



NORTH SHORE OF LAKE SUPERIOR REMEDIAL ACTION PLANS

THUNDER BAY REMEDIAL ACTION PLAN (RAP) Public Advisory Committee (PAC) Annual Meeting

June 6, 2018 – 7 p.m.
Lakehead University
Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC 3004)
Thunder Bay, ON

ATTENDANCE

1. INTRODUCTIONS/ATTENDANCE

F. Egson welcomed everyone and asked all present (listed below) to introduce themselves.

- **Jim Bailey** – Lakehead University (LU) RAP Office
- **Mark Chambers** – Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (online attendance)
- **Frank Edgson** – Thunder Bay PAC Co-chair (meeting chair)
- **Jean Hall-Armstrong** – Thunder Bay PAC Co-chair
- **Tara George** - Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
- **Scott Harris** - Public
- **Chris McEvoy** – LU – Graduate Student
- **Samuel Pegg** – LU – RAP Office
- **Bruce Pritchard** - Public
- **Dave Schnell** – Public
- **Janet Schnell** – Public
- **Mark Serediak** – Public
- **Dawn Talarico** – (MECP)
- **Carl Taylor** – ERCO Worldwide
- **Nathan Wilson** – LU – Graduate Student
- **Michelle Willows** – LU – Graduate Student

2. REVIEW OF MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2018

The minutes of April 4, 2018 were reviewed. No errors or omissions were noted.

3. WILDLIFE SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Jim Bailey, RAP Coordinator

J. Bailey provided an overview of the PAC's Wildlife Sub-Committee activities. He said this committee had been asked to recommend delisting criteria for the following two Beneficial Use Impairments:

- Degradation of Wildlife Populations
- Degradation of Wildlife Habitat.

He said the sub-committee was comprised of the following individuals:

- Nathan Wilson
- Al Harris
- Gerry Heinrichs
- Reg Nelson
- Richard Harvey
- Michelle Willows
- Mark Serediak
- Gary Davies

J. Bailey said the sub-committee had met most recently on May 30th. He said the committee wanted to continue their work over the summer and that they would bring their delisting criteria recommendations to the PAC as a whole at their September 12th meeting. He said that the committee had garnered high attendance rates, been quite active and engaged and hoped for robust input and discussion from both PAC members as a whole and government RAP representatives in September.

J. Bailey related that significant progress had been made towards developing delisting criteria, along with associated supporting rationale. He said the committee's preference was to present recommendations to the full PAC in September meeting, rather than what might be more incomplete recommendations at the present meeting. F. Edgson said he looked forward to the recommendations along with solid input and suggestions from PAC and government agency representatives.

4. NORTH HARBOUR REPORT

April 18th, 2018 Meeting with Transport Canada

J. Bailey reported on the April 18 meeting saying that Transport Canada was a key participant. He said the following individuals and organizations were represented:

- **Tamara Rudge** – Transport Canada
- **Monique Mousseau** – Transport Canada
- **Susan Humphrey** – Environment Canada
- **Jon Gee** – Environment Canada

- **Drew Stajkowski** – MECP
- **Simon Haslam** – MECP
- **Guy Jarvis** – Thunder Bay Port Authority
- **Rob Stewart** – Lakehead University
- **Frank Edgson** – PAC Co-Chair
- **Jean Hall-Armstrong** – PAC Co-Chair
- **Samuel Pegg** – Lakehead University
- **Jim Bailey** – RAP Coordinator, Lakehead University

J. Bailey said meeting outcomes included the following:

- Monique Mousseau: Transport Canada (TC) intends to be an ongoing partner and is looking forward to collaborative solutions
- Sue Humphrey: the landowner is now at the table, “sharing the load” going forward would assist all organizations present
- Jon Gee: Jon Gee (ECCC) considerations bearing upon the land (the former mill property) and the water (the contaminated area in the harbour) need to be combined; a lower cost solution needs to be found
- Drew Stajkowski (MOECC): if synergy is to be developed between land and water, review would almost certainly be required by the Environmental Review Tribunal
- All Present: The City of Thunder Bay needs to be involved, surrounding landowners may also be of assistance (Hedde Marine, Wilderness North)
- Tamara Rudge and Susan Humphrey: A new North Harbour Steering Committee needs to be convened
- All Present: Ongoing communication needs to be carried out with Fort William First Nation and Métis organizations
- All Present: The Steering Committee should include representation from the Thunder Bay PAC
- Representatives of all organizations present agreed to send a representative to a North Harbour steering committee meeting in June, 2018

F. Edgson commented that he was encouraged to have the above organizations represented at the table and to hear the discussion and ideas put forward. He said the meeting was a start and he waited to see whether the actions agreed to above would actually be carried out.

M. Chambers reported that subsequent to the April 18th meeting with Transport Canada, substantial effort had been put towards reconvening a North Harbour steering committee. He said a couple of additional organizations would be invited, namely surrounding landowners and the City of Thunder Bay. He pointed out that TC and ECCC would also be inviting participation of Fort William First Nation and Métis organizations. He said an objective of the committee would be to address information gaps, determine the feasibility of the sediment management options and select a preferred option for cleanup.

