

Anchor Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
Ira Township Hall
Thursday, January 31, 2008, 1 pm
MINUTES

Attendees:

Eric Ostling, Huron / Ira	KOJurs, SCCHD	T. Jeschke, Richmond
L. Sucharski, MCPWO	John Jones, Ira Twp	G. Santoro, MCPED
C. Higgins, N. Baltimore	J. McCleary, Chesterfield	M. Kras, Clay Twp
T. Goldenbogen, N. Baltimore	E. Barnwoski, Ira Twp	
P. Jarmolowicz, Algonac	C. Hanby, Project Control/ Algonac	
C. Thurber, Fazalkhan/ New Haven		

I. Introductions and Minutes

a. Steering Committee Minutes 4.11.07, 9.05.07

Approved with correction to 9.5.07 minutes made by T. Goldenbogen and C. Higgins.

b. Evaluation Subcommittee Minutes 4.26.07, 5.10.07

It was generally agreed that subcommittee minutes do not need to be approved.

II. 2008 – 2013 Draft Permit Update

KOJurs said that the last day to submit public comment to the DEQ for the Draft Storm Water Permit is the 31st. She sent a collective letter from the Northeastern Watersheds group and St. Clair County agencies for public record. A similar letter from N. Baltimore, Chesterfield, Ira Twp, Clay Twp, and Algonac Twp was developed and signed during the meeting to submit to the MDEQ on behalf of the Anchor Bay municipal representatives in attendance. The letter supports concerns relayed to the DEQ by a SEMCOG focus group, and designates Russ Beaubien, Spicer Group, and Kristen O. Jurs as representatives of the group's interests at future meetings regarding these concerns. KOJurs, L. Sucharski, and G. Santoro recapped some of the concerns by discussing a DEC 21, 2007 Memo that SEMCOG sent to the DEQ.

III. Watershed Monitoring Activities, Presentation

KOJurs gave a presentation on monitoring activities in the Anchor Bay Watershed. She covered the following topics:

Regional Monitoring: 4 sampling points in 2004,2005: Auvase Creek, Salt River, Marsac Creek and Swan Creek. Summary report suggests a bacteria problem in the Salt River and a nutrient problem at all 4 tributaries sites. J. Jones said they just released the full report.

Bacteria: KOJurs said that she would like to hear information about the TMDLs in Crapeau Creek and the Salt River, and Macomb's bacteria data. Results from the last three years of bacteria monitoring at the SCCHD suggest no significant bacteria problems in the St. Clair County portion of the watershed. She also reported the SCCHD IDEP program has corrected approximately 110 illicit discharges in the last five years.

Nutrients, DO pH, Temp, Metals: KOJurs said that based on discussions with Joe Rathbun, MDEQ, the ABay criteria for TP should be 0.05 and DO should be 5mg/L. J. Rathbun said our current TP standard currently is too large a range and our DO is more appropriate for cold water streams. KOJurs explained that this past summer, Ira DPW staff sampled 4 streams (MC Dredge Cut, Beaubien, Swan and Marsac) for pH, temp and DO and collected samples for TP analysis at the Algonac WWTP. Data indicates that DO, Ph, and temp are all within acceptable levels. The TP results were very high. KOJurs said that she is investigating lab methodology and criteria to ensure these results are reliable and report back to the committee. She suggested deleting the task of monitoring of WWTP compliance when the evaluation plan is revised. Chesterfield and N.

Baltimore plan to do the same type of testing on the Salt and Crapeau Creek next summer. KOJurs said she thinks the MCHD already samples the Salt River for phosphorous but is not sure.

