

Meeting Notes

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed **Beach Closings Task Group Meeting**

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay Watershed Board Members are:

Zygmunt Dworzecki – Director

Pete Frauson- Treasurer

Jim Hergott- Director

Taylor Hollis – Director

David Karpovich– Director

Elan Lipschitz - Director

Laura Ogar-Vice-Chair

Glenn Rowley – Director

Bill Wright – Chair

Dennis Zimmerman - Secretary

July 10, 2017 10 am to 12 pm

Bay County Building - 3rd Floor Personnel Conference Room

515 Center Avenue Bay City, Michigan

Summary of Meeting's Action items:

- 13th meeting of the Task Group for Beach Closings/BUI Review. Chair/**Wright** convened the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Group Members **present included:** **Dworzecki, Frauson, Hollis, Ogar, Rowley, Sivy, Wright and Zimmerman.**

Also attending were: **John Riley** – DEQ, **Mike Duranczyk** – County Commissioner, **Kayla McClure** and intern with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and **Jo Ellen Strieter** - Administrative Contractor.

Motion by Zimmerman to approve amended meeting notes with correction on spelling of Dworzecki and removal of approximate price on samples. **Motion seconded by Rowley.**
Motion carried without dissent.

Per **Wright** we will slide past New Business and concentrate on our Old Business of selecting a BUI Removal Criteria for Beach Closings. Everyone has a copy of the Draft BUI Removal Standard Criteria Statement with tracking table. As mentioned at previous meeting we are suggesting that with the Saginaw River we would go with the States Criteria but with Saginaw Bay we would suggest the below BUI Removal Standard Criteria because the Saginaw Bay alone, for the Saginaw Bay has not been put on the MDQ's Integrated Report Impaired Waters List.

95% of the number of samples for E. coli taken at a pre-selected list of Saginaw Bay beaches and reported in the Beach Guard database should not exceed the daily geometric mean full-body contact Water Quality Standard of 300 E. coli per 100 ml. during 3 consecutive years. Further, not more than 1% of the sample results should exceed the partial-body contact water quality standard of 1000 E. coli per 100 ml. per year.

Expanded Restoration Criteria statement for Beach Closings BUI: (DRAFT 6/22/17)

The Saginaw River and Saginaw Bay Area of Concern's (AOC) Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) of Beach Closings due to Bacteria/Pathogens will be considered restored when, for three (3) consecutive years:

- 1) At least 95% of the number of samples for E. coli taken during the seasonal (May 20 to September 10) weekly sampling program at public recreational beaches along the Saginaw Bay between Au Sable Township Park (Iosco County) and Huron County Veterans Park do not exceed the daily geometric mean or daily composite result for full-body contact water quality standard of 300 E. coli per 100 ml.
- 2) Of these same samples for the referenced Saginaw Bay beaches above, no more than 1% of the daily geometric mean or daily composite sample results are greater than 1000 E. coli per 100 ml.
- 3) Each Individual public beach referenced above on the Saginaw Bay meets Water Quality Standards for Recreational Use not less than 90% of the time sampled. Those beaches are (Pt. Au Gres County Park, Pinconning Township Park, South Vets Park, Brissette Beach and Bay City State Recreation Area. Additionally, outer bay area of monitoring: Singing Bridge, Tawas Point State Park, Port Crescent and Sleeper State Park.

And when for the above referenced beaches that have a history of spikes above 1000 E. coli per 100 ml* or have repeated (greater than *[see note on next page – or just any more than 1 per year] of the time during a season) measurements above the full-body contact water quality standard of 300 E. coli per 100 ml:

- 4) Source Control Plans are in place for those previously identified sources or activities (in RAP) contributing pathogenic bacteria;
 - a. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants;
 - b. Failing Septic Systems or otherwise improperly treated wastewater from on-site disposal;
 - c. Animal Manure;
 - d. Land spreading of Sewage Solids;

Source Control/Remediation Plans will, at minimum, identify the local and/or state agency with direct programmatic oversight responsibility of the source or activity; describe the methods of pollution control that guide the source or activity, (permits, registration, etc.), identify the Best Management Practices (BMP's) for these sources or activities, with a reference to any administrative rules or environmental regulations that pertain to the activity, and contact numbers or webpage for public reporting of problems or more information. Source Control Plans should also provide a description of any escalating compliance actions and penalties for non-compliance that may exist in State or local regulations. Representative public recreational beaches for the BUI restoration criteria with repeated SVSU sampling results above 1000 E. coli per 100 m include: Whites Beach, Singing Bridge, (Arenac); Wenona Beach, South Linwood Beach, Brissette Beach Road Beach Access, (Bay); and Bird Creek Park Beach (Huron).

*(90 percent, in this context, would refer to a beach that achieves standards to 90% of the time. The standard for the 1,000 count sample results is "no more than 1%" for all samples collected at any beach. Assumption: that the "dirty half-dozen" beaches, that are identified above, got on the list by having more than 1% of their samples over the limit. If so, that 1% would be the appropriate figure to include in this criterion.]

This criteria statement will be sent out in emails for clarifications/changes to the task group including M. Duranczyk and John Riley and a recommendation will be made to the board for acceptance of the criteria.

Beach Closings Tracking Table – Noted that Natural/waterfowl should be added to Tracking Table as possible sources of bacterial contamination with a recommendation that managers of sites pursue further exploration, if needed if all other possible sources have been eliminated. It was noted by **SIVY** that deer shows up in bovine markers.

Riley – asked if our percentages are high compared to other area? The group feels that Beachguard has shown us to be comparable with these numbers to other areas that are not AOC's.

Our need is to have the Bay County Health Department to share costs and specifics for beach E coli testing and to keep us informed. There is a new draft contract with SVSU and the Bay County Health Department, we would like some input into the contract criteria. **Sivy** will get us pricing for E coli sampling and gave some potential estimates of cost. Riley believes that within these pricing parameters we could potentially get additional DEQ money to assist with sampling. There may be some gaps in sampling and DEQ may be able to assist in filling some of those gaps by monetarily supporting additional sampling. We have a need for all data to be consistent.

Our key message needs to be on public education and we need to start now. We need to Inform the public when the beach is open, which is a majority of the time, is just as important as informing them when it is closed which is a very small minority of the time. We need to research public service announcement vehicles; such as radio, tv, newspapers and social media.

This should be the last meeting of this Beach Closing Task Group supported by the FY2016-17 PAC Support grant. We anticipate the task force will continue its activity in FY2017-18 with continuing support from the next round of PAC Support funding.

Adjourn – 11:30 am moved by **Zimmerman** and supported by **Dworzecki**.

Respectfully submitted, Jo Ellen Strieter, Administrative Contractor

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