M. Chambers said all present on April 18th had expressed interest in having the PAC involved on the steering committee. He asked how the PAC would like to be involved in the North Harbour situation and whether they would like a seat on the North Harbour steering committee. J. Hall-Armstrong said she preferred that the PAC have a direct seat on the North Harbour Steering Committee. C. Taylor, F. Edgson and B. Pritchard also said it was important that the PAC have a direct seat on the North Harbour Steering Committee. M. Chambers said communication inviting PAC participation on North Harbour Steering Committee calls and meetings would be sent to PAC chairs.

M. Chambers said that a NHSC call would be held in June and a face-to-face meeting in September. F. Edgson said he hoped the steering committee would lead to focused North Harbour progress and discussion during 2018.

5. PAC SEDIMENT QUALITY SUB-COMMITTEE

J. Bailey informed the group that a PAC Sediment Quality Sub-Committee could be formed to provide impetus on matters related to sediment conditions across the entire harbour, including the lower Kaministiquia River. He said the sub-committee would *not* be focused only on North Harbour. He said the sub-committee would be dealing with the Degradation of Benthos BUI and that unlike the BUIs being considered by the Wildlife Sub-Committee, the delisting criteria for the Degradation of Benthos BUI had already been finalized, taking into account conditions across the entire harbour. He said he was sure that sub-committee members, like everyone else involved, just wanted to see progress on the benthos BUI. He reported that some committee members wondered if delisting criteria for certain portions of the harbour, for example the lower Kam, had already been met.

C. Taylor, and B. Pritchard asked that their names be added to the Sediment Quality Sub-Committee. PAC members suggested the sub-committee be convened within the next three weeks.

OVERVIEW OF RAP STATUS REPORT

Samuel Pegg, Lakehead University

S. Pegg pointed out that a 2012 Status Report on the Thunder Bay AOC had been prepared by former RAP Coordinator Aaron Nicholson. He said that over 5 years had transpired since that time and that a new iteration of the report was being developed to clarify status of BUIs and progress within the Thunder Bay Remedial Action Plan. He provided a brief overview of how the document would be laid out and that the intent of the document was to provide a concise, accurate accounting of Thunder bay RAP status and intended next steps.

C. Taylor asked if historical or background information about the RAP would be included. Samuel replied that this was something which could be considered. C. Taylor said that historical photographs showing harbour plumes of fine clay and effluent in the harbour were an excellent way of illustrating improved water quality and progress since

that time. B. Pritchard said there were some excellent RAP publications from earlier in the RAP process. He said that at the very least these publications should be surveyed for information they might contribute towards better understanding the RAP. T. George suggested the Infosuperior “story map” about the Thunder Bay AOC was an excellent means of illustrating all of the elements involved in the RAP and was also interactive. S. Pegg replied to this suggestion by saying that a sub-portion of the project, or report, was to provide an accompanying online iteration, in addition to the standard textual report. B. Pritchard suggested that once the report was completed, whether textual, online, or both, it be taken out to the community in the form of presentations. He said that since significant work would have been carried out in developing the report, community outreach would only add to overall value.

DRAFT OUTLINE OF ACTIVITIES THROUGH MARCH 31, 2019

J. Bailey, RAP Coordinator

J Bailey presented a draft outline of PAC meeting topics and activities through March 31st, 2018, as follows:

September 12, 2018	Degradation of Wildlife Populations Degradation of Wildlife Habitat
November 7, 2018	Beach Advisories
January 9, 2018	Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat
March 6, 2019	Annual Meeting, election of co-chairs Review PAC Terms of Reference Overview of Progress/Challenges over the annual cycle Selection of Habitat Projects Report from North Harbour Steering Committee Next Steps

F. Edson said he found it useful to see a schedule laid out in advance, as did D Talarico.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

J. Schnell asked about the status of engagement with Indigenous peoples. J. Bailey replied that to his knowledge, such interaction had been negligible. J. Hall-Armstrong pointed out that there had been repeated invitations but no replies, interest or uptake.

J. Bailey said that simply issuing further invitations would likely do little to rectify this situation and that more needed to be done. He said that in contrast to other AOCs, like Nipigon Bay and Peninsula Harbour, very good relations had developed with First Nations in the area like the Red Rock Indian Band at Lake Helen near Nipigon and the Pic River First Nation near Marathon. He said there had been more interaction with Métis organizations but that further work definitely needed to be carried out.

M. Chambers said he welcomed J. Schnell's comments regarding Indigenous engagement. He said that the RAP would like to increase interaction and engagement with Indigenous peoples and that this would be a major focus during 2018. He said one of the first intended steps was to meet with Fort William First Nation and that work to arrange such a meeting would be happening in the near future. He said a number of BUIs were pending redesignation in the Thunder Bay situation and that the opinion of Indigenous peoples was highly valued in this process.

F. Edgson reported that the City of Thunder Bay had been granted a new Permit to Take Water in the Current River in the area of the dam above Cumberland Street and that the hope was that this would ensure adequate water for fish seeking passage up the river. He said this had been a substantial problem in the past.

8. NEXT MEETING

September 12, 2018

9. ADJOURNMENT

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