



**Annual General Meeting**

**Location:** Chéticamp, Cap Breton, NS

**The Attending Members:**

Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary	Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada
Omer Chouinard, UdeM	Randy Angus, MC PEI
Dominique Bérubé, Natural Ressource GNB	Chantal Gagnon, SGSLCS ED
Marie-Hélène Thériault, SRHWG-Chair	Bob Taylor, Geological Survey of Canada
Allan Debertin, Canadian's River Institute UNB	Marilyn Clark, Inshore Fishermen's Ass.
Annie E. Johnson Unama'ki Inst.of Natural Resources	Allister Marshall, Council First Nation
Rémi Donelle, Coalition des b.v. de Kent	Julie Whalen, Dalhousie University
Geoff Nishi, Mabou Harb. Coast.Res. Man. Plan. Com.	Garth Demont, NSDNR
David Boyce, Three Rivers Heritage Association	Heather Mayhew, Antigonish w.s. Ass
Jennifer Graham, Ecologie Action Center	Danica Le Breton , SGSLCS staff
Lisa Arsenault, Consultant	Steve Plante, UQAR
Gretchen Noyes-Hull, GAMS	Randy Poirier, GAMS
Albert LeBlanc , NS Dept. Economic and Rural Development	.

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**Date:** Friday, June 11, 2010

**Time:** 5:45 pm

**1. Introduction to Welcome**

The meeting was called to order by Coalition-SGSL Chairperson, David Boyce at 5:45 pm. David explained how our AGM was timely as it is Rivers to Oceans Week is an opportunity to work together to create an understanding of Canada's watersheds, our connection to fresh and salt-water environments and what everyone can do to protect and keep watersheds healthy for people and wildlife. It's the Canada's Rivers Day on June 13, 2010- this is always the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of June and it was Oceans Day on June 8. David also took a moment to thank our host the Gulf Aquarium Marine Station (GAMS) that was created in 2007 to establish a marine centre that promotes the sustainability of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. David talked about the year of change we had with our new Executive Director in August 2009, Chantal Gagnon, and changes in the staff with goodbyes to Nadine Gauvin, Monique Brideau, and Nadine LaPlante. David also welcomed Danica LeBreton, the Coalition-SGSL's new staff member. The year of changes also included our office move to Shippagan in April to Université de Moncton, Shippagan campus. Dave went on to say that while it may be far away from many people, the Coalition-SGSL is not an office. It is the people who work together and who we represent across the region. Meeting participants then introduced them-selves.

**2. Approval of agenda**

Approval of the agenda moved by Omer Chouinard and seconded by Randy Angus.

**3. Approval of consented document**

Discussion took place with respect to approval of the consented document send by Chantal to all members. This included the previous AGM's minutes (March 5, 2010) - there were no corrections or errors - the List of Action items for 2009-2010 and the Volunteer Recruitment Strategy. Approval of the consent document was moved by Omer Chouinard and seconded by Marie-Hélène Thériault. Adoption of the motion was accepted unanimously.

**4. 2009 Scholarship Result Presentation**

Allan Debertin, recipient of the 2009 scholarship, reported on the status of his research which involved quantifying the structure of fish predatory-prey relations within an ecosystem research initiative (ERIS) approach in the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence. He also explained the importance of this work in the Northumberland Strait and around Prince Edward Island for the lobster fishery.

**5. Presentation of the 2010 Scholarship recipient**

Chantal presented the 2010 scholarship recipient Gabrielle Beaulieu of Dalhousie University. Gabrielle could not make the AGM, but she prepared a bilingual video that Chantal showed to the members. Gabrielle’s research is on the piping plover and is done in collaboration with universities, Parks Canada, and community volunteers.

