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Steering Committee Meeting #4 (2005-06)

Location: Miramichi I, Gulf Fisheries Centre, Moncton, NB
Date: Friday, February 24, 2006
Time: 10:10am - 3:00pm

The Attending Members:

Claudette LeBlanc, ACZISC	Nadine Gauvin, Coalition-SGSL Coordinator
Harry Collins, MREAC	John Legault, DFO
Irene Novaczek, Instit. of Island Studies	Terry Burgoyne, PEI Industry rep.
David Boyce, SEA	Remi Donelle, gddpc
Lucia Fanning, Environment Canada	Julie Turcotte, Coalition-SGSL Staff
Allister Marshall, Po'tlo'tek Fish and Wildlife Assoc	

Guests:

Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
Chantal Gagnon, C-CIARN
Wilhelmina Nolan, Sierra Club
Noel Julian, Eskasoni First Nations



1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10. Allister delivered the opening prayer.

2. Approval of agenda

Approval of agenda was moved by D.Boyce and seconded by I. Novaczek. Introductions of meeting participants were made around the table.

3. Approval of previous minutes (November 25th, 2005)

The minutes of last meeting were distributed. Approval of the minutes was moved by J. Legault and seconded by J. Turcotte.

4. Matters arising from minutes

Nadine covered the five action items from the November 25th minutes. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. Financial Report

As treasurer, D. Boyce presented the Coalition financial report (as of January 31st, 2006). David moved to adopt the financial report as presented and Allister seconded the motion. David recommended that we consider modifying our constitutional so that the Coalition is only required to engage in a full audit when requested by funding agencies. Otherwise it would be more economical to conduct a financial review at year-end.

Action Item 01: David and Nadine to produce the proposed constitutional amendment and circulate to the Management Committee before publicizing it for adoption at our Annual General Meeting.

6. Working Group updates

AGM 2006 WG – Harry provided an update on the upcoming ‘Finding the Power to Prosper’ workshop and noted that Nadine and John were also on the Workshop steering committee. He also urged that anyone interested in attending should reserve a seat soon. Discussion revolved around a potential 2007 AGM topic.



It was suggested that we focus on ‘social or economical’ sustainability rather than environmental for a change and possibly partner with a First Nations community in Nova Scotia to host the event as it will be planned in Nova Scotia this year.

It was also suggested that subsidies for NGO groups wanting to participate at the workshop be provided again this year.

Action Item 02: To determine possible 2007 AGM topics at this year’s AGM.

Action Item 03: To set aside monies for NGO subsidies to attend the Energy Workshop and promote its use.

Coastal Erosion WG – Nadine explained that the contract with Environment Canada on producing an annotated bibliography is well underway and is progressing well with the help of hired researcher Julie Turcotte. It was suggested that gap analysis portion of the project should be forwarded to the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group. Chantal also suggested a Community Primer by C-CIARN will be available during the Summer/06.

Action Item 04: Julie and Nadine to forward the gap analysis, upon completion, to the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group.

Communications & Education WG – Nadine reported that the WG has worked to produce the most recent newsletter profiling Steering Committee members and this issue received great feedback. As well, members revised the Coalition brochure to reflect the changes within the coalition.

Funding/Development WG – this is an ad-hoc committee and no report was provided.

Science, Research & Habitat WG – Irene, who is the WG’s new co-chair, reported that the WG is still pursuing funding for the Indicators project and are anxiously awaiting news from EcoAction. She explained the importance of indicators to measure change and the challenges of pulling data from the various provinces. It was suggested we engage GPI Atlantic with the project, as they have a data warehouse of indicators.

Action Item 05: Correspond with GPI Atlantic for assistance with Indicators project.

Technical Advisory WG – John explained that the proposal on GIS nodes to GeoConnections was declined, as it didn’t meet their criteria. He also explained the challenges faced by community groups to input and share their data in one central portal. CIPA (La Collectivité ingénieuse de la Péninsule acadienne) is an opportunity to address this issue. They use Quickplace and every community group can access it. The Coalition could adopt this technology to help build the capacities of NGOs.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge WG – the group is still interested in pursuing a project on how climate change impacts endangered species (traditional plants and animals). It was also mentioned that archaeological areas are in jeopardy to coastal erosion and should be considered. It was urged that the project look at how climate change impacts a specific area of traditional plants rather than a specific plant.

7. Workshop Protocol

Nadine presented the workshop protocol, which is a recipe for engaging workshop participants to achieve a desired outcome: producing a statement, discussing an issue, recommend a strategy to decision-makers, etc. The steering committee approved adopting it as a guideline for future workshops.

8. Scholarship Committee Update

John reported that the cttee will be reviewing the applications next week. There was a significant increase of applicants this year - most likely due to the new timeline and extensive advertising effort (with all universities in the Atlantic Region and on the Canadian Scholarships website).

9. Coalition Workplan Update

Steering Committee members met yesterday for a work-planning exercise and Nadine will incorporate the ideas put forward into a draft plan and forward to the Management Committee for feedback.

10. Coordinator’s Report

The coordinator’s report was reviewed and Nadine highlighted the Coalition’s activities not discussed today.



11. Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group Update

Nadine provided an update on the Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group, which has been meeting regularly and will be hiring a consultant to conduct an Ecosystem Overview Assessment Report.

12. Other Business:

C-CIARN update – Chantal reported that C-CIARN is closing the office on March 31st. Proceedings from its six workshops and posters will be made available on cd.

CAMP – John reported that DFO is considering proposing that the Coalition take over the CAMP project once Jim Weldon retires.

13. Atlantic Canada Coastal Estuarine Science Society Presentation by Dr. Mark Hanson

Dr. Mark Hanson introduced the mandate and activities of ACCESS.

14. Adjournment

At 2:30pm, Rémi proposed that the meeting be adjourned. The next meeting date was scheduled for June 9, 2006. Allister delivered the ‘closing’ prayer.