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Steering Committee Meeting #4 (2007-08)

Location: Margaree Room, Gulf Fisheries Centre, Moncton, NB
Date: Friday, March 14, 2008
Time: 10:00am

The Attending Members:

Harry Collins, MREAC
Allister Marshall, Chapel Island First Nation
John Legault, DFO
Chantal Gagnon, Consultant
Nadine Gauvin, Coalition Coordinator

Rémi Donelle, gddpc
Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
Marc-André Plourde, Les Ami(e)s de la Kouchibouguacis
Irene Novaczek, Institute of Island Studies
Jean Goguen, Kent Planning Commission

Guests:

Conrad Cormier, Southeast Anglers Assoc.
Chris Hornberger, Halifax Global

Regrets :

Omer Chouinard, UdeM
Claudette LeBlanc, ACZISC
David Boyce, CASP
P.Nagarajan, UPEI
Lisa Arsenault, Comité ZIP Baie des Chaleurs

Jocelyne Gauvin, gddpc
Christian Fraser, UQAR
Justin Huston, NS Government
Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada



1. Call to order

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

2. Approval of agenda

Approval of the agenda was moved by Marc-André Plourde and seconded by Irene Novaczek.

3. Approval of previous minutes (December 7, 2007)

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. It was suggested to include a ‘regrets’ section in the minutes so there is a record of members who’ve advised they cannot attend. Approval of the minutes, with the above suggestion, was moved by Chantal Gagnon and seconded by John Legault.

Action item 01: Nadine to ensure a regrets section is included in all future minutes.

4. Matters arising from minutes

Nadine covered the nine action items from the December 7th, 2007 minutes. Action item 08 ‘discussion of impacts of species of risk’ was deferred to the next TEK Working Group meeting. Action item 09 ‘consideration of climate change as a working group’ was deferred to be included with today’s Agenda item 07 – Draft Strategic Plan review.

5. Financial Report

On behalf of Treasurer David Boyce, Nadine presented the Coalition financial report. The total actual revenue up until the end of February 2008 was \$212,274.83 and the total expense was \$189,579.37 with a positive balance of \$22,695.46. Discussion ensued on the format of the financial report. It was recommended to remove any predicted revenues and expenses; and to only list the actual budgetary items. Harry offered to provide MREAC’s financial reports as templates for the Coalition to follow. John Legault moved that the financial report be accepted, with the above suggestion, and Marc-André Plourde seconded the motion.

Action item 02: Harry to provide Nadine with MREAC financial reports as templates.



6. Working Group updates

AGM 2008 WG – Nadine reported that the WG recently decided to postpone the Social Economy and Sustainable Societies workshop until September 2008 due to lack of confirmed funding support, etc. The Annual General Meeting, however, will still occur on June 5th. A request for members to participate on the nominating committee for the elections component of the AGM was put forth. Chantal, Marc-Andre and Alice all agreed to participate and David Boyce's name was put forward as a fourth nominating committee candidate. The group will meet soon to determine candidates for the Steering Committee vacancies.

Action item 03: Nadine to organize a Nominating Committee meeting in April.

Coastal Erosion WG – There was nothing to report from this WG as they have not met since the last SC meeting. However, the WG is seeking a new Co-Chair because Martine Giangioppi has resigned and accepted a new position with DFO in Ottawa.

Communications & Education WG – Nadine reported the WG provided suggestions and input with the Coalition's revised brochure. Copies will be printed and distributed to the Aveda salons for the Earth Month Campaign. Marc-André re-expressed his interest to join the WG.

Action item 04: Nadine to add Marc-André Ploudre to the Communications & Education WG member list.

Funding/Development WG – John announced that the Coalition was recently approved for funding by the Status of Women Canada project, '*Women in Coastal Communities – Securing a healthy economic future*' for \$63,475. This is to begin April, 2008. Irene suggested that herself, Omer and Nadine meet soon to discuss the possibility of obtaining a grad student through the Social Economy Network to work on the project.

Action item 05: Irene, Omer and Nadine to discuss the SWC project as identified above.

Science, Research & Habitat WG – Irene reported on behalf of Co-Chair - Marie-Hélène Thériault. The WG group had met on January 17th and discussed how the regional on-line atlas fits in with the idea of having data to develop indicators as a reporting mechanism, such as a State of the Gulf report. They are also finalizing a Terms of Reference for the WG, which will be posted on the Coalition website.

Technical Advisory WG – John reported that the WG has met several times over the past few months to develop the technical requirements for the atlas. He and Nadine will be working on finalizing the business plan for the atlas in the next month. It was determined more feasible and effective to use Google Earth as the primary tool to develop the atlas.

7. Draft Strategic Plan review

Chris Hornberger, of Halifax Global, reported via telephone and power point presentation on the highlights of the Coalition's new strategic plan. Discussion ensued on the role of the Management Committee vs the Steering Committee. It was mentioned that Management Committee members should have fundraising skills and that the Steering committee is too operational - should be more reflective of the original objectives of the Coalition: as a forum to exchange and share ideas that promote sustainability amongst various stakeholders. It was suggested to render the Management Committee as more administrative and to remove the administrative aspects from the Steering Committee. The group agreed to adopt the Strategic Plan in principle with consideration due to the above recommendations.

Action item 06: The above recommendations to be incorporated into the Strategic Plan.

8. Coordinator's Report

Nadine provided the Coordinator's report which detailed the activities of the Coalition administration over the past few months.

9. Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group Update

There was nothing new to report on this WG.

10. 2008 Scholarship update

Chantal reported that the scholarship committee selected Anne-Marie Leclerc, a Masters student of UQAR, as the 2008 Scholarship winner. As such, Chantal moved that \$5,000 be awarded to Anne-Marie; Marie Hélène Thériault seconded the motion.



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11. Other Business:

a. Rémi Donelle presented a new guide developed by the Groupe de développement durable du Pays de Cocagne – ‘*Climate Change Challenge: A guide for the Kent Region’s businesses*’. The media launch took place earlier this morning. It was suggested to promote the guide on the Coalition website.

Action item 07: To post the gddpc guide on the Coalition website.

12. Afternoon Presentation

John Legault, Coalition Management Committee member and Senior Ecosystem Advisor with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, provided an overview of the various capabilities with Google Earth as the optimum tool for the Coalition’s regional sustainability atlas.

13. Adjournment

Allister Marshall delivered the closing prayer for the meeting which adjourned at 2:50pm.