



## **SBCI Monthly Meeting Notes – May 16, 2013**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. by Laura Ogar. Everyone present introduced themselves.

### **Low Water Level Restoration:**

A report was given on the positive actions that are being taken toward low water level restoration. There was a Low Water Forum Summary presented by Restore Our Waters (ROW) on May 6, 2013. All three speakers agreed that the two most impactful issues were climate change, affecting both precipitation and evaporation, and dredging and subsequent erosion in the St. Clair River. Only one or two inches of Lake Michigan/Huron water are lost due to the diversion in Chicago. Three to five inches flows in because of manmade diversions into Lake Superior. The entire meeting can be viewed on the Lake Charlevoix Association website: <http://www.lakecharlevoix.org/low-water-forum-video/>

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is an inter-governmental agency that provides coordinating direction. The IJC has just issued a request asking the U.S. and Canadian governments to investigate the installation of “pergs” or “sills”.

### **Saginaw Bay Regional Septic Code Update:**

Joel Strasz, Bay County Interim Health Director, gave an update on the Saginaw Bay Regional Septic Code. Strasz provided everyone with a powerpoint handout and reviewed the material. This regional septic code is a “best practices” approach to a code, one that can be used by different areas in our region with minor changes. The draft code has been created. Right now there is a big push to educate people about the regional septic code and to help inform before there is any enforcement of the code.

### **Revolving Septic Code Loans:**

There was a brief discussion about the Revolving Septic Code Loan Program. These are loans provided to homeowners that aren't able to fund a replacement septic system and have a failing septic system that has a direct hydrologic connection to surface waters of the Saginaw Bay and its tributaries (typically within 500 feet). Homeowners sign mortgage documents and are given the incentive to pay off the no interest loan early (within the first three years). At the three year mark there is an additional \$500 added to the loan. After the next five year mark (10 year) there is another \$500 added to the loan. Finally, after the next five year mark (15 years) there is an additional \$500 added to the loan. The additional fees will not go over \$1,500. This should encourage homeowners to pay off the loans early in order to keep the money revolving for future projects.

### **Saginaw Bay Beaches and Muck Clean Up:**

There was a brief discussion about the Saginaw Bay Beaches and the muck clean up. Wayne State University is looking into the muck on our beaches and looking into the public perceptions, as well as the environmental and economic features impacted.

### **Informational Updates:**

Laura Ogar, Director of the Bay County Environmental Affairs & Community Development Department, gave a brief update on some of the environmental and economic enhancement projects that are proposed or underway throughout the Saginaw Bay coastal communities.



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- **Phragmites Treatment:** There are some new and proposed Phragmites treatment areas. There will be treatment in northern Bay County along the shoreline. Arenac County is also going to be doing treatment along their southern portion of the county.
- **Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail:** The proposed CZM grant for the Saginaw Bay Blueways Trail has gone through and we are getting some great feedback from kayakers.
- **Bay City State Recreation Area Beachfront Planning:** Planning is underway to create a management plan for the Bay City State Recreation Area beach as well as build a boardwalk to be used as access over the muck to get to the water.

### Meeting of Interest:

- **May 22, 2013 – Wind Energy Meeting:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is pleased to announce a training broadcast series to cover the voluntary Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines and other relevant topics on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 2:00 p.m., which will be the first broadcast of the series, which will focus on the Tiered Approach—a framework for determining potential species and habitat effects. <http://www.fws.gov/windenergy/>
- **July 11, 2013 – Sea Grant Creating Vibrant Coastal Communities Workshop:** This workshop is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 11, 2013 in Muskegon, Michigan. The workshop will introduce place making as a strategy to fuel economic growth and community revitalization. <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/news/2013/05/13/creating-vibrant-coastal-communities-workshop/>

### DNR Land Strategy Report:

This report outlines the standards for access to the Great Lakes. According to the report, there should be access to the shoreline within every five miles. Our area is listed in this report as having many access points, however that isn't the case.

### The Green Team:

The Bangor Township Green Team has done a great job in our community. This group makes rain barrels to sell at a very low cost. The Green Team is currently sold out of these rain barrels.

### BaySail & Krogers:

The Kroger Company has accepted BaySail into their listing of organizations eligible to receive donations based on customer purchases through their Community Rewards program.

As there was no further business, the May 16, SBCI meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

The next SBCI Meeting will be on **Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bay County Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Old Chambers, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.