



NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS

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

NOVEMBER 4, 2015 - 7:00 P.M.
Rotary Room - Nipigon Hospital

1. Introductions / Attendance

In attendance:

Jim Bailey, David Crawford, Claudia Dias, Greg Grabas, Chuck Hutterli, Lewis Martin, Michelle McChristie, George Ozburn, Wayne Young, Richard Harvey, Bruce Pritchard, Betty Brill, Kristin Maenpaa

2. Review of Minutes of October 1, 2015

The minutes of October 1st, 2015 were approved.

3. Update Regarding Nipigon Stormwater Management Plan

J. Bailey reported that the stormwater management plan for the Town of Nipigon focusing on Clearwater Creek was nearing completion. He said that the draft plan had been circulated to PAC members earlier and although the formal comment period had now ended, he would be glad to pass on any comments PAC members might have.

R. Harvey said that he was glad the town now had the plan in hand and that it reflected the progressive attitude of council. He said the plan made clear a number of concrete actions which could be carried out to increase the town's ability to properly manage stormwater. He said priorities from this list of options would be acted upon, as funding became available.

There were no further comments on the plan.

4. Current Status of the Nipigon Bay Area of Concern

J. Bailey noted that since the most recent PAC meeting roughly one month earlier, progress had been made on construction of an upgraded wastewater treatment plant for the Town of Red Rock. He said the town had now hired the Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) as project manager for construction and an initial meeting between the Town and OCWA had been held to get the project underway.

J. Bailey reported that an October 15th letter had been sent to the Town of Red Rock informing council that concerns raised about delisting had been met, namely that federal funds had now been received by the town for treatment plant construction and also that an ongoing plan for environmental monitoring of Nipigon Bay had been developed and distributed to councilors. He said he had been informed by Red Rock CAO Kal Pristanski that even though the above concerns had been addressed, the town would still not support delisting and a letter to this affect would be sent to the RAP.

G. Grabas asked L. Martin whether there was recognition that the concerns with delisting first outlined by the town in their letter of June 24th were met. L. Martin said there was. G. Grabas then asked why council still did not support delisting. L. Martin replied that council members had concerns with the existing wastewater treatment plant and also with the former mill site. G. Grabas said that these new concerns had not previously been raised with the RAP. L. Martin said he realized this was the case. He also said councilors would like to know whether the PAC supported delisting prior to council making their decision. R. Harvey said delay with delisting was hurting municipalities. He said it would be useful to all concerned to complete the RAP process so they could move on to other environmental issues, beyond the scope of the RAP. He said lack of delisting was holding back such efforts. He said it was entirely clear that the original list of impairments had been addressed and that additional concerns raised about specific items, like the current Red Rock treatment plant or the mill, could be dealt with by the appropriate agency, just as they were in any other community.

G. Grabas pointed out that a RAP public open house had been held on May 7th in Nipigon where it had been explained that all Beneficial Use Impairments had been addressed. He said the PAC had also reviewed the Delisting Report prior to the open house and no comments had been received to the effect that Nipigon Bay not be delisted. He said the next logical step for Nipigon Bay was delisting and that of course the RAP would like concurrence from the municipalities on this matter. He said he felt the RAP had been fair, direct and honest with Red Rock and only expected the same in return, rather than a “moving set of targets” or an ongoing list of new items which could be raised indefinitely.

W. Young said that since an environmental monitoring plan was now in place, federal and provincial funds had been received by Red Rock for construction of their treatment plant and construction was moving forward on the Red Rock treatment plant, the PAC should vote on whether Nipigon Bay should be delisted. He said he felt this was a very

important vote and that there should be consensus on this matter rather than a simple majority.

A vote was taken, two meeting participants abstained, six PAC member voted in favour of delisting, one PAC member voted against.

5. Future Direction

Draft terms of reference for an ongoing environmental group for the Nipigon area were discussed. Several suggestions for revision were made. J. Bailey said he would incorporate these revisions and also set up a separate meeting for additional input. He said a new draft would be developed for presentation at the next PAC meeting.

ACTION ITEM #1 OF NOVEMBER 4TH/2015: J. Bailey to set up a meeting for discussion of the terms of reference, revise the document and present it at the next PAC meeting.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for December 9th, 2015.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.