**6. Volunteer Awards**

There were three recipients of the Volunteer Recognition Award this year:

- Jennifer Graham: In appreciation of her positive contribution as Chair of the Coastal Erosion Working Group; her support, commitment, guidance and leadership.
- Marie-Hélène Thériault: In appreciation of her positive contribution as Chair of the Science, Research & Habitat Working Group; her endless enthusiasm, energy and dedication.
- Allister Marshall: In appreciation of his positive contribution over the years as member of the Steering and Management Committees; a voice for First Nations, Species at Risk, Traditional Knowledge and Spirituality

**7. Lobster supper:**

The Coalition-SGSL AGM members helped raise a little over \$700 for the Gulf Aquarium and Marine Station Youth program by donating to this tasty event. The supper was planned, organized and executed by GAMS and its employee Randy Poirier. Thank you to the lobster fishers, COOP Chéticamp and the local cooks who gave generously and made this event possible for GAMS and the Coalition-SGSL’s AGM members.

**Meeting ended at 6:45pm.**

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**Date:** June 12, 2010

**Time:** 8:40

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Coalition Chairperson, David Boyce at 8:40 am.

**2. CAMP Result from 7 years**

Marie-Helene Theriault presented on the analysis of seven years of data from the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP). This presentation will soon be available on the Coalition-SGSL’s website. Discussion following the presentation sought to provide feedback on what members thought of recommendations expressed in the presentation. Some of the main points:

- Dropping sampling in May and September:
  - If monitoring earlier or later paying the groups could be considered.
  - May want to set the frequency and time of monitoring according to the ice coverage in the gulf that year.

- For small groups less sampling is better, but in larger groups with community support more is better. DFO should maybe consider each estuary and group separately.
- With climate changes it does not seem to make sense to reduce the sampling.

As the conversations were getting long and detailed, members were asked to discuss one on one with Marie-Hélène during the break.

### **3. Project Reporting**

Chantal presented on the 2009-2010 projects for the Coalition-SGSL with a power-point presentation and with the use of videos. The projects included Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP), the Coastal Erosion Monitoring and Awareness Program (CEMAP), the Financial Literacy for Women in Coastal Communities project and the Social Economic Cultural Overview Assessment (SEOCA) project. Chantal also informed the group that specific pages will be created on our website in order to provide members and the general public with more information.

### **4. Steering Committee Resolutions for approval**

Members had previously received through email the modifications requirement by Revenue Canada for the Constitution. Chantal explained these in more details specifically in regards to the wording in the mandate. Approval of the changes was moved by Omer Chouinard and seconded by Allister Marshall. Adoption of the motion was accepted unanimously.

### **5. Financial Report**

Chantal presented the financial report since the Treasurer, John Legault, was absent. The financial report was part of the document sent to the members prior to the AGM. Chantal explained the unusual trait of seeing a minus figure in the revenues related to Natural Resources Canada (related to accounting practices for receivables from the previous year, which we did not received and will not be receiving). Chantal also explained the assets and liabilities and expenses. Chantal provided members who requested it copies of the Verified Grant and Thornton Financial report.

For fiscal year 2009-2010, the Coalition-SGSL showed a deficit of 49 259\$, but with a positive and strong balance in our account for the end of fiscal year. Chantal explained details related to her expenses which include traveling to meetings, events and the office, employee representation and travel, and the office move. Chantal also explained that new accounting procedures were being implemented for this new fiscal year, and that the Management Committee will be looking into getting an audit done next year rather than a financial verification. Approval of the financial report was moved by Rémi Donelle and seconded by Alice Power. Adoption of the motion was accepted unanimously.

### **6. Steering Committee Nominations and Elections**

David and Chantal presented a power-point for which members were up for re-election this year, those nominated and the remaining vacant seats, as well as members up for election next year. For each section, David followed the Code Morin process by asking the room at large for other nominations three times, then asking for approval of those nominated, those against and those abstaining. All re-elected members and nominated members were unanimously voted in. The new list will soon be made available on the website.

