

**Big Creek Watershed Plan Steering Committee  
September 17, 2008 Meeting Summary  
Town of Amherstburg Town Hall (6 p.m. to 8 p.m.)**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Lory Bratt chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. The meeting was attended by:

Rebecca Belanger, Essex Region Conservation Authority  
Lory Bratt, Town of Amherstburg  
Matthew Child, Essex Region Conservation Authority  
David Coates, Community Representative  
Ed Faucher, Community Representative  
Rick Fryer, Community Representative  
Carl Gibb, Community Representative  
Rick Visser, Ministry of Natural Resources  
Archie Parastatidis, Ontario Ministry of the Environment  
Allan Parks, Amherstburg Committee on the Environment  
Ari Varsa, Community Representative  
Marie- Claire Doyle, Environment Canada (by Conference Call)

**2. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

The meeting agenda was reviewed. Lory provided an overview of the Big Creek watershed map for the Committee's reference.

Moved by Carl Gibb, seconded by Allan Parks to approve the September 17, 2008 agenda. Carried.

**3. Review of the June 25, 2008 Meeting Summary**

The meeting summary was reviewed by the Committee.

Moved by Rick Fryer, seconded by Archie Parastatidis to approve the June 25, 2008 meeting record. Carried.

**4. Summary of Progress from Last Meeting**

Matthew provided a summary of project activities from last meeting. Lory and Matthew discussed that two options to complete the project tasks had been considered: hiring a full service consultant from outside of the region (no suitable full service local consultants exist) or utilizing local technical expertise and project management services from several individuals, under the guidance of the Steering Committee. The latter option is considered preferred from an effectiveness standpoint, and will also be less expensive. It was confirmed that Lory and Matthew, as Co-Chairs, will ensure the project is completed in accordance with established timelines.

## **Project Team & Technical Program**

The following project team was recommended to the Committee:

### Rebecca Belanger, ERCA - Project Coordination

Rebecca will provide overall project coordination, especially as it relates to the technical and reporting parts of the project, and will also assist Jean Monteith with the public consultation component of the project. Rebecca will also prepare and disseminate information for the Committee members based on their direction.

### Jean Monteith, Monteith Brown Planning Consultants - Public Consultation Coordination

Jean will oversee the public consultation component of the project, with Rebecca's assistance. The Committee reviewed Jean's memo suggesting an initial public meeting in autumn, 2008, and there was general agreement that developing more details should be a focus of the next Steering Committee meeting.

Moved by Rick Fryer, Seconded by Ed Faucher to endorse the role of Rebecca Belanger as Project Coordinator, and Jean Monteith as Public Consultation Coordinator. Carried, with David Coates abstaining.

### Raj Bejankiwar, ERCA, Water Quality Specialist

The Committee reviewed the update on the Surface Water Quality Monitoring provided by Raj. Matthew noted that the water quality monitoring program will be ongoing through 2008 and 2009. In response to questions about arsenic monitoring, there was general agreement that Raj should attend the next Steering Committee meeting to update the Committee on going activities and respond to questions.

Moved by Allan Parks, seconded by Rick Fryer, to endorse the role of Raj Bejankiwar as Water Quality Specialist and to receive Raj's written update, further that raw data be provided throughout the study process and consideration for arsenic sampling be verified. Carried.

### Dan Lebedyk, ERCA and Gerry Waldron, Waldron Consulting Ecologists, Terrestrial Natural Heritage Inventories

Dan Lebedyk and Gerry Waldron are experienced, local ecologists who will undertake terrestrial inventories of the study area utilizing Ecological Land Classification (ELC) protocols. The study area will be divided into two halves in order to meet study timelines; Dan will inventory the lower watershed (generally south of County Road 20) while Gerry will inventory the upper watershed (generally north of County Road 20). Rick Visser confirmed that staff from MNR (Erin Saunders) will confirm wetland boundaries. Rick will speak with his Species at Risk (SAR) colleagues to determine what role MNR might play in SAR inventory activities in the 2009 field season.

### Dave Martin and/or Dean Ware, Faunal Inventories

Matthew identified Dave Martin and Dean Ware as local faunal experts that regularly undertake faunal field work in this region. Further follow up with these individuals is required prior to confirming roles.

Moved by Allan Parks, seconded by Carl Gibb, to accept the natural heritage study program as presented, with resumes to be provided by the technical experts and data to be reviewed by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Carried.

Tirupati Bolisetti, Water Quantity Specialist, University of Windsor

Dr. Tirupati Bolisetti has undertaken substantial work in the water quantity/water budget areas as part of *Clean Water Act* requirements. This includes some baseline work in the Big Creek watershed. More detailed investigations, consistent with the Terms of Reference, could be cost effectively undertaken by Dr. Bolisetti and his graduate students.

Moved by Carl Gibb, seconded by Allan Parks, to approve the Water Quality and Quantity team in principle and invite them to attend the next meeting to explain their proposed work program. Carried.

Through discussion, it was confirmed that all technical studies will be reviewed by the Committee as well as the participating agencies on the Committee including MOE, MNR, Environment Canada and ERCA.

**Funding**

Members were reminded that for 2008 the Town has committed \$50,000 and MOE \$15,000. Since the last meeting, the Trillium application was declined. Creekside Hunting & Fishing has confirmed it will fund half the costs of the study (less the water quality study which is being funded by MOE) for a total contribution of \$155,500. Therefore, total funding of \$220,500 has been confirmed to date.

Additional funding will be sought for the project.

**5. Review of the *Big Creek Watershed Plan Steering Committee Rules of Procedure***

Lory identified the purpose of the Rules of Procedure which is generally to provide direction to carry out the Terms of Reference, and includes meeting protocols, quorum and functions and responsibilities. The Committee reviewed the draft Rules of Procedure which was prepared by Lory. A few minor changes were suggested which will be incorporated by Lory.

Moved by Allan Parks, seconded by Rick Fryer, to adopt the *Rules of Procedure* as amended. Carried.

**6. Discussion of Initial Public Consultation**

Lory identified the purpose of the first public consultation session, expected in fall, 2008, is to discuss the project with the broader community, and engage in a two way dialogue with the community. It is expected that the consultation session will include one large focus

group or several smaller focus groups depending on the number of people that attend the meeting. The meeting will be facilitated by Jean Monteith with Rebecca Belanger assisting. It was agreed that a questionnaire should be provided to the residents which will prove helpful for those individuals that do not wish to speak out at the meeting.

Allan Parks summarized some the suggestions made by ACE, including the use of a website that can house project information and allow for comments/feedback. There was agreement that ERCA and/or the Town will investigate options for a webpage that does this.

## **7. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items**

The next Steering Committee meeting will be established following an email survey of availability. Agenda items will include updates on the water quality and water quantity studies by the relevant specialists (assuming they are available) and developing the public consultation session program.

## **8. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn moved by Carl Gibb, seconded by Allan Parks. Carried.

Meeting summary was prepared by Rebecca Belanger and reviewed by Matthew Child and Lory Bratt. Please email any errors or omissions to Rebecca at [rbelanger@erca.org](mailto:rbelanger@erca.org).