



NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR  
**REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS**

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

**December 1<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.**  
*Health Sciences North Building (HS), Rm. 1029*  
*Lakehead University – 955 Oliver Rd., Thunder Bay, ON*

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**ATTENDANCE**

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<b>Jim Bailey</b>	Lakehead University – RAP Office
<b>Reg Nelson</b>	Lakehead University - Geospatial Data Centre
<b>Ezekiel McLeod</b>	Lakehead University - Student
<b>Jean Hall-Armstrong*</b>	Thunder Bay Field Naturalists
<b>Frank Edgson</b>	North Shore Steelhead Association
<b>Mark Serediak</b>	Thunder Bay Public Advisory Committee
<b>Tara George</b>	Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change
<b>Troy Sampson</b>	Thunder Bay District Health Unit
<b>Janice Horgos</b>	Thunder Bay Council of Canadians
<b>Bruce Pritchard</b>	Thunder Bay Public Advisory Committee

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*\*Co-Chair*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2015**

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The minutes of May 6<sup>th</sup> were approved.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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#### Presentation of Most Recent “Beach Advisories” Water Quality Data

T. Sampson of the Thunder Bay District Health Unit provided the latest data regarding Thunder Bay beach advisories. He began by noting that the Ontario Beach Management Protocol, provided by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, dictated to the local health unit the requirements for beaches to be classified as “public.” He said that only beaches officially designated as public required water quality monitoring. He said the protocol had been changed a number of times over the past few years, thereby removing the requirement for water quality sampling at certain beaches and subsequently reinstating this requirement for some beaches. He noted that for Chippewa Main Beach, sampling had been continued without interruption, despite it having been temporarily removed from the list of public beaches.

After providing an overview of Ministry of Health protocol respecting beaches, T. Sampson provided more detailed water quality information. He said that Chippewa Main Beach had been permanently posted in 2013 with the result that it no longer met the Ministry of Health definition of a public beach. He pointed out that this meant the Health Unit was no longer required to carry out sampling there but had continued to do so anyway during the summer of 2014. He said there were many water quality exceedences in 2014.

T. Sampson continued to communicate more recent information about Chippewa Main Beach. He said that in 2015, the City of Thunder Bay had purchased a mechanical raking device for bird droppings which had been put to use at Chippewa Main Beach. He said that based on one summer of use of this device, it would be difficult to draw a direct correlation between its use and improved water quality. He said water quality had improved however and that there had been only one advisory during the entire summer at Chippewa Main Beach.

T. Sampson also provided an overview of water quality for the public beaches at Boulevard Lake. He said that in 2013, Sunnyside Beach had been posted throughout the entire month of July and that in total, the beach had been posted for 49 of 67 days of the swimming season. He said that in 2015, the main beach at Boulevard had been posted for 19 days.

T. Sampson then went on to reiterate information provided by the City of Thunder Bay. He said that improved water quality at Boulevard Lake and Chippewa were key objectives in new city official plans for both these parks and that the city would only take steps to improve water quality once these plans were completed.

## Presentation of Thunder Bay Area of Concern Mapping Tool

R. Nelson of the Lakehead University Geography Department Geospatial Data Centre provided an overview of a new online mapping tool posted on [www.infosuperior.com](http://www.infosuperior.com). He said the new tool was accessible by clicking the “Maps” tab on Infosuperior and that the new tool was the first item listed, near the top of the page.

R. Nelson said the tool allowed viewers to “zoom-in” on any Remedial Action Plan project in Thunder Bay Harbour and that along with an excellent aerial view of each site, written descriptions of each project were provided outlining the original environmental impairment, the objectives of the remedial project, funding partners, project outcomes and links to related photos, videos, scientific and other documents. He explained that most of the sites also came equipped with a “slider”, allowing the viewer to pull aside the current photo layer to show an aerial historical photo of the site before the project was put in place. He pointed out that in some cases, changes were quite significant. R. Nelson showed meeting attendees the Northern Wood remediation site using the mapping tool, demonstrating that a significant portion of the lake had been infilled.

## Overview of the 2015 “Power of Water” Conference

Lakehead University student Z. McLeod provided an overview of a conference he had recently attended in Toronto called the “Power of Water” Conference. He said that many of the conference participants were associated with the waterpower industry and that fish passage issues at water power structures had been a conference agenda item. Z. McLeod provided an overview of techniques utilized to enable fish passage at power structures.

Z. McLeod also said that the impacts of climate change on water power generation had been discussed at the conference and that, as in many other areas of endeavour, interest in climate change was growing. He said waterpower industry representatives pointed to both extreme dry and wet weather cycles in recent years as evidence of changing climate.

## UPDATES

### *Thunder Bay North Harbour*

T. George of the Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change provided an update on the North Harbour project noting that the sediment management options report is still being finalized. She said she hoped further information would be available soon.

**J. Hall-Armstrong asked if the final North Harbour options report, next steps and timeline could be provided to the PAC at their March, 2016 meeting.**

*T. George replied that it would be difficult to agree to a certain date as the North Harbour situation involved several organizations and factors. She said she would make her agency aware of this request.*

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## **OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that an overview of the following items should be provided at a future PAC meeting:

- North Shore Steelhead Association McIntyre River project (near Central Avenue and the golf course)
- the situation with respect to Current River fish passage.

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## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2015.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.