

**Approved Minutes
Board of Director Minutes**

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Board Members are:

Zygmunt Dworzecki - Director

Taylor Hollis – Director

Laura Ogar-Vice-Chair

Dennis Zimmerman - Secretary

Pete Frauson- Treasurer

David Karpovich– Director

Glenn Rowley – Director

Jim Hergott- Director

Elan Lipschitz - Director

Bill Wright – Chair

May 1, 2017 - 1 pm to 3:00 pm - Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Bay County Building -3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room

515 Center Avenue Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action Items:

- Submission and acceptance of April 2017 Minutes
 - Treasurer's Update
 - SPAC Update
 - AOC Coordinator Update
 - Beach Closing BUI Task Force Update
 - Prioritization & Planning Document
 - Beachguard
 - Watershed Activities
 - Next Meeting Date June 5, 2017
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Chair/Wright convened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

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

On Conference Line: **Hergott** and **Lipschitz**

Also present were: **Warren Smith** – Member and **Jo Ellen Strieter**– Administrative Contractor

Motion by Dworzecki to approve the minutes of our Regular Board Meeting held April 4, 2017. **Motion seconded Zimmerman. Motion Carried without dissent.**

Administrative Matters:-

Frauson gave the treasurer's report including a balance of \$1,129.15 and a check that was just received from the County for the DEQ reimbursement of \$2,680.00. **Motion by Zimmerman** to accept the treasurer's report as given. **Motion seconded Dworzecki. Motion Carried without dissent.**

Zimmerman gave the SPAC report with an update on the June 2nd Legislative Briefing being cancelled with a tentative date for July.

No AOC report was given.

Beach Closing BUI Task Force Update: We are close to adopting a Beach Closing Standard for Saginaw Bay & DEQ Standard for the Saginaw River. We are close to naming a performance based standard. When the task force set out to define such a performance based standard, things become more complex. The criterion would be something like, "If all the beaches are open for at least 90 percent of the swimming season, the BUI could be removed.

However, there's the question of how long is the season. Michigan's Water Quality Standard for Total Body Contact notes the period from May 1 through October 31, six months or 184 days. That would allow up to 18 days of closure for a beach to meet the criterion. However, it was noted that local Health Departments generally test beaches during a season resembling the "Memorial Day to Labor Day" definition of summer, perhaps 100 days. That's when beaches are most likely to be busy. It was suggested that the standard should be no more than 10 percent of the time between the first and last samples of the season. Sampling dates are noted in Beach Guard, so it should be possible to calculate this for each beach.

However, that raises the question of how frequently beaches are monitored. Bay County tests its beaches three times a week, but other communities may test only weekly. If a sample is high enough to close a beach, it can't be re-opened until the next acceptable finding is recorded. For weekly sampling, that would be 7 days of closure, a rather large chunk of the swimming season. The 10 percent standard might allow only one closure of such length per season. Task force members noted, however, that beaches are generally tested based on local perceptions of a need to do so. Thus, less frequent sampling may reflect better conditions and still may permit achievement of the criterion.

One alternative that was offered would be to use a standard that requires 90 percent or more of the samples collected throughout Saginaw Bay's beaches during a season to be within the Full Body Contact standards, rather than measuring days closed for each beach. Task force members, particularly **Frauson**, will review Beach Guard data to determine how such standards would apply to information from recent years.

Prioritization & Planning Document: Frauson – with decreased funding we may not be able to count on the DEQ so we need tell our story to warrant community support. Another BUI, Eutrophication looks like a good next BUI delisting direction to head in. We do not have a guideline from the DEQ yet. DEQ has mentioned that the Bay is different from any other AOC area. There was discussion about sending a study group

here to work on that with us as the public advisory group. It is our responsibility to start looking into this issue. In addition, what more can we be doing about beach closings? We will look at each BUI at next meeting. There is a lot we can look at yet.

Beachguard: Frauson – Will send a list around. We will look at the testing results for Port Crescent to Tawas Point.

Watershed Activities – we received no new Watershed activities updates from our partners prior to this meeting.

PAC Grant Application – We have reapplied and sent a new collection of materials to the DEQ for approval. We are requesting \$15,000. Regarding Beach Closings we were anticipating additional testing funding, the DEQ was not inclined to fund us on the Beach Closing BUI.

Other information – We are reactivating our DUNS# so that we can work directly with the DEQ on funding and do not have to go through Bay County as the fiduciary.

Zimmerman – GLRI may get refunded. Only \$105,000,000 goes to the AOC Program. Some AOC's have delisted. There is a good possibility that Michigan might get 25% more funding.

Motion by Dworzecki to have the officers execute the 2017-18 contract with the DEQ. **Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.**

Meeting was adjourned at 3 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Ellen Strieter – Administrative Contractor

"Financial assistance for this project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Areas of Concern Program, Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality, and by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency."