2010 Re-Elected – Term ends June 2012

Parlee, Kathryn  
Donelle, Rémi

Federal Rep.  
NGO, NB

Power, Alice	NGO, NS
Chouinard, Omer	Academic, NB
Nagarajan, Pilanisamy	Academic, PEI
Thériault, Marie-Hélène	Public-at-large
Goguen, Jean	Municipality, NB*

\*Jean is ready to be back on the committee, but is willing to step down before 2012 if someone from another municipality or group of Municipalities is interested in this experience.

All nominees who couldn't be there in person submitted an official acceptance of nomination letter that Chantal read to the group before voting.

2010 Nominations – Term ends June 2012

Plante, Steve	Academic, QC
Nielsen, Debbie	Municipal. NS
Deacon, Douglas	Municipal. PEI
Sark, Mark	First Nations**

Observer Status

UINR	First Nations***
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\*\* Mark Sark has agreed pending approval of the Elders Council in Listuguj.

\*\*\* UINR requested being an observer for this coming year, until they can get to know us and go through their Council approval as well.

Nominations were called to the room at large for the following vacant seats:

QC Representative for: Provincial Government, Municipal Government and NGO

NB Representative for: Commerce

PEI Representative for: Provincial government

NS Representative for: Commerce

1 First Nations

There were no suitable candidates in the room for these vacancies. However, the members offered a list of recommended nominations (to start approaching for coming year) including:

Marilyn Clark suggested approaching the Municipalité grosse-île et des Iles de la Madeleine or ask Pascal Bernatchez about approaching Carleton-sur-Mer.

Steve Plante agreed to approach Yves Martinet du Comité ZIP Gaspésie et Iles de la Madeleine for NGO QC.

Randy Angus accepted to work on trying to get a provincial PEI rep back on board.

There were no other nominations for these positions.

Steering Committee members remaining – Terms end June 2011:

MacIsaac, Ray	Federal Rep
Capozi, Robert	Prov.Rep.NB
Huston, Justin	Prov.Rep.NS
Novaczek, Irene	Commerce, PEI
Boyce, David	NGO, PEI
Arsenault, Lisa	Commerce, QC
Garbary, David	Academic, NS
Angus, Randy	First Nations
Legault, John	Public-at-large

Chantal informed members that the Steering Committee had already agreed to holding meetings through video and audio conferencing in 2010-2011 to save on green house gas emissions, cost and member fatigue.

## **7. AGM Schedule**

David and Chantal suggested that the next three AGM dates and locations be decided at the Steering Committee following this AGM. It was explained that securing these in advance will increase efficiency in planning and organizing the events, make it easier to secure funding and partners, and provide more time for members to plan the AGM into their schedules. This information was provided at this stage of the meeting to give the members the time to discuss and ponder during the rest of the AGM.

## **8. Lunch.**

The wonderful lunch, including vegetarian options and a diabetic friendly desert, was provided by the All Aboard Restaurant.

## **9. Volunteer Groups Report**

Jennifer Graham presented on the work done by the Coastal Erosion Working Group and where they want to go. There are three main points the groups want to see progress in the coming years:

- More bilingual educational material on environment and erosion
- More programs and discussions in communities about coastal erosion.
- Finding ways to compare trends not only over years but between regions as well, to pull together a bigger picture.

Chantal read the Science, Research and Habitat Working Group paragraph on the activities they have done (Marie-Hélène had to leave the AGM early).

Chantal then explained the other groups briefly by stating that though not much has moved forward, structure is being built for the management of the groups within the Coalition-SGSL (Volunteer Group Policy). Also, the Communication and Education Volunteer Group has just started meeting again.

## **10. Volunteer groups workshop & project discussions**

Chantal provided some instructions and directions as to the objective of this exercised. The main objectives are to stimulate discussions among the members and provide direction on certain issues for the Coalition-SGSL's Steering Committee. Chantal proposed a variety of topics given that there were not enough volunteer group members present to discuss in their groups. Thus two groups formed, Coastal Erosion and Everything else, with the goal of providing direction on the role and place of the Coalition-SGSL and what type of activities could be done by the members and the Coalition-SGSL. Before breaking into groups, Steve Plante and Omer took the opportunity to explain the Coastal Communities Challenges - Community University Research Alliance (CCC-CURA) project in a bit more details. This included explaining the role of the Coalition-SGSL which consists in A) providing assistance in managing the CURA-CCC over the next five years and B) informing, guiding and assisting Coalition-SGSL members in participating in the projects. More information is available in French (soon to be in English too) at [www.defidescommunautéscotieres.org](http://www.defidescommunautéscotieres.org).

