



## **SBCI Monthly Meeting Notes - April 18, 2013**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Laura Ogar.

**Welcome:** Laura Ogar welcomed everyone to the meeting and presented the new regular monthly meeting schedule for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month. Monthly meetings for issue-based work group activities will continue to be held in the Bay County Building on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old Chambers unless moved by other host community. Huron County hosted one of the last off-site meetings so looking to Arenac for the next one. Adequate notice will be given if location is changed.

**Regional Coordination Meetings:** Regional Saginaw Bay Coordination Council Meetings hosted by WIN and SBCI are held three times per year to present updates on broad on-going projects of interest and to ensure communication of efforts.

***Everyone in the room introduced themselves.***

**Handout – SBCI Work Plan Program Update:** The format of the Work Plan needs to be updated. The handout is used for informational purposes but we need to be able to better describe our accomplishments. SBCI works closely with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Department of Agriculture. Bay County has a website that is being used currently. However, SBCI is looking for ways to better communicate. Computer support is requested for tabular formatting.

### **WORK PLAN PRIORITIES:**

#### **Muck:**

Muck is weather dependent (wet or dry season) and right now water levels are low. There is a lot of debris in the water ways right now. However, kayaking has increased in popularity and future conflicts with muck as a safety issue will occur.

#### **Muck Accomplishments:**

The Bay County commissioners purchased equipment to pick up muck on the dry sand beach. Muck in the nearshore is still a problem, although two demonstrations last year for muck removal were successful. There is a need to prepare and submit permit applications for nearshore muck removal under Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and MDEQ.

Jim Koski presented that Terry Duperron from Saginaw developed a small scale muck remover as a pilot. SVSU students helped to develop the prototype muck remover. They would like to make a larger model to do a larger area of muck removal and are working with different groups on funding.

Ogar reported that lots of studies have been funded for Muck but not enough for removal. Farmers have expressed a desire to have the muck in a "slurry" to put



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back into the shallow soils because there are lots of nutrients in the materials removed from the shoreline (like decayed algae). Testing has shown no dioxins in the algae. Testing has shown bacteria can be in the muck particularly when it sits out on the beach. Warm wet conditions help the bacteria grow. Testing has shown it is decaying plant material, not a biohazard. There was not a lot of nutrient available to use as a supplement for animal food.

### **Beaches**

Iosco County has some new projects. The historical record shows that Tawas beach can be cleaned by the Park Managers with no permit were required. The Bay City State Recreation Area (BCSRA) file shows a letter from the ACOE to DNR as to an understanding or agreement not to groom or clean the beach. It's important to find out who takes care of the debris that doesn't reach the beaches. There are very few public accessible shoreline areas around the Saginaw Bay. Tuscola said they have no beach area, but they have Vanderbuilt Park which has had some struggles. Bay County is submitting a proposal to map the shoreline area of Bay and Arenac counties for kayakers, and canoeists, and snow machine routes for a BlueWays water trail map. Public access will be an important issue.

### **Low Water Levels:**

Restore Our Waters (ROW) is working to educate and focus on restoring our waters. Many people feel this is a fixable problem and that we just need to work toward the solutions. ROW has studies and background information. Roger Allen mentioned that none of the other issues we talk about are going to matter if the water keeps draining away. Upcoming meetings on this subject were announced.

### **Phragmites:**

Michelle Vanderhaar noted there have been a lot of changes since treatment for phragmites began. There is a guide for property owners to treat phragmites. Basically treatment is performed in the fall (1<sup>st</sup> treatment) followed by a cut and burn in the winter. Then the next spring the phragmites are treated again (2<sup>nd</sup> treatment). There have been positive results with this method of treatment.

**Workgroups:** If you are interested in being a part of any of the following workgroups: Muck Workgroup, Low Water Levels Workgroup, Beaches Workgroup, Phragmities Workgroup, Tourism Workgroup or CSO workgroup there is a sign up sheet at the meeting.

As there was no further business, the April 18, SBCI meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. Next Meeting will be May 16, 2013