

**December 2018 Board of Director Minutes**  
**Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed**

*Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Board Members are:*

**Taylor Brook** – Director  
**Jim Hergott**- Director  
**Robin Oeming** – Director  
**Dennis Zimmerman** - Secretary

**Zygmunt Dworzecki** - Director  
**Elan Lipschitz** - Director  
**Glenn Rowley** – Director

**Pete Frauson**- Treasurer  
**Laura Ogar**-Vice-Chair  
**Bill Wright** – Chair

**December 3, 2018 – 10:00 pm to 12:00 pm - Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

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**Summary of Meeting’s Action Items:**

- Submission and acceptance of November 5, 2018 Minutes.
- **Wright** to draft letter to **Riley** on “Working Together”.
- **Seelbach** to contact us about working with students in January
- Declaration of Interest Form - **Zimmerman**
- Add writing grants for funding to summer agendas
- January Agenda item – partnering with other agencies
- **Next Meeting Date, January 7, 2019 from 10:00 – Noon at the Bay County Building 515 Center Avenue in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Personnel Conference Room. Eutrophication Task Group - Education and Outreach Sub-committee to meet prior to this meeting at 9 am at same location. Restoration/Delisting Sub-committee to meet after this meeting at 12 pm at the same location.**

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**Wright** convened the meeting at 10:03 a.m.

Board Members present included: **Brook, Dworzecki, Frauson, Hergott, Rowley, Wright and Zimmerman.** Also, present were: **Warren Smith, Paul Seelbach** – U of M and **Jo Ellen Strieter**– Administrative Contractor

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Synopsis of discussion with our speaker **Paul Seelbach** with the U of M Environment and Sustainability Division - formerly School of Natural Resources. Paul is a fish and environmental biologist.

Paul spoke on Michigan’s long-term AOC’s, of which we are one. Paul thanked us for interacting with his students last year and explained that students Allison, Ben, Colin and Juliana visited all PAC’s and AOC’s to answer the question from the Office of Great Lakes “What can the State Office do better”? The students had the ear of the State Office and the Federal Government. Paul’s thinking is it is not just a class but an opportunity to do something. His notion is to reframe and together with the AOC come up with some action steps to move forward. He is working on finding another group of graduate students who would like to work with the 5 long-term AOC’s. The question he is proposing is “How can we move forward”? What do AOC’s do, as they are faced with these long-term goals?

**Action Item: Seelbach’s** question to us: Are we willing to work with the class twice? **Dworzecki** mentioned having the students in early, so that information could be justified or modified as seen fit. Paul will always be there for the change of levels. Science and natural resources will be working with the stakeholders along the way and just not toward the end. The new popular method is to be engaged through the whole process and not just at the end.

**Zimmerman** added that at the last SPAC meeting Hobrla asked if everyone was getting tired of the students and no one was. The results of the last class should be out in April. The 4 students got to go to the Sheboygan AOC Conference.

Paul – will contact us, there will be a time in January, for the students to get to know us. Then they will come back.

**Wright** handed out a chart showing Michigan Areas of Concern Beneficial Use Impairment Progress.

**Frauson** – which body of water impacts the most amount of people and which is the largest body of water? We do not want Saginaw Bay to become the next Lake Erie. These problems took 150 years to make and they will not be corrected overnight. One student referred to us as the high hanging fruit.

Thank you to Paul for presenting.

**Motion by Hergott** to approve the minutes of our Regular Board Meeting from October 2018. **Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion carried without dissent.**

#### **Administrative Matters:**

**Treasurer's Report** submitted by **Frauson**, Last month's report is still good for this month. We received the \$7,000 April through June reimbursement and a notification that the July-September should be coming this week. **Motion by Zimmerman** to accept the treasurer's report. **Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Motion carried without dissent.**

**SPAC Report** – Meeting was held last week Tuesday through Thursday. Last year they started the election process. Bohling – Chair re-elect. Nominated McCarthy to be Vice Chair and then she left her position and resigned at Vice Chair. Horst is now Vice Chair. PAC Grants: end of Cycle is March 1, may be expanded to July 1. Dennis stated that Hobrla mentioned that AOC's could ask for 25% - 50% more. Amy from EPA mentioned the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative action plan, lot of comments from agencies, they would like half of the BUI's gone. Michigan has the biggest bucket, if they have an AOC that is close to de-listing, they would get prioritization as to who received money.

