

Coalition - SGSL Strategic Planning Session (May 25&26, 2004) Minutes and General Notes

As taken by Nadine Gauvin

VISION OF TWO YEARS AND TWENTY YEARS

Each participant stated their vision of the Coalition in two years and in twenty year. Here are some of the comments:

- continue in the direction we're going, learn to celebrate our successes more
- work more on investigating how the political agendas are related to sustainability
- more municipal government support, real projects to bring in other partners, for 20 year vision – leader of sustainability along the St.Lawrence, facilitator of groups working together between communities and government
- more industry involvement, not just community groups, 20 year vision – get everyone to talk about their concerns to find solutions, get off 'traditional' way 'strong communication' forum.
- Better level of communication so people understand why we have to make changes, etc., Coalition is recognized as a group of info-sharing, communications, 20 year vision – to have started improving sustainability with industry, fisheries, and urban seeds are at least planted
- Focus on education, capacity-building needed for the small groups (members) of the coalition, more project work, 29 year vision – Coalition seen as spearheading capacity building, ie eel grass monitoring, copy what one group is already accomplishing and spread the 'how to' to other groups, increase of industry involvement
- More outreach of coalition as vehicle of capacity building – info sharing for industry, etc. 20 year vision – recognized as role model
- Improve our visibility and public profile, 20 year vision – to become a role model of groups working together to improve sustainability throughout the world!

ROLE OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND STEERING COMMITTEE

The group discussed the roles of each committee and decided it would be useful to have a more comprehensive description to inform all members

Action – Nadine and John to work on a one page hand-out of the roles of each committee in a side-by-side format to see how their roles differ (a sort of job description)

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS

Those nominated at the last Steering committee meeting of May 1st, 2004 accepted their nomination and agreed to assume the officer positions as follows:

Chair – Éric Giguère
Vice-chair – Harry Collins
Secretary – Allister Marshall
Treasurer – David Boyce

DRESS CODE, ATTENDANCE CODE AND INTERNET USAGE POLICY

The issue of creating comprehensive codes were discussed and it was agreed that it was not necessary to issue an agreement style of code to new employees but to rather have a one or two statement policy that can also be posted on the wall.

Action – Nadine to ‘lighten’ the codes and to circulate to Management Committee for their review.

INCLUSION OF DIVERSITY

The group discussed how to include more participants of various cultural backgrounds. It was decided to promote cultural diversity as important as bio-diversity in our updated prospectus.

Action – Nadine to write a letter to the Department of Indian and Northern Development to request an opportunity to provide a presentation of the Coalition at an upcoming meeting and from there solicit First Nations participants.

WORKSHOPS AS PRESENTED BY JOHN LEGAULT

John proposed to the group that most of the Coalition’s mandate could be achieved by developing regional workshop sessions that would include forwarding reports of the workshop outcomes (discussion) to various government agencies to help decision-makers grasp the issues from a community perspective. The reports could then be posted on the website and would help to develop policy.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The group spent hours brainstorming on improving and revising the 2004-2005 workplan based on each person’s vision items.

Action – Nadine to work with John to revise the workplan based on notes and thoughts gather during this strategic planning session. Revised workplan is to be presented at the Steering Committee meeting of June 12.

OTHER COMMENTS AND ACTION ITEMS TO UNDERTAKE AS A RESULT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING DISCUSSION

- We need to better plan Steering Committee meetings to make better use of time, more interactive and to have tangibles (end results). Avoid Mngt Cttee material at Steering Cttee meetings so as to avoid redundancy and reduce meeting times.

Action: Nadine to redesign agenda and create a new template to include afternoon mini-forums. Meeting minutes must include the highlights of the afternoon mini-forum and all meeting minutes must be posted on the web soon after the meetings...

- Past Chairs (Liette) should be included as an officer as such in the Coalition so as to ease the transition process.

Action: An amendment to article 10 of the Constitution is required and will need to take place at the next Annual General Meeting.

- We need to publicize the outcome of the EMAN workshop of last January and all other workshops hosted by the Coalition of the past five years.

Action: to post the EMAN workshop results on the website and the other workshops as well.

- We should use the discussions of the Steering Committee mini forums to issue press releases three times per year on the recommendations the Coalition intends to put forth as a result of the discussions. We should also lobby to make sure representatives of all demographics are in public office and in government.

- Look for funding for a term position to help Coordinator with Communication goals, etc.

- Important to develop a funding strategy for within a year.

- Should find out from NRCAN if any follow-up dollars for SCI program, check with NRCAN if they have a metadata site so that groups can post their work, or if it can be posted on Coalition website.

- We should keep a close eye out for NRCAN's call for proposals of the Adaptation and Impact program – for a project for the newly formed Coastal Erosion sub-committee. We need to check with the Science and Research Working Group to see if participants would like to join the Coastal Erosion group.