Here are the main points resulting from this workshop:

### **Coastal Erosion (10 members)**

Participants: K.Parlee, S.Plante, D.Bérubé, B.Taylor, G.Demont, H.Mayhew, D.LeBreton, R.Angus, J.Graham, and D.Boyce.

Participants introduced themselves, explaining their work and what they are hoping to achieve. Here are the big lines of the discussion around coastal erosion:

#### Coastal risk

- Inform community to make sure they understand the impact of erosion on their life.
- Use the website more for sharing information.
- Illiteracy - What is the percentage of people? What is the solution, [how can we share the information?](#)
- Convince people that they need to change perspective on the way to do things. Educate people on what to do and not to do.
- People are starting to realize the impacts of coastal erosion.
- Discussions around insurance companies that don't cover for erosion.
- In Quebec they now have a coalition between different ministries discussing the rules for insurance. They are not quite ready for accommodating people.
- The 2 main problems are: Making the documentation and transferring the documentation to communities.
- We want constant reports with photography and detail descriptions to inform community, find a way to put it on website.
- Try to find out if Nadine LaPlante started a report on the last erosion reunion with the action points asked for.
- Communities will need to develop a long term plan to adapt to Coastal Erosion.
- Make a bibliography list to put on a website so you don't need copyright.
- On the Coalition-SGSL website, have update of minutes of reunion of different group.
- Make a list of contact sorted by group with email and/or phone number, website, and so on. This way people can click on the coalition website to find the right person or group.
- Create a Facebook group for Coalition-SGSL (*already exists but no one to man it*).

#### **Everything else (11 members):**

Participants: J.Whalen, A.Debertin, L.Arsenault, R.Donnelle & spouse, O.Chouinard, C.Gagnon, G.Nishi, A.Johnson, A.Marshall, A.Power.

This group discussed oil exploration in the Gulf of St.Lawrence, Habitat and conservation efforts, climate change adaptation and other such issues, sustainable fisheries and so on. Here are some of the key points.

- The Coalition-SGSL should do something, i.e. act, if an activity occurring in the Southern Gulf or near it puts at risk the sustainability of the Gulf.
- The Coalition-SGSL has an educator role to address misinformation. As an impartial broker focused on sustainability it should contribute to the debate on such issues by providing information (what is known, what is unknown, what A sais and what B sais).
- As a facilitator the Coalition-SGSL should connect with all members to ensure they know what is happening and where to get the information and who to talk to.
- On the crab quota issue – people are not hearing the information as to what is really going on; they can't get straight answers.
- A means of communicating more is to assist at town hall meetings where industry or government is invited to ensure there is another story being told as well, so people can get both sides of the story; and also by bringing in experts from various sources.
- As a non-aligned organization the Coalition-SGSL has a role in debunking what is being told with what is not being told; and by looking at the effects that may not be originally

- considered – such as positive examples of industry (like artificial reef creation on oil rigs), and the negative examples of local activities (like armored shores).
- The Coalition-SGSL should assist with the creation and distribution of knowledge regarding the nature and impacts of the consequences of natural resource exploitation when the economic situation improves for a resource (when prices for the resource goes up and down – how does this affect the sustainability of the region).
  - Local groups and members do not have the resources to hire researchers or consultants to find out more information to know beyond what the industry or government or local myths are saying. The Coalition-SGSL must take the information that is out there to those who are active in their local communities, but who do not have the time or resources or the inclination to find out what folks are saying or thinking on issues around the region (community leaders, chiefs, authority figure, residents).
  - It is important that the Coalition-SGSL remains neutral, but it should be a liaison group with government and their advisory groups, like in Maine.
  - The Coalition-SGSL must maintain a position of objectivity – make objective, clear goals and criteria – hold reflected arguments – on what information is provided and then let the local groups make their own decisions based on this information.
  - The Coalition-SGSL could provide a service for communities to have an observer or expert to come to certain meetings on issues at the request of members (email hotline type thing).
- 2010 year of Biodiversity - what can we do? Suggestions include:
    - Certified Sustainable fisheries – what is going on in the Maritimes on this issue? What local program exists to lower impacts of consumption on biodiversity (such as the BlueFork program in Gaspé (won innovation award from QC province), Loblaw's selling only sustainable seafood (MSC), and Information at Ecology Action Centre)? Share the view points on the issue, i.e. industry is hard-pressed to come up with certification, it is an expensive and long process, but that the demand from the population is there. Could show how shellfish aquaculture industry could benefit from this type of information sharing as these can play a role in remediation of habitat (like Mabou).
    - Work on awareness of projects and programs, what is available in each province; raise the public profile of sustainable natural resources industries and practices; tell the whole story to help turn folks into stewardship.
    - Network beyond the Gulf region on biodiversity and related subjects.
    - Help bring awareness and solutions to connectivity impeded by infrastructure like roads and causeways. For example, folks in Cape Breton are still discussing the causeway and what would happen if it was removed and a bridge was built instead. This would change noticeably the Northumberland straight – but how? Using examples from elsewhere, like the damn being removed in Eel River Bar, share the information of the economic, social and environmental impacts of removal of structures that are obstacles to habitat connectivity, especially for long standing infrastructure. Sharing this type of information with the greater region will help stimulate discussions and decisions around removal of obstacles and remediation of sites to enhance biodiversity.
    - Canadian Water Network is looking at models for land mapping and impacts on the Northumberland Strait. The Coalition-SGSL should stay in contact and involved in this process.
    - Canadian River Institute has students and academics studying river systems, one example in our region is the Miramichi river system. The Coalition-SGSL should also stay in collaboration with them.

- The Coalition-SGSL's role with rivers:
  - There are sedimentation issues in the rivers of the Gulf's drainage basin. Though local groups do know that the Coalition-SGSL can help link estuary issues with the coast, the ocean and the rivers, we have minimal implication in river issues. Coastal issues are working their way up river but the reverse (rivers to the coast) is less frequent. The Coalition-SGSL needs to be more inclusive and involved with river organizations that they may see us as part of their work and as a resource.
  - Suggestion: maybe start by focusing on some key rivers and their groups that are cooperative and share what resources and contacts we have, what has been done elsewhere, who can help and so on. The more information combines rivers and coasts in the marketing (communication) efforts the higher the likeliness folks will adjust their mind set to this reality (eliminate the segregation of information which is often on one or the other).
  - Mabou could work more closely with the Coalition-SGSL to share the positive experience of having CAMP in their community. Share their experience and model (the processes used and so on) to inspire others in adopting a sustainable watershed management approach. Mabou CAMP group are interested in doing outreach beyond their community as they have a waiting list of volunteers. The Coalition-SGSL could have a role of bringing the good examples with the bad examples to help develop a how-to knowledge locally.

**11. Special Panel Presentations and discussion: Addressing erosion monitoring in watersheds and coastal zones (Dominique Bérubé, Bob Taylor and Garth Demont)**

D. Bérubé presented on New Brunswick Coastal Erosion projects and techniques.  
G. Demont presented on the coastal zone in Nova Scotia, strategies and monitoring.  
B. Taylor presented on work on monitoring shoreline change through time by the Geological Survey of Canada, Atlantic.  
These presentations will be made available on the Coalition-SGSL's website.

**Closing Remarks and Adjournment 4:00pm**

**David thanked everyone for participating and invited the Steering Committee members to stay for the meeting afterwards and any other member who wanted to stay.**