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Steering Committee Meeting #3 (2006-07)

Location: Chapelle Room, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB
Date: Friday, November 17, 2006
Time: 10:00am

The Attending Members:

Omer Chouinard, Université de Moncton	Nadine Gauvin, Coalition Coordinator
Jenny Guignard, Coalition Admin Assist	Éric Arsenault, MFU
Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary	Harry Collins, MREAC
Claudette LeBlanc, ACZISC	Allister Marshall, Po'tlo'tek Fish and Wildlife Assoc
David Boyce, Canadian Agro-Sustainability Partnership	

Guests:

Ray MacIssac, DFO	Julie Turcotte
Toby Surette, DFO	Peter Dysart, GDDPC
Rémi Donelle, GDDPC	Natalie Leblanc Poirier, GDDPC

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1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:06. Allister delivered the opening prayer. Introductions of meeting participants were made around the table.

2. Approval of agenda

Approval of agenda was moved by D. Boyce and seconded by P. Dysart.

3. Approval of minutes (September 15th, 2006)

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Approval of the minutes was moved by Allister and seconded by Julie.

4. Matters arising from minutes

Nadine covered the ten action items from the September 15th minutes. Action items #3 and #9 have been deferred to the next meeting. With respect to action item #9, '*Omer to prepare a letter to Jim Jones for circulation first to the Mngt. Cttee*', it was suggested that such a letter requires a fair amount of energy and planning and should also be sent to Environment Canada. The letter will serve to position the Coalition with its federal funders. Harry, David and Claudette offered to assist with writing the letter.

Action Item 01: Nadine and Omer to draft the letter with the help of Harry, David and Claudette and send to both RDG's of DFO and Environment Canada.

5. Financial Report

As treasurer, D. Boyce presented the Coalition financial report. David announced that due to a delay with the Environment Canada contribution agreement, the Coalition is in the red. Eric suggested that the Coalition should get a credit margin. David proposed an amount of \$5,000 to \$10,000. Peter questioned the amount and suggested to double the amount to \$15,000 to \$20,000. Claudette seconded the motion. However the motion was withdrawn after learning that it violates the Coalition's constitution with article 18: Borrowing Powers. It was suggested that a constitution change is necessary. David moved that the financial report be accepted as presented and H.Collins seconded the motion.

Action Item 02: Nadine will work on a draft constitution change to present at the next Steering Cttee meeting.



6. Working Group updates

AGM 2007 WG –Nadine reported on Justin’s behalf. The WG, which consists of 8 members, met on two occasions and good progress is being made so far. Nadine has formally requested Canada’s Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Johanne Gélinas, to be the keynote speaker.

Coastal Erosion WG – the Working Group has not met recently. Nadine confirmed that she anticipated they will meet soon. Omer announced that a press conference, on the NB Sea Level Rise project is scheduled for Dec.5 in the Richelieu Room of the Taillon building on UdeM campus.

Communications & Education WG – Nadine reported on Audrey’s behalf. A meeting is scheduled for next week – Nov.23 to focus on how to keep the new website fresh and use it as a tool to engage members. They will also discuss the next issue of the Coalition newsletter.

Funding/Development WG – this is an ad-hoc committee. Nadine announced that she will revive the committee and now is a perfect time. The members are as follow: Nadine Gauvin, David Boyce, Jocelyne Gauvin, John Legault, Ray MacIssac and Audrey Lapenna. Peter suggested that the industries should be involved in the funding like Irving but at a limited degree. Claudette added that when the Coalition was founded, McCains was provided funding.

Action Item 03: Nadine to investigate which companies had originally funded the Coalition and to determine others that could be potential funders.

Science, Research & Habitat WG – Nadine reported on Marianne’s behalf. Members of the WG were contacted to determine funding options for the Phase III of the Sustainability Indicators project. The AgCan proposal was submitted but requires reworking before they can recommend it to the Minister. Nadine announced that she and Julie participated in the workshop ‘*Development of Ecosystem Indicators for Multiple Management and Research Needs*’ at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maine on November 15. Their travel costs were sponsored by the Gulf of Maine Council.

Technical Advisory – The Coalition, in partnership with DFO and CIPA, submitted a proposal to GeoConnections to build an on-line regional atlas. Decisions are expected by November 27th, 2006. The report prepared by the summer student on the technical capacity of NGOs was attached to the proposal.

Traditional Ecological Knowledge WG – Allister reported that the WG is planning a retreat session for December or early January to determine their focus for the next fiscal year. They’re very interested to undertake a project to conserve traditional plants and medicines. Allister circulated a very interesting book on Mi’kmaq medicines. Allister also suggested that due to the Coalition’s recent financial crisis, it may be worthwhile to organize a proposal writing session. Ray suggested that the Fund/ Development WG could work to invite key speakers such as Rachelle Owen to the next SC meeting to divulge successful proposal writing tips.

Action Item 04: The Fund/ Development WG to organize the session above.

7. Coordinator’s Report

Nadine provided the coordinator’s report. John added the Nova Scotia NGO outreach meetings will be held in Tatamagouche and Mabou.

8. Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group Update

Nadine informed the group that a Governance workshop was held on Oct.30 and the EOAR is expected to be completed next month. A general WG meeting is scheduled for November 24th, however Nadine cannot attend due the Communications Workshop being held that day. Eric, who will be attending the Northumberland Strait WG meeting, offered to report at the next SC meeting.

9. Other Business

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

- I. Workplan
- II. ACZISC
- III. CAMP



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I. To adhere to the Environment Canada contribution agreement timeline, the Coalition 2007-08 workplan should be circulated to the SC ahead of the February 2007 meeting, so it can be adopted at the Steering committee meeting and from there immediately submitted to Environment Canada.

Action item 05: Nadine to circulate the new workplan to the Steering Committee in advance of the February meeting.

II. Claudette explained the role of ACZISC and the importance for the Coalition to be involved as a representative of NGO groups. Nadine will be the Coalition rep and David Boyce will act as her alternate.

III. Ray explained the current status of the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP), and that the data is currently held at the Canadian Rivers Institute with Simon Courtney but has yet to be analyzed. Discussions on how the coalition can become the CAMP coordinating body will be presented during the NS meetings.

10. Adjournment

Before adjourning, Omer reminded the Steering Committee that seats were reserved for members to attend the afternoon NSERC session, 'The Flux of Stuff'. This meeting is being held at the NSERC Atlantic office in the Scientific Park – the other side of campus. Allister provided the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50am.