

Approved Minutes

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Kyle Bostwick – Director

Jim Hergot– Director

Elan Lipschitz – Director

JoEllenStrieter- Admin. Contr.

ZygmuntDworzecki– Director

Taylor Hollis– Director

Laura Ogar– Vice-Chair

Bill Wright - Chair

Pete Frauson – Treasurer

David Karpovich– Director

Glenn Rowley – Director

Dennis Zimmerman – Secretary

03 October, 2016 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. - Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Bay County Building -7th Floor Conference Room

515 Center Street Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action Items:

- Submission of 06 June, 2016 and 13 September, 2016 Minutes
 - Treasurer's Update
 - SPAC Update
 - AOC Coordinator Update
 - Appointment of Taylor Hollis to Board
 - Great Lakes Restoration Event
 - Beach Closing BUI Task Force Update
 - Next Meeting Date November 7, 2016
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C/Wright convened the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

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

Call in :**Hergot**and **Lipschitz**

Also present were: **Warren Smith**, Partnership Member, **T. Kevin O'Donnell** – EPA

JoEllenStrieter– Administrative Contractor

Motion by Zimmermanto approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 13 September, 2016.

Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.

Motion by Dworzecki to approve the minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of 06 June, 2016.

Motion seconded by Frauson. Motion Carried without dissent.

Treasurer Report – Given by **Frauson**\$8,281.83 + dues of \$50.00 = \$8,331.83. We received the PAC Grant for \$25,000.00. **Motion by Zimmerman** to approve treasurer's report.

Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.

SPAC Report – Zimmerman - Next meeting will be in November.

Riley – unavailable for several weeks due to health and recuperating. We will send him copies of everything.

Ogar – In regards to SPAC she encouraged all members to attend, it is an interesting meeting.

Zimmerman – mentioned that it starts at noon on the first day and is out by noon on the second day.

Old Business- Board members who met in September (but were just shy of a quorum) recommended that **Taylor Hollis** should be replacing **Steve Kahl** on the Board of Directors.

Motion by Zimmerman to approve appointment of **Taylor**. **Motion seconded by Ogar**.

Motion Carried without dissent. All are pleased to have Taylor on the board.

Wright – Great Lakes Restoration Event. **Wright** and **Strieter** will be attending. We provided information on Maankiki Marsh Restoration and Frankenmuth Dam Fish Passage. **Ogar** – mentioned the need for a portable tabletop display that is ready to go for these types of events.

Ogar – stated that there are recorded use restrictions on the Bay City State Recreation Area beach that were only recently discovered while working to improve public access to the shoreline. Apparently when DNR went to secure a permit to groom the northern 600 feet of beach back in 2002 time period, the Army Corp. of Engineers included a permit condition that required DNR to record a restriction over the beachfront at the Day Use area that prohibits any disturbance to the soils or vegetation in the Preserved Area in perpetuity. And further when DNR went to enlarge the northern beach grooming by another 600 feet, the Army Corps of Engineers inserted a permit condition that stipulating that DNR agree to never allow a Recreational beachfront in front of the entire (2,300 feet) Day Use portion of the State Recreational Area. Bay County, the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Foundation is hoping to have the Governor direct DNR to request a reevaluation of the permit by the Corp. of Engineers. This is a primary need in this area to see these restrictions lifted. **Lipschitz** – will changing that shoreline restriction affect our Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI removal from a couple of years ago?

Ogar – the wetlands they created will still be there, the restriction just effects land use on the dry sand beachfront. The restrictions impact use and even walkability on the beach because walking disturbs soils, there is over 3,000 feet preserved that is not to be disturbed in any way, no kayak launching, no recreational features. Muck removal can't occur, no beach launching of sailboards, paddle boards, etc. We must remember in 1970 that area was a swimming beach. Now it is restricted as if it was a DNR Wildlife Area or Refuge, but it is in the middle of a State Recreation Area in an urbanized area. **Zimmerman** – would support a request for a change.

Ogar - we have a shortage of public recreational shoreline access, would like to see the restriction lifted. We are an AOC, but our water quality has improved. We shouldn't force people away from the shoreline in a public recreation area that was set aside, established to give the public access to the bay.

Beach Closing BUI Update: **Wright** – We were fortunate to have Kevin O'Donnell, from the EPA and Kevin Goodwin, from the MDEQ as guests at our meeting today. Every two years the DEQ submits an assessment of impaired waters. The DEQ has chosen to use the Section 303(d) List portion of that report to identify whether the Beach Closings Beneficial Use

Impairment can be removed in an AOC. We had some fruitful discussion on bridging those two parallels. We are working to develop a set of restoration criteria. We hope this would be accepted by the State and the Federal agencies. **Zimmerman** – There is a portion of the population that believes that even one beach closing is too much. That sets the bar too high for AOC's. We should also look at the economics of restoring AOC's. There was an estimate that spending \$20 Billion would net \$60 billion in benefits to recreation and tourism plus shipping etc.,. If we remove BUI's there would be positive economic results. **Ogar** – our outreach to the community can't start soon enough. We are doing assessments and looking at delisting. We can celebrate BUI removal as a huge accomplishment. We need to share these accomplishments with the community. Along with BUI funding what about public relations funding? **O'Donnell** – there has been funding for similar projects. **Wright** – there is money that can be used to promote sustainability in this region. **Zimmerman** – will scan and send supporting documentation for some grant sources. **O'Donnell** - will look at PAC grant to see how funding is set. **Dworzecki** – we should look into getting tied in with MI Green or Pure Michigan Website to get more recognition. **O'Donnell** – mentioned a couple of grants – Urban Waters and EPA partnering with transportation and HUD. **Ogar** – has applied for Urban Waters Grants for education of community about CSO's being replaced by RTB's in the Saginaw River. She mentioned we can spend millions of dollars on restoration but if the community is not informed about the improvements, if the public doesn't know anything about the changed status, then are we left with much value?. We are interested in seeing what other AOC's do. Discussion focused on Sheboygan Wisconsin – which has advanced restoration on many BUI's. They came to an agreement on a BUI monitoring/staff person for educating AOC residents to let them know the work that has been done. Payoff is being seen 5 years post. The person in place has an army of volunteers. EPA sees value in education and PR of BUI removal. **Frauson** – Take our BUIs, prioritize what we know and need to know. On beach closings, we are developing a game plan. Use that as a learning experience and inform the public of what is going on. **Zimmerman** – mentioned PR on that fact can we swim/eat the fish and water the flowers. It is important to show the community where we are, have been and where we are heading. **Karpovich** – he can provide a video for our website and facebook using a video SVSU has on their website. **Frauson** – from the information that we discussed today Pete will draft a game plan on how we can proceed.

Zimmerman made a motion to adjourn and Ogar seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Ellen Strieter – Administrative Contractor