



SBCI Monthly Meeting Notes – February 19, 2015

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

Introductions around the room were made.

Meeting Announcements:

Partnership for the Saginaw Bay:

The next meeting of the Partnership for the Saginaw Bay will be Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at the Delta College Planetarium located at 100 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan. This meeting will address Watershed issues and concerns.

Meeting Format . . . What Works/What Doesn't Work:

There was discussion about what is working and what may need to be tweaked. It's important that we make sure our meeting times for SBCI are working for the variety of our partners, resource agency people, retirees, general public/concerned citizens. Day time meetings work best for our resource people and elected officials. It's important to make sure we have an accurate and up to date mailing list to ensure we are getting information out to all participants via email. (Tribe had not been getting meeting notices.) It is important that meeting notes get taken and shared, Brad Jensen commented that getting an agenda out early is important for folks like him who travel some distance and need to decide which meetings to attend. Some subject matter is more relevant to him than other subjects. Having a standard date and time setup for the SBCI meetings has been very positive for participation.

It was generally agreed that it's also important to have periodic early evening meetings 3-4 times a year for getting public input, and reporting out on the good work being done. It would be nice to have the public meetings held in various locations (Huron, Arenac, Bay, Tuscola, Saginaw) to get a variety of input. It would be good to have the public meetings at places like Vanderbilt Park in Tuscola County.

Clark Elftman commented that we need to have more publicity reporting out about what the group is doing.

At the next SBCI Meeting we will set a dedicated time for Round Table Updates from participants.

Meeting Room Setting:

The SBCI Meetings take place in the Old Commission Chambers located on the 2nd Floor of the Bay County Building, 515 Center Avenue, Bay City, Michigan.

Issues and Priorities:

We need to update the Work Plan that outlines our priorities and the projects that need to be done. A discussion of the Work Plan 2010-2014, successful work has occurred on most priorities listed: Shoreline Access to the bay has directly improved with the Phragmites Treatment and Control projects from Arenac County down into Bay County with USFW Funds. The Saginaw Bay Cooperative Weed Management group has a proposal in for State of Michigan Funds for Invasive Species. Muck, Bacteria,



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and beach issues are still a concern though generally conditions have improved in most locations. Continued monitoring is critical. The Revolving Septic Loan Program was established in Bay County but there continues to be a need to have that set up in Huron, Tuscola and Arenac as well. A SBCI Workgroup drafted the Regional Septic Code that was put together with help from Huron County and the Bay County Health Department and this is still pending. We would like to see that move towards completion. It's important to determine how we would like to roll that out to the general public for education on septic system maintenance.

Advocacy and Outreach:

Discussion occurred on how important letters of support are for grant projects, particularly if we show a common voice from the Saginaw Bay area. If Arenac County has projects Huron and Tuscola and Bay Counties are willing to write letters of support, but we need to know about them. We should use the SBCI meetings or email for getting the word out.

We also had the visit from Congressman Kildee who reminded us that unless we share what our local priorities are...how will his office know? Agreement to update the Work Plan with a list of critical projects reflecting local priorities should be developed and shared with state and federal representatives.

Next Steps:

- We need to update the Work Plan Update.
- The Partnership for the Saginaw Bay and SBCI will share some meeting time
- We need to identify specific projects, specifically for restoration
- We need to do more outreach and promotion of priorities

As there was no further business, the February 19, 2015 SBCI meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

The next SBCI Meeting will be on **Thursday, March 19, 2015** 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.