#### **Upcoming 2019 meetings potential dates:**

--AOC Conference September 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

--March 5<sup>th</sup> Great Lakes Symposium

--Feb or April Legislative briefing

--Summer SPAC meeting to be hosted by either Torch Lake AOC, which could be in Houghton or Lower Menominee River AOC, which could be in Milwaukee

--Fall meeting will be held at River Raisin AOC.

**AOC Coordinator Report** – **Riley** not present – **Frauson** mentioned it is 6 hours out of his day to attend our meeting. To make conference calls more effective **Frauson** brought in cord to move conference phone to center of table. Things we can do: Let Riley know ahead of time specific input we may need from him at each meeting and if he can't attend maybe he could step out of his conflict meeting and address what we need via conference call. Send him a communication that we would like to hear from him every month or on the conference call with us. If we get stumped during a meeting, have one person send him a communication asking for clarification and ask him questions that come up during the meeting. That creates a paper trail, but it also extends the time it takes to get solutions to our questions.

**Action Item:** **Wright** will draft of a letter to be circulated to the board before sending. **Zimmerman** was asked if the SPAC Meeting had a discussion on Roles and Responsibilities of the AOC Coordinator at their last

meeting. At the SPAC meeting Hobrba stated that Roles and Responsibilities are not a SPAC concern, that OGL writes the Roles and Responsibilities of the AOC Coordinator.

**Eutrophication Education** - We are continuing to package our information to deduce the input of phosphorus to Saginaw Bay. We are targeting farmers, homeowners and bay front property owners to educate them on the importance of reducing pollutants to the bay.

**Beach Closing – Frauson** the Source Tracking testing is everything we could have wanted and more. The coordination with Health Departments, they went farther than what we could have hoped for. The testing is being done around the entire bay. It is going to give good data and lead us to having a cleaner Bay. The amount of human sewage going into the bay is going to be greatly reduced. We have asked about phosphorus testing as well.

**Eutrophication Restoration/Delisting** – We are looking at what other AOC's have been able to delist.

**Action Item- Declaration of Interest Form – Motion by Hergott** that we don't need a Declaration of Interest form. **Motion seconded by Dworzecki. Discussion Points –**

-if there is no conflict why not sign it. It is a piece of paper that states these are the other things that I have interest in, full declaration.

-Could just be case by case.

-It is a public record, it protects us, it is clear and open.

-Each new elected board member would need to fill one out declare their interest and update as it changes

**Motion was voted down.**

**Motion by Hergott** to accept further development of a form. **Motion seconded by Zimmerman.**

**Zimmerman** will draft a document. **Motion carried without dissent.**

**Action Item - New Business Hergott** – he can assist in grant writing, there are lots of grants out there. We should add to our summer agenda looking at other grants, new. Jim will to work on this. He would like to do more to assist this group. **Brook** will assist as well.

**Zimmerman** – Karpovich and SVSU will host the Saginaw Bay Nutrients Technical Workshop on conference on December 18. This complements last year's State of the Bay Conference.

**Action Item - Dworzecki** – Team up on a project with Saginaw Bay Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMAs) on Saginaw Bay species, it would boost both organizations as co-partnership. Put as an agenda item in January. It would be nice for us to identify other organizations, etc., There was a matrix of proposed studies and actions to address Beneficial Use Impairments in earlier versions of the Saginaw Bay AOC Remedial Action Plan (RAP) We thought one was in the works for the next RAP updates according to **Wright**. There may be some value in developing a new matrix.

**Motion by Zimmerman** to adjourn the meeting at 12:02 pm, **seconded by Rowley.**

Respectfully Submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter – Administrative Contractor

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