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Steering Committee Meeting #4 (2006-07)

Location: Margaree Room, Gulf Fisheries Centre, Moncton, NB
Date: Friday, February 23, 2007
Time: 10:00am

The Attending Members:

Omer Chouinard, Université de Moncton	Nadine Gauvin, Coalition Coordinator
Marianne Janowicz, NB Dept of Environment	Irene Novaczek, Institute of Island Life
Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary	John Legault, DFO
Claudette LeBlanc, ACZISC	Allister Marshall, Po'tlo'tek Fish and Wildlife Assoc
Lisa Arsenault, Comité ZIP	P.Nagarajan, University of PEI
David Boyce, Canadian Agro-Sustainability Partnership	

Guests:

Doug Deacon, UPEI	Denise Roy, Nature Conservancy
Chantal Gagnon, TEK WG	David Garbary, St.F.X University
Rémi Donelle, GDDPC	Wilhelmina Nolan, International Institute of Concern for Public Health

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1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05. Allister delivered the opening prayer. Introductions of meeting participants were made around the table.

2. Approval of agenda

Changes to the agenda included adding Willi Nolan to speak on the updates of the TEK Working Group and including the Coalition governance structure under Other business. Approval of the agenda as amended was moved by D. Boyce and seconded by R. Donelle.

3. Approval of minutes (November 17th, 2006)

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. It was noted that under the Fund/Development WG section of item #6 – Working Group updates, McCains had not provided funding but was present at the Coalition's founding meeting. Approval of the minutes as amended was moved by A.Power and seconded by A.Marshall.

4. Matters arising from minutes

Nadine covered the five action items from the November 17th minutes. Action item #3 was deferred to the next meeting. Nadine noted that earlier coalition records of financial contributions were lacking and encouraged founding members to provide any insight in this respect.

Action Item 01: Address action item #3 of the Nov17 Steering Committee meeting minutes.

5. Financial Report

As treasurer, D. Boyce presented the Coalition financial report and commented that the Coalition is still in the red due to the continued delay with Environment Canada's contribution. Nadine commented that Environment Canada's funds have recently been approved internally and official notice from Ottawa is forthcoming. John announced that DFO's \$5K contribution for the scholarship has been approved. D.Boyce moved that the financial report be approved as presented; I.Novaczek seconded the motion.



6. Working Group updates

AGM 2007 WG – Alice provided a power point report on Justin’s behalf which included an update of the WG’s activities, a draft workshop agenda and budget. The WG, which now consists of 9 members, met on five occasions via conference call. It was suggested to seek funding for this workshop with the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund. It was also suggested if a field trip is incorporated into the workshop, an idea location would be Caribou/Munroe’s Island Provincial Park.

Coastal Erosion WG – no report available; the Working Group is inactive.

Communications & Education WG – Nadine and David reported on Audrey’s behalf. The group, which has met once in November, has decided to focus on incorporating two interactive components in the Coalition website: a Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Ecology section with a map and a Youth Outreach section. In addition, the on-line poll will change monthly to reflect current issues. J. Legault announced a new project that will help improve communications amongst Coalition member groups, etc. A partnership with DFO, CIPA and the Coalition is underway to incorporate Quickplace into a portal that will offer a data-sharing mechanism and opportunities to community groups.

Science, Research & Habitat WG – M. Janowicz reported that funding is being sought to pursue phase III of the sustainability indicators work. A proposal with ETF is currently under review and a conditional grant has been approved for \$15K with the Salamander Foundation, pending confirmation of other contributors. In addition, Marianne reported that Environment Canada’s National Program of Action (NPA) is considering providing a contract to the Coalition to undertake an analysis of land-based marine contaminants.

Technical Advisory – J. Legault reported the funding proposal submitted to GeoConnections in the Fall to produce an on-line regional atlas has been rejected. A smaller version of this project can possibly be integrated in the Quickplace project mentioned above. Also, D. Boyce suggested this mapping idea is also a possibility with the interactive southern Gulf ecology project being proposed for the coalition website. It was suggested that the Quickplace project also incorporate in its library the reference index from the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Overview Report.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge WG – Allister and Chantal reported that the WG held a conference call meeting last month and have shifted gears: a main goal will be to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into the Coalition’s five priorities of its 2007-08 workplan. Willi stated the importance for the Coalition to incorporate TEK into its knowledge base and suggested it would be useful for the coalition to also provide a networking opportunity for medicine gatherers to share information in an effort to conserve traditional plants.