Sediment: KOJurs again suggested deleting monitoring of wastewater effluent as a measure in the current evaluation plan. She reported that there are 14 sites where pebble counts were originally surveyed by committee members in 2004. Out of the 14 sites there were 11 sites in SCC. KOJurs said she was able to perform a cross section and pebble count analysis of 6 of those sites. She indicated that the sedimentation and geomorphology did not seem to change from 2004 results but is still investigating the results. This survey is planned as an activity every 3 years in the evaluation plan which Joe Rathbun, DEQ, which he said was too ambitious a plan. This activity requires intensive field work and is more practical for an area experiencing growth and more like once every five or ten years.

Habitat: KOJurs questioned how realistic the evaluation plan's goals are for improving MDEQ GLEAS No 51 and Road Stream Crossing surveys. She also questioned if the MDEQ would be conducting surveys in the summer of 08. She asked if the land use/land cover analysis is valuable every 5 years as planned. J. Santoro said that it is very valuable and every 5 years is appropriate. KOJurs went over fish sampling data the DNR collected the past two summers on Auvase, Marsac, Swan and Beaubien Creeks and the St. Clair River Flats. This data provides evidence that these small tributaries and our shorelines on Lake St. Clair provide important juvenile foraging and nursery habitats, and estuary and shoal type habitat for less common fish species in the lake. She also reported very little Adopt-A-Stream activities in St. Clair County and said that the Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed just submitted a MiCorps grant application to start a habitat and benthic invertebrate monitoring program similar to the Clinton River Watershed Council that would initially include three ABay sites: MC Dredge Cut Drain, Beaubien Creek, and Swartout Drain.

Hydrology: The current evaluation plan recommends that the hydrologic model be rerun and analyzed for any changes to hydrology in the future.

T. Goldenbogen asked if she could send the presentation to him. KOJurs said she will post it on Anchor Bay section of SCC's storm water website www.stclaircounty.org

KOJurs called for more participation and leadership from Macomb County agencies in the Anchor Bay Watershed group which was led to a heated discussion.

KOJurs suggested reconvening the Evaluation Subcommittee to begin revising the monitoring and evaluation chapter of the watershed plan. The following volunteered to participate: Craig Higgins, John Jones, John McCleary, Eric Barnowski, and Paul Jarmolowicz. KOJurs received annual reports for the evaluation process from Clay Township, New Haven, Chesterfield Twp, and New Baltimore.

IV. Public Education Activities

a. Earth Fair

KOJurs said that St. Clair County's Earth Fair at Goodells Park is scheduled for April 18 and 19th in conjunction with the St. Clair Conservation District's tree sale. She said the event consists of about 30 vendors with hands on activities geared towards educating families about environmental information and products.

b. River Day

KOJurs said she will keep the group informed about a St. Clair County River Day planning meeting that will be scheduled soon by Sheri Faust. This event is traditionally on the 2nd Saturday in June and S. Faust wants it to be all about getting people out on the water.

c. Municipal Training

KOJurs distributed a flier for a Lawn Care workshop that is scheduled for March 10 at SC4 as part of their free college day. She also mentioned a Native plant workshop being held by SEMCOG on February 7th. Pre registration is required. KOJurs encouraged attendance to fulfill employee training requirements of the Storm Water Permit.

V. Web-based Annual Reporting

KOJurs said that in the Northeastern Watershed Group is investigating a web-based annual reporting system with Spicer Group. They hope to streamline the annual reporting process and provide an easier mechanism for evaluation through this website based reporting system. The committee was generally interested and asked her to bring back any information.

VI. Anchor Bay Watershed Plan Update, November 2008

KOJurs said that our watershed plan should be updated every two years and our last update was in 2006. She also said that since our COC expires on April 1, 2008, the revision of the Anchor Bay plan by November 1, 2008 is not stated on the COC. She does not know what plan revision date will be on the new COC. She suggested working on revising the evaluation and monitoring chapter for completion by November 1, 2008. J. Jones agreed that this seemed more feasible.

