



Steering Committee Meeting #35 (2010-11)

Location: Webex

Date: Friday, December 10, 2010

Time: 10:00 am

Attending Members:

Debbie Nielsen, Union of NS Mun.
Danica Le Breton, SGSLCS staff
Kathryn Parlee, EC
Ray MacIsaac, DFO
David Boyce