Funding/Development WG – John reported on Ray MacIsaac’s behalf. The WG met on January 15. The proposed actions to increase financial capacity include: Fundraising Program, Corporate Sponsorship, Private Foundations, On-line Donations and Merchandising as described in the attached report (as prepared by R. MacIsaac – WG chair).

7. Coordinator’s Report

Due to the large amount of time spent on resolving the financial situation, Nadine reported that she did not have time to produce a written report. However, she gave a brief update on the Coalition’s main activities of the past few months.

8. Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group Update

The last WG meeting was held at the Crystal Palace on February 14 and the intent was to finalize the recommendations report. Marianne provided an update on this initiative and identified Integrated Management as a key recommendation. The future role of the Coalition was discussed. Irene mentioned it would be useful for the Coalition to review a relevant document prepared by the Coastal Communities Network (CCN).

Action Item 02: The Coalition is to remain an active participant with ensuring the recommendations of the Northumberland Strait EOR are implemented.

Action Item 03: Irene to forward the CCN report to the Coalition.



9. AGM Constitution Change and Nominating Committee

As a result of their last meeting, the Management Committee suggests an amendment to the constitution so the Coalition has borrowing powers in order to enhance its ability to recover a financial crisis. Nadine presented a draft constitution amendment to Article 18 – Borrowing Powers. Discussion ensued with suggested changes to the proposed amendment. Marianne proposed that a committee be formed to help Nadine wordsmith the constitution amendment. David seconded the motion. Claudette and David volunteered to assist with this committee.

Action Item 04: Following the committee's revisions, the proposed amendment is to be circulated to the Steering Committee for general comment before sending it as a notice to the Coalition Membership.

Action Item 05: Nadine to verify with the Coalition's Insurance policy and the charitable status criteria to ensure borrowing funds is acceptable.

10. Scholarship Committee update

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee, Nadine reported the 2007 Scholarship winner is Lyanne Burgoyne, a Master's student of St. Francis Xavier University. Her research includes working on CAMP data.

11. Coalition Workplan Update

The 2007-08 Coalition Workplan was presented and reviewed. Willi suggested that the TEK WG needs to be incorporated into the workplan as stated in the TEK WG report under item #6 above. Marianne proposed that the workplan be accepted as amended. Willi seconded the motion.

12. Other Business

The following four items were identified for discussion under other business:

- I. Coalition's Governance structure
- II. General Announcements

I. Nadine explained that the Coalition governance structure became a topic of discussion at recent meetings held with community groups in Nova Scotia. The coalition needs to address the geographic challenges of member engagement from across such a large area. The idea of creating provincial chapters was suggested. Discussion ensued and questions arose as to the role of chapters and how they fit into the Coalition structure. It was recommended that a larger discussion should take place at the AGM and a discussion paper be prepared in advance. Marianne proposed that a committee of 4-5 people be created to develop the discussion paper; seconded by David Boyce. A Governance Working Group was proposed to be comprised of the following individuals: John Legault, Ray MacIsaac, Irene Novaczek, Lisa Arsenault and Kathryn Parlee.

Action Item 06: The WG to prepare a discussion paper by revisiting the Founding meeting concepts and investigating similar organizational structures with chapters.

II. Announcements:

- a) Chantal announced a Climate Change Network meeting hosted by the Gulf of Maine Council to be held in St. Andrews, NB on June 11, 2007.
- b) Willi announced that the Mascaret, a local Moncton publication, is seeking articles on environmental and social justice.
- c) David Boyce announced that the PEI Guide to Watershed Planning is seeking input for discussion; and he also announced a Canadian River Heritage conference to be held in Winnipeg on June 11-14, 2007.

10. Adjournment

John motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by D. Boyce. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30pm.