



SBCI Monthly Meeting Notes – November 21, 2013

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Laura Ogar.

Laura Ogar had everyone make brief introductions as there were new people present.

Jon Beard from Public Sector Consultants attended the meeting via speaker phone.

Blueways Trail Update:

There was discussion on the “filling in the gaps” portion of the Blueways Trail water map. Frank Starkweather gave a report and provided a handout of the work he has done regarding evaluations of the access sites along the Saginaw Bay. Laura Ogar wanted the group to work on refining the Saginaw Bay Shoreline locations at the meeting today in order to set some access point locations. Laura felt that we shouldn't put any “dots” on the map unless the site had the following criteria: 1.) Legal parking for one or two cars, and; 2.) Water Accessible within 100 feet of access point. Laura emphasized that we want to highlight the best areas that will give a good experience when people are using these access points. While we recognize that there are many potential access points, the focus of the meeting today was on access sites that are basically ready to use now.

Frank Starkweather discussed the access points he located on the Saginaw River, the eight access sites he located on the Kawakawlin River, along with the 13 access sites he identified on the Saginaw Bay. Frank feels the work has been done. However, Laura Ogar would like a more detailed evaluation of the sites and would like to have a variety of groups check out the sites in order to gain different input and perspectives of the proposed locations.

Laura Ogar reviewed the Blueways Trail map and the group was able to focus on access sites that are ready to be used. The group also noted sites with a high potential. The group went point by point and discussed the various access points that had been identified, then omitted the ones that did not fulfill the parking and 100 feet of access point criteria. Laura Ogar said that she would revise and update the map based on the results of the meeting, complete with road name labels.

Clark Elftman asked about universal accessibility for the sites. There was discussion about how to best address universal accessibility. Laura Ogar felt that it would be important to make a list of emergency contact numbers for the Blueways Trail Map so that people had the information. There was talk about getting Paul Young of the DNR involved as he works with ADA issues. It was mentioned that we should get American Canoe Certification. Laura Ogar also mentioned that access sites may also be able to be used for snowmobile, ice fishing, cross country skiing, and snow shoe access points. Bay County is planning to advertise the Saginaw Bay access points as year round access locations to the Bay. Laura will be contacting the historical groups to get their input on the access sites. Laura will be at the East Coast Paddlers meeting on December 6, 2013 to discuss the Blueways Trail.

Regional Septic Code Roll Out & Water Quality Education:

Laura Ogar discussed the Regional Septic Code and that the SBCI Workgroup has spent two years



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working toward this goal. Draft #5 of the Regional Septic Code is ready for review. Laura would like to see some water quality education take place before the roll out of the Regional Septic Code. Laura mentioned that pharmaceuticals are a part of the Regional Septic Code. Laura would like to see some community education for this effort, perhaps even in the form of a grant. Charlie Bauer felt that this may be a possible component for this effort as there is a Great Lakes Restoration Grant specifically for outreach purposes. The proposed roll out for the Regional Septic Code will be December 2013 or January 2014. Charlie Bauer said there were not State updates on the Regional Septic Code. Bob Mckie discussed the importance of the Regional Septic Code and the importance of phragmites control.

John Horny from **Insta Grow** was on hand to discuss a new system which uses a product called “Insta Cal”. This product is for use in septic tanks and will enhance the life of the septic system. This product promotes healthy soil so that there is no more organics left in the soil to cause problems. Poor soil structure creates many problems for septic systems. Mr. Horny will be at the next meeting to discuss his product in further detail.

Fish Habitat Reef Restoration Grant:

Laura Ogar discussed the Fish Habitat Reef Restoration Grant and how that fits in with the Area of Concern (AOC). Bretton Joldersma, Office of the Great Lakes (OGL), didn't think that the Fish Habitat Reef Restoration Grant would have any impact on the AOC de-listings. Frankenmuth will be resolving some of their fish passage issues over the winter (weather permitting) with construction to begin in spring 2014. Chessaning has installed a mandatory two-year fish passage. Breeton Joldersma mentioned that the comments from the October 8, 2013 Public Meeting have been sent to the EPA for review. Laura Ogar asked that Tom Hickner be copied on the letter to the EPA.

OTHER:

Huron County:

Clark Elftman discussed that the Huron County Water Trail was doing fine. He also discussed that there was a “Thumb Revolution” movement since Huron County is no longer part of the Great Lakes Bay Region. With all of the changes made through state restructuring, Huron County has been moved out of the Great Lakes Bay Region into a region that doesn't seem to be much support. Huron County feels that they need to create their own group in order to move forward with their efforts. There is a lack of support for the I-69 Corridor which is also a concern. Laura Ogar wanted Huron County to know that the SBCI is here to help with their efforts. Clark Elftman said that he would like to see Huron County moved back into the Great Lakes Bay Region since that region has been very supportive. Laura thought that she might be able to help with that effort.

As there was no further business, the November 21, 2013 SBCI meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

The next SBCI Meeting will be on **Thursday, December 19, 2013** from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Bay County Building, 2nd Floor Old Chambers, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.