VII. 2008 Storm Water Goals

a. County Agencies

KOJurs said that one of her main goals is to help the Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed start a monitoring program. She also said that she is tasked with investigating a county policy that would ensure that all new construction includes storm water best management practices as well as a template ordinance for communities on basic storm water standards.

b. Local Communities

Eric Ostling: Get up to speed and contribute to Anchor Bay watershed activities

Troy Jeschke: Improve DPW practices using SEMCOG tools

John Jones: Update their storm water ordinance to incorporate hydrologic study.

Carol Thurber: Increase public education activities in New Haven.

Craig Hanby: Understand the Watershed plan and Algonac SWPPI activities better and assist Algonac with those activities.

T. Goldenbogen: Continue trying to figure out what is causing bacteria problems in Crapeau Creek. He stated that the school water quality education programs have been very successful in N. Baltimore.

Mike Kras: Improve storm water education related to construction activities and the building department. Continue working with county agencies to improve storm water as most of it is owned by the county in Clay.

C. Higgins: Continue working on the new WWTP and sewers and increase participation in the watershed group from staff that is out in the field.

VIII. Next Meeting Dates

The group decided to have bimonthly meetings this year. The next meeting was scheduled for **March 27 at 1pm** at New Baltimore's Municipal Offices.

Anchor Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
City of New Baltimore, 36535 Green Street
Thursday, March 27, 2008, 1 pm
Minutes

Participants

Eric Ostling, Huron / Ira KOJurs, SCCHD M. Kras, Clay Twp
John Jones, Ira Twp C. Higgins, N. Baltimore N. Stone, Chesterfield Twp.
T. Goldenbogen, N.Baltimore C. Hanby, Project Control/ Algonac
C. Thurber, Fazalkhan/ New Haven

I. Introductions and Minutes

- a. 1.08 Minutes. **Motion:** Adopt Minutes, John Jones, KOJurs, Passed unanimous.
- b. Future meeting minutes, facilitation and participation

II. Update of the Anchor Bay Watershed Plan

Input was received from committee representatives on BMP 1 – 28 in document, “2007 Anchor Bay Evaluation Subcommittee”.

KOJurs Summarize BMP information covered during the meeting and set meeting date for the evaluation subcommittee.

Jim Kneebone. Request a presentation/ information from Commissioner Fred Fuller regarding Preservation and Wetland Banking credit programs.

III. Lake St. Clair Monitoring Project, Anchor Bay, Gary White

Evaluation Subcommittee: address the incorporation of MCHD information into the Watershed Progress Report and future evaluation plans.

IV. Web-based Annual Reporting

Committee members generally agreed that there may be long term cost savings and more efficient evaluation and reporting mechanisms in such a system.

KOJurs to invite Russell Beaubien, Spicer Group to the next Anchor Bay Meeting to demonstrate the web based reporting system.

V. Public Education Activities

- a. St. Clair County
 - i. Earth Fair, April 18 (11am-6pm) and April 19 (9am-2pm)
 - ii. Stream Clean, May 17 - Marine City Drain
 - iii. River Day, June 7

Watershed Representatives. Please post Earth Fair, Stream Clean and River Day posters as they are sent from Sheri Faust. Contact S. Faust for more information.

- iv. Stream Leaders potential benthic and habitat monitoring locations

Watershed Representatives. Please think about a potential location for volunteer monitoring efforts. Think of a place that has good access, is on or near public property including county drains, needs to be stabilized or has unusually good habitat.

- b. Macomb County

Clean Boating Program and Marine Assist, Sea Grant certification were mentioned.

- c. Healing Our Waters Coalition (HOW), “Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Tour”

Port Huron will be one of 12 Great Lake ports for the sailboat Earthvoyager to promote the need for federal funding of Great Lakes protection and restoration. (Little did we know but J. Jones was involved in creating the Great Lakes strategy that supports this campaign.) There will be a press conference and reception on July 15th in Port Huron that will be focused on appreciating environmental volunteers and Earthvoyager's summer mission. All watershed representatives will be invited. **Watershed Representatives:** Send KOJurs contact information for an environmental volunteer you would like invited to the reception.

