

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 *Zygmunt 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

13 September, 2016 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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

Summary of Meeting’s Action items:

- *Third meeting of the Task Group for Beach Closings/BUI Review. C/Wright* convened the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Team Members present included: *Frauson, Karpovich, Hollis, Rowley, Strasz, Ogar, Wright,* and *Zimmerman*.

Absent were: *Hintzen, Sivy* and *Dworzecki*. **DEQ** was not present.

Also attending were: *Michael Duranczyk, Bay County Commissioner, and Jo Ellen Strieter,* Administrative Contractor.

Zimmerman made a motion to approve minutes. **Rowley** seconded. All were in favor of accepting minutes.

Old Business – **Wright** opened discussion with Is measuring E-Coli enough? Do we need to look at muck? Member’s comments below:

Strasz mentioned other conditions that are associated with Saginaw Bay including gastrointestinal illness contracted in deeper water.

Wright asked if there are other beaches we should be testing other than the Bay City State Recreation Area? Is the sand showing the E-Coli and, if it is then could it be not so much a sanitation overflow problem? The consensus from the group was that measuring E-Coli is plenty.

Ogar mentioned the possibility of beach grooming in assisting in the elimination of bacteria by exposing bacteria to sunlight, etc.

Karpovich discussed taking samples of beach dry sand that has recently had wave action. They are looking at the possibility of the samples being affected by a nearby river. He would be interested in testing areas that have been recently groomed to see if it has any effect on samples. Rivers and beaches are two different things. Samples from rivers could be contaminated by an outside source. For example they could be affected by farms. It was mentioned if the contamination came from dairy farms it would have evidence of bovine. E-Coli

Hypothesis – if it is there it got there some way. If you shut off all sources it would be sometime for e-coli to go away unless it is in the sand.

Strasz - We do not know when drains are discharging – is there a schedule? Is there value in testing the drains?

Ogar – Our job is to eliminate those sources and to stop beach closing if we can. We have done that with SSO's and CSO's. Other sources Identified in the RAP are drains; and septic system failures – Secondary sources include manure-stock piles; land spreading of sewage solids on agricultural fields; and birds on the beach. Have we thoroughly considered these sources? Could beach grooming become a best practice?

Frauson mentioned that he walks the beach weekly and that some weeks there is more muck than others. Do we have a potential for beach closing because of muck. Should there be criteria other than e-coli for closing beaches. Concerned that there is no means for washing off muck with no bathrooms on or near the Bay City State Recreation Area beach.

Wright - When we say we are going to delist – Beach Closings will still occur occasionally but we will have solved the problem(s) that set us apart from other non-AOC sites.

Zimmerman -We will never get rid of e-coli totally. Removal of BUI does not mean our work is done. He suggested we look at getting a grant to give to SVSU to set up an algorithm. The work of protecting the public will never be eliminated.

Ogar - The state adopted these criteria. This is not a good standard. We established a standard in Measures of Success. We should be using the RAP 2001 Document. She recommended we do an inventory of sources around inner Saginaw Bay. Are there improvements that can be made that we can move forward and delist? We have done all we can based on standards that are in place today. Each public advisory council can set up their own standards for removal of a BUI.

Karpovich stated that BUI listing indicates it is worse than average. Can we come up with an objective? We cannot identify all sources.

Ogar – We should look at it generally, have a plan in place. Have a plan of corrective action.

Strasz – A solution could be better understanding of how beach closings occur.

Frauson - We are here to look at beach closings – look at other sources after CSO and SSO such as manure and geese. What can we control?

Items for discussion – What has been the history of beach closings? Can we explore categories of possible sources? How are those types of sources regulated? **Zimmerman** will get Muskegon beach closing criteria. How do we decide what is a beach?

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

Adjourn – 12:10 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter, Administrative Contractor