



NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS

MEETING MINUTES NIPIGON BAY REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) Public Advisory Committee (PAC)

DECEMBER 9, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
Red Rock Recreation Centre

1. Introductions / Attendance

Jim Bailey, Terry Bouchard, Marilee Chase, David Crawford, Chuck Hutterli, Gordon Mackenzie, Lewis Martin, Gary Nelson, Lisa Nyman, David Petterson, Kal Pristanski, Bruce Pritchard, Edward Wawia

2. Review of Minutes of November 4, 2015

The minutes of November 4th, 2015 were approved.

3. Update on Red Rock Wastewater Treatment Plant Construction

Kal Pristanski, Town of Red Rock

K. Pristanski reported that the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) had been awarded the project management contract for the Red Rock wastewater treatment plant. He also reported that construction tenders were posted November 28 and bids would open December 18, 2015. He mentioned that a site visit had been completed on December 9th with the five engineering firms planning to bid on the project. K. Pristanski noted that the Town is very excited that they will be receiving competitive bids for the project. He said construction was expected to begin in Fall 2016, that everything was on schedule and construction would be completed by spring of 2018. He added that the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change would need to approve various steps throughout the construction process.

L. Martin asked K. Pristanski about extraneous in-flows and infiltration of stormwater to the sanitary system and then into the new plant. He said it was very expensive to treat clean rainwater and that in a very heavy storm event, these additional flows could overwhelm the plant. He passed around a graph which showed the current plant had been overwhelmed in the past. He asked if there was a plan to separate storm and sanitary systems, noting the two items were interdependent. K. Pristanski responded that stormwater separation was part of the treatment plant upgrade project and that indeed the

MOECC had specified separation must be part of the project. He said that engineers would work out the details and that implementation would likely be on a gradual basis. J. Bailey asked about the extent of combined versus separated sanitary and storm sewers in the Town of Red Rock. K. Pristanski replied that the system was currently combined. He said that one of the clear objectives of the treatment plant project would be to upgrade and separate the sewer system. He reiterated that sewer design would be up to the engineers.

4. Update on Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area

Lisa Nyman, Parks Canada

L. Nyman, the new Resource Conservation Manager with Parks Canada, provided an update on resource conservation efforts of the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area (LSNMCA). She explained that Parks Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) are currently working on land transfer for the conservation area. She said that in her position as Resource Conservation Manager she would work to protect not only the natural resources (trees, animals, etc.) but also cultural resources. She said that one of the first tasks is the establishment of a harmonization committee which includes federal and provincial agencies with a vested interest in the area (e.g., MNRF, Ontario Parks, Environment Canada, MOECC). She said the goal is to harmonize various roles such as environmental monitoring. She also mentioned that she would be working on a visitor safety plan with the Coast Guard and Ontario Provincial Police.

B. Pritchard mentioned that after the delisting of the Nipigon Bay AOC, the PAC should work closely with the LSNMCA, as there appear to be a number of synergies. L. Nyman agreed, mentioning that one of her tasks was to ensure shared goals in order to achieve synergies.

L. Nyman was asked about further details of the monitoring plan. She replied that the LSNMCA is working on developing a template, testing it against three other National Marine Conservation Areas. She said the monitoring plan contained an ecological component and would also include monitoring of cultural resources and benefits to communities. She mentioned that the final document would likely be very simple with key indicators highlighted.

A PAC member asked how the LSNMCA would impact property owners. L. Nyman responded by saying that she was not aware of any direct impacts to property owners. She mentioned that if a property owner wanted to create a dock, for example, they would need to follow current regulations, which were outside the mandate of the LSNMCA.

5. PAC Future Direction

Jim Bailey, Remedial Action Plan Coordinator

J. Bailey explained that there had been a great deal of support for an ongoing environmental group for the Nipigon, Red Rock, Lake Helen, Rocky Bay area following

delisting of the Nipigon Bay AOC. He said discussions and meetings with various PAC members had resulted in a draft Terms of Reference for such an organization. He distributed the draft document to PAC members. Meeting participants made the following suggestions and comments:

-Ensure the word “Bay” is included; the area in question is Nipigon Bay and surrounding watershed, not the watershed alone

-B. Pritchard said that government agencies should be invited to participate as “ex-officio” members

-M. Chase clarified that the MNRF Fisheries Zone 6, as mentioned in the draft document, is a public advisory group focused on the inland waters around Nipigon and is not a government agency.

-It was noted that having members of government agencies on the committee might create situations where a conflict of interest could arise. It was suggested that government agency representatives could be invited to meetings, as the committee saw fit, and that their participation could be in a non-voting, advisory role

-Retain objectives regarding climate change mitigation

-B. Pritchard encouraged broad participation from youth, First Nations, commercial fishing interests, forestry, natural resource extraction and industry

-M. Chase stated that the new Terms of Reference for the environmental organization serve in “assisting in transforming the Nipigon Bay Remedial Action Plan into an ongoing environmental organization after delisting of Nipigon Bay”

-M. Chase suggested the new organization ensure it is not duplicating the efforts of other groups, such as the Nipigon Watershed Advisory Committee (NWAC)

-Both L. Nyman and M. Chase said that the group would need to be incorporated to apply for and receive funds from most sources. M. Chase said that the only alternative in this regard was to have funds flow through a partner organization

-A suggestion was made that the word “jurisdiction” not be utilized and that although the intent of using this term in the document was to outline geographic area or scope, it could be interpreted as a legal term by some. She pointed out that the new group had no legal jurisdiction on environmental or other matters

B. Pritchard suggested that the names of participating communities be mentioned specifically, namely Nipigon, Red Rock, Lake Helen and Rocky Bay, as these communities would be invited to have representation within the group

-The Terms of Reference and new group itself should focus on Nipigon Bay and the waters flowing into it, essentially Nipigon Bay and its watershed, thereby including Lake Nipigon. A vote was taken with a majority favouring inclusion of Lake Nipigon

-A suggestion was made that a representative of NWAC be invited to participate in the group

ACTION ITEM #1 OF DECEMBER 9TH/2015: J. Bailey to invite a member of the Nipigon Water Advisory Committee (NWAC) to present an overview of the organization at the next meeting.

M. Chase suggested that reporting to funders should be included within the Terms of Reference as this was always a requirement of funding agencies.

6. Provision of PAC funds by past PAC chair Dave Nuttal

Jim Bailey

J. Bailey noted that he had visited the bank with former PAC chair Dave Nuttal to withdraw any remaining PAC funds. He said this action had been taken at the request of B. Brill as she had pointed out that banking fees were exorbitant and were draining the account. A money order in the amount of \$529.10 was given to D. Crawford who said he would keep the money for use by the new Nipigon area environmental group.

7. Other Business

T. Bouchard and E. Wawia brought up concerns relating to the transport of plastic pellets, particularly a train wreck spilling plastic beads into Nipigon Bay several years earlier. They said they felt this issue had not been adequately addressed. They suggested this issue be a topic for a future meeting and that a representative of the relevant provincial agency be invited to attend.

8. Next Meeting

February, 2015.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.