VI. Other Business

- a. Current permit coverage extension - Request by March 31.
- b. 2008 – 2013 Draft Permit Update - No change.
- c. Citizen Planner – Planning For Water Quality, Monday March 31, 6-9:30pm at the St. Clair County Administration Building

VII. Next Meeting Dates and Agenda Suggestions

- a. Every other month, last Thursday of the month.

Watershed Representatives: This year's meeting dates were set as May 29, July 31, September 25, and November 20.

Anchor Bay Evaluation Subcommittee April 30, 2008, Ira Township Minutes and Meeting Follow Up

Attendees:

John Jones, Ira	Marty Barnes, Ira	Eric Barnowski, Ira
Paul Jarmolowisz, Ira	John McCleary, Chesterfield	C. Higgins, N. Baltimore
Kristen O. Jurs, SCCHD		

1) GAMMPS

- **KO. Jurs** to call Conservation District and NRCS
 - Is there a requirement that manure management plans be written on farms a certain distance from the Bay? **NO**
 - Section of Right to Farm that deals with bacteria sources such as horse and cows manure and access.

4) LAGOONS

- **J. Jones** to look up compliance and current list of lagoon and package treatment plants in the watershed

5) PET/ WILDLIFE

- **Communities**
 - How many doggie bag dispensers do you have on park property in the watershed?
 - Are you implementing any measures to control geese?
 - Where are the biggest goose problems in your municipality?

6) LAWN/ GARDEN

- **Communities**
 - Participation in SEMCOG landscaping workshop or the SCC lawn workshop?
 - Projects located in the A Bay Watershed that incorporate native or low water usage plants into landscaping?
 - Any landscaping contracts that contain requirements to use no or low phosphorous fertilizers and other landscaping BMPs?

9) DRAIN MARKERS

- **Communities and MCPWO**
 - Drain marking programs or watershed signage in Anchor Bay?

11) OIL/ GREASE TRAPS

- **Communities**
 - Does each maintenance facility have an oil/water separator from their floor drain(s)?

13) SESC

- **KO Jurs**
 - contact DEQ for SESC audit info

14) STREET SWEEPING

- **Communities**
 - Approximately how often do you sweep any streets or parking lots?

19) LITTER CLEAN UP

- **MCPWO**
 - Any litter clean up activities in Anchor Bay drains?

22) IDEP

- N. Baltimore: cross connects? Gallons/ year reduction?
- N. Haven: cross connects? Gallons/ year reduction?

MCPWO – is the Salt River a designated drain along any part of it?

Anchor Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meeting
Ira Township Offices
Thursday, May 29, 2008, 1 pm

Draft Minutes

Participants

E. Ostling, Huron / Ira	KOJurs, SCCHD	J. Jones, Ira Twp
N. Stone, Chesterfield Twp.	J. McCleary, Chesterfield	M. Barnes, Ira Twp
E. Barnowski, Ira Twp.	S. Faust, SCCHD	A. Mangus, SEMCOG
G. Santoro, MCPED	L. Pobane, MCHD	R. Beaubien, Spicer Grp
C. Hanby, Project Control/ Algonac	C. Thurber, Fazalkhan/ New Haven	

I. Introductions and Minutes

a. 3.27.08 Minutes

Minutes were approved with no changes.

II. 2008 - 2013 Storm Water Permit

The group discussed some implications of the permit. The following lists some items of discussion including the page number of the watershed permit that discusses the new rules:

- Discharge Point Location Maps, p. 4 Watershed Permit
- IDEP monitoring requirements, p. 12-15
- Construction Storm Water Runoff Control Procedures, p. 15-16
- TMDL monitoring
- Fleet Maintenance and Storage Yard Pollution Prevention Plans, p. 19
- Phosphorous free fertilizers or soil testing, p. 20
- Compliance Schedule, p. 26

An in-depth overview of the new storm water permit and its implications will be provided by SEMCOG on June 19th. Registration at http://www.semcog.org/SEM_U-PhaseIIRegulations.aspx

The group discussed the need to meet and discuss applications after the SEMCOG workshop. KOJurs decided that she would hold a **phase II permittees meeting** at the Health Department, **9am on July 1** and include both watershed groups in SCC. She will send out a notice regarding this meeting and invited the Macomb municipalities in the Anchor Bay watershed to participate.

III. Update of the Anchor Bay Watershed Plan, KO Jurs

KO Jurs distributed a document called, *Anchor Bay Evaluation, 2003 – 2008, Draft/ KOJ/ May 28, 2008*. The document was developed by the Evaluation subcommittee which met twice in 2007 and once most recently on 4.26.08. The document reviews all 28 Best Management Practices (BMPs) of the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and summarizes information the evaluation subcommittee provided about the group's performance. The group reviewed each BMP in the document and provided input. KOJurs will provide a draft narrative to accompany the evaluation chart for the next meeting. This document will serve as the group's watershed-wide evaluation activities which are required in order to determine revisions and updates to the WMP.

IV. Monitoring Activities

a. St. Clair County

i. Benthic and Habitat Monitoring – Swan and Swartout Creeks

KOJurs said that Swan Creek and Swartout Creeks were chosen for potential benthic and habitat monitoring sites. The adoption of these sites depends on the ability to recruit and train volunteers. Swan and Swartout were chosen because of the presence of fish spawning in the Swan, and the presence of a phase II municipality within each subwatershed. Beaubien Creek would serve as a third choice but drains much of Cottreville, a non phase II community.

b. Macomb County

i. Salt River, Crapeau, Auvase Creeks

KOJurs questioned whether the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) may be willing to include these A Bay sites in their Adopt-A-Stream activities. The CRWC's mission is to protect the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair.

V. Web-based Annual Reporting, R. Beaubien, Spicer Group, Inc.

KOJurs said that the Northeastern Watersheds Advisory Group is currently moving forward to acquire financial commitment from their respective boards to hire Spicer Groups to develop and maintain a Web-based Progress Reporting system for two years. KOJurs said that Anchor Bay municipalities are welcome to join the project. R. Beaubien provided a power point presentation which demonstrated the features and capabilities of the proposed system. It is anticipated that the system will provide the municipalities substantial cost savings for producing storm water permit progress reports and will increase the group's ability to coordinate and evaluate watershed activities.

VI. Public Education Activities

a. St. Clair County

- i. **Earth Fair Report** – St. Clair County's E. Fair 2008 was a big success. More vendors and more residents than ever.
- ii. **Stream Clean Report** – St. Clair County's First Stream Clean event was also a big success. 6 sites were cleaned across the county and large amounts of trash were pulled out.
- iii. **River Day, June 7** – River Day is coming up! Fliers were distributed.
- iv. **Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed Reception, July 8, 6:30pm**

Friends of the St. Clair River Watershed have postponed their July 8th reception for water quality volunteers and supporters. The reception will take place in mid-September.

b. Macomb County – Nothing to report.

VII. Other Business

a. Shell Refinery Proposal, St. Clair River – G. Donaldson was not present to discuss this agenda item. J. Jones said comment period has passed.

b. Other?

Senate Bill 1249 regarding storm water utilities was distributed. SEMCOG encouraged municipalities to communicate support of the bill with their state representatives.

SEMCOG Detention Retrofitting Workshop. A. Mangus mentioned that this workshop will be held this summer and will forward more information.

VIII. Next Meeting and Agenda Suggestions

- a. 2008 meeting dates** - July 31, September 25, and November 20.
- b. Agenda suggestions** – Nothing to report.

Anchor Bay Watershed Steering Committee Meeting

Ira Township Offices

Thursday, September 25, 2008, 9:30am

Minutes

Attendees:

Martin Barnes, Ira Twp
Troy Jeschke, City of Richmond
Laura Pobanz, MCHD
Norman Stone, Chesterfield Twp
Chuck Hersey, SEMCOG
Paul Jarmolowicz, Algonac
Michael J. Kras, Clay Township

Kristen O. Jurs, SCCHD
Sheri Faust, SCCHD
John McCleary, Chesterfield Twp
Eric Ostling, Huron Consultants for Ira Twp
Bill Parkus, SEMCOG
John Jones, Ira
Craig Hanby, Project Control Eng - New Baltimore

I. Introductions and Minutes

a. 5.29.08 Minutes

No changes to the minutes were made.

II. Lake St. Clair Phragmites Control Project, SEMCOG

Chuck Hersey and Bill Parkus

B. Parkus and C. Hersey presented the Lake St. Clair Phragmites Control Project which will investigate various treatment regimes, map project plots, and provide education and outreach. The federal grant share is \$379,000. Huron Metro Parks, Harrison Twp, Ducks Unlimited, SCC Parks, and St. Clair Flats Water fowlers, Inc have contributed match for the project but \$79,047 is still needed. They emphasized the need for a Lake St. Clair funding structure for projects like this as well as other projects prioritized by the Macomb/ St. Clair Intercounty Advisory Group. C. Hersey said that he will prepare a memo outlining a proposed match allocation per community in the Lake St. Clair Watershed. S. Faust said the Phragmites workshop conducted last week by Ernie Kafkas was excellent and really helped highlight how detrimental Phragmites is for the local hydrology and wildlife habitat. Follow up information will be sent from SEMCOG.

C. Hersey announced that SEMCOG has finished developing the MDEQ Low Impact Development Guidance Manual. Copies can be downloaded from SEMCOG's website.

III. Annual Progress Reports - November 1, 2008

a. Public Education and Participation information

K. Jurs and S. Faust said that they will send watershed representatives Public Education and Participation information for Annual Reports by October 8. Many of the Public Education activities will only represent SCC communities. For more information on public education activities in Macomb County, representatives should contact Lynn Seymour at the MCPWO or Laura Pobanz at the MCHD.

IV. Anchor Bay Watershed Evaluation

Representatives went through the draft document “Chapter 4- Methods of Measuring Progress, 2008 update” and provided input. K. Jurs is going to set up a meeting with Laura Pobanz to get more monitoring information for Macomb County’s portion of Anchor Bay and will send the report to Lynne Seymour for input. Once it is in final draft form she will send it out to all for final comments. K. Jurs aims to have the document complete by the end of the year.

V. Monitoring Activities

a. St. Clair County

- i. Benthic and Habitat Monitoring** – Meldrum Drain/ Swan Creek, Beaubien Creek

K. Jurs said that these two sites will be monitored by volunteers as part of SCC’s new Stream Leaders Program.

b. Macomb County

- i. Monitoring** - Salt River, Crapeau, or Auvase

K. Jurs said that she contacted CRWC about adding Anchor Bay sites to their Adopt-A-Stream program. They said they would be able to provide training for these sites and would be happy to assist any community that wants to start monitoring a site. K. Jurs suggested that Macomb communities target the Salt River, Crapeau Creek and/or Auvase Drain for locations because of the results from the DNR fish surveys.

VI. Public Education Activities

a. St. Clair County

- i. Stream Leaders Training Workshop**

1. Sept. 23, 6 – 8pm, P. Huron Township Hall

Community representatives are welcome to attend this workshop which would be a great education and/ or employee training activity for the storm water permit.

- ii. Stream Leaders Monitoring Event**

1. September 27, monitoring locations to be assigned.
Anchor Bay choices: Swan or Beaubien Creek

- iii. Healthy Lakes Healthy Lives Homecoming Reception**, October 10, 5 – 9pm, Port Huron Yacht Club

VII. Next Meeting: November 25, 9:30 am CHESTERFIELD TWP