Rowley** mentioned that 4 days of northeast wind could contribute to the thick muck returning.

When setting the next Beach Task Group meeting check for dates that Strasz and Karpovich/Sivy can attend. They could possibly provide further information for the above discussion about other reasons to close beaches.

**Riley** provided us with the information about Green Bay compared to Saginaw Bay when it comes to beach closings. He spoke with Megan O'Shea his counterpart for Green Bay. Green Bay is known for high levels of Algae Chlorophyll but they do not get muck. They do occasionally close for E-Coli. They do not have many designated beaches. They do have toxic algae and bacteria but no muck.

**Frauson** mentioned that Traverse City – Acme has had beach closings and that they have had muck. Elk Rapids beach and beaches by the Boardman River have closed this year.

Discussion continued about who would or can close beaches for reasons other than E-Coli. Group in attendance did not know who. Beach closing BUI is all about E-Coli and aesthetics may be where muck falls.

**Wright** our next meeting agenda items:

1. Is measuring E-Coli enough?
2. Do we need to look at other pathogens; do we need to look at muck?
3. Is it fixable?

**Next Meeting: We will Doodle to see the best date.**

1:30 meeting was adjourned by **Zimmerman, seconded by Dworzecki**

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter, Administrative Contractor