

**Big Creek Watershed Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting  
Thursday, April 23, 2009  
6 p.m. to 8p.m.**

**Town of Amherstburg Municipal Office  
271 Sandwich Street South, Amherstburg**

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Meeting Agenda
3. Public Question and Answer Session
4. Review of March 10th, 2009 Meeting Summary and Action Items (attached)
5. Technical Updates and Discussion
  - a. Natural Heritage Study - Landowner Consents, Field Program
  - b. Water Quantity Study – Monitoring Locations, Field Program
6. Steering Committee Email Response Protocol (attached)
7. Preliminary Discussion of Items to be Included in Watershed Plan
  - a. Standing Agenda Items at Subsequent Meetings?
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items
10. Adjournment

**Big Creek Watershed Plan Steering Committee  
March 10, 2009 Meeting Summary  
Town of Amherstburg Council Chambers (6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)**

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

Jackie Hubbs chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance. The meeting was attended by:

Matthew Child, Essex Region Conservation Authority  
David Coates, Community Representative  
Ed Faucher, Community Representative  
Carl Gibb, Community Representative  
Teri Gilbert, Ministry of the Environment  
Jackie Hubbs, Town of Amherstburg  
Allan Parks, Amherstburg Committee on the Environment

Project Technical Support Staff in attendance included:  
Raj Bejankiwar, Essex Region Conservation Authority

Residents in attendance included:

George Beckett  
Rene Keilbassa  
Steve Mickle  
Dan Struhar

**2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda**

The meeting agenda was reviewed by the Committee and no errors or additions were identified.

Moved by Matthew Child, seconded by Ed Faucher to approve the March 10, 2009 Agenda. Carried.

**3. Public Question and Answer Period**

No comments or questions were offered by the residents in attendance. Later in the meeting a discussion was held regarding monitoring activities in the upper part of the watershed; it was confirmed that the entire watershed is being addressed by the study.

**4. Review of the January 27, 2009 Meeting Summary and Action Items**

The meeting summary was reviewed with no comments or questions. Regarding the running list of action items, Teri Gilbert noted that an investigation into a complaint about a point source of contaminants to Big Creek is ongoing, and she will report back once the investigation is complete.

Moved by Carl Gibb, seconded by Allan Parks to approve the January 27, 2009 meeting summary and running list of action items. Carried.

## **5. Water Quality Update**

Raj Bejankiwar, Water Quality Specialist, ERCA provided a Powerpoint presentation on the results of 2008 surface water quality sampling activities (attached).

In response to questions following the presentation several items were discussed:

- Monitoring results suggest that arsenic migration from Honeywell's operation from groundwater to surface water does not appear to be occurring
- Monitoring results suggest that chloride migration from the General Chemical site is occurring. For 2009, greater emphasis will be placed on chloride monitoring in the watershed, with associated research on the possible impacts of the observed chloride concentrations on ecosystem health. Since all drinking water wells in the affected area are no longer in use, human health is not at risk.
- There was general agreement regarding the importance of identifying projects and techniques to mitigate the impacts of the observed contaminants in the Watershed Plan.
- There was general agreement that the proposed 2009 surface water quality work plan, as described by Raj in his presentation and remarks, was appropriate and should be pursued.

## **6. Review and Discussion of Landowner Consents**

A map depicting landowners who have granted access to date was reviewed. There was agreement that due to privacy concerns this map should not be circulated publicly. At present there are still a significant number of landowners who have not granted access. Rebecca Belanger will continue to follow up with landowners north of County Road 20, and Ed Faucher agreed to follow up with landowners south of County Road 20.

The assistance of other Steering Committee members in confirming access to private properties may be required in the coming weeks.

## **7. Other Field Program Requirements**

The water quantity study will require additional data collection activities over 2009. The following potential locations for data collection were suggested:

Flow monitoring device:  
General Chemical property (Teri Gilbert)

Drain tile outlet monitoring:  
Ed Faucher farm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Concession (Lorus Collavino farm) (Matthew Child will follow up)  
David Coates farm

One additional farm for drain tile outlet monitoring in the mid-watershed is welcome.

Wells for groundwater level monitoring:  
General Chemical property (Teri Gilbert)  
David Mailloux property (Matthew Child will follow up)  
Farm at County Road 18 & 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession (Allan Parks will follow up)

## **8. Other Business**

There was a discussion regarding a protocol for replying to emails sent to bigcreek@erca.org. It was noted that the current distribution list has been updated to reflect the current committee composition. There was also agreement that at the next meeting a protocol would be tabled by the Co-Chairs for email replies.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m. at Amherstburg Town Hall.

Agenda items will include an email reply protocol, and establishment of a running list of items that need to be addressed by the Watershed Plan.

## **10. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Matthew Child, seconded by Allan Parks. Carried.

Meeting record prepared by Matthew Child and Jackie Hubbs. Please forward any errors and omissions to mchild@erca.org.

Big Creek Watershed Plan Action Items- March 10/09

Date	Task	Resolution	Assigned To	Completed
Dec-09-08	Confirm possible point source locations of contamination in Big Creek	Teri Gilbert from MOE has been contacted and has passed this information along. Teri will report back once the investigation is complete	Teri Gilbert	Ongoing
Dec-09-08	Determine requirements under the Municipal Act to access properties for NH evaluations	Review Municipal Act, seek legal advice as necessary	Matthew/ Rebecca	Yes
Jan-27-09	Suggests that all in-kind services (ie, ERCA, MNR) contributed to this project be quantified and added to the budget.	Quantify staff contributions and update budget	Matthew	Yes
March 10-09	Develop return email protocol	For April meeting	Matthew/Jac kie	Ongoing
March 10-09	Respond to email inquiries from Mr. Meloche and Mr. Deslippe	Individuals were contacted	Matthew	Yes
March 10-09	Identify water quantity monitoring stations	Prior to field measurements	Matthew, Allan, Teri	Ongoing

**Big Creek Watershed Plan**  
**Email Response Protocol**

Emails received at the bigcreek@erca.org email address will be returned in accordance with the following protocol.

1. Email is received at bigcreek@erca.org.
2. Co-Chairs determine if the email is relevant and applicable to the Big Creek Watershed Plan Terms of Reference.

If the original email is applicable, one of the Co-Chairs sends an email thanking the sender for their email and indicating it will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting scheduled for {date}.

At the next meeting, the email will be discussed, the Steering Committee will confirm its position through consensus or resolution (as appropriate), and within two business days following the meeting a Co-Chair will email the original email sender with the Steering Committee's position.

In the event that the Co-Chairs consider the original email to be partially applicable to the Watershed Plan Terms of Reference, or they cannot agree whether the original email is applicable or not, the email will be brought to the Steering Committee.

3. If the original email is not applicable, a Co-Chair will email the original sender to that effect with suggestions as to where the inquiry should be directed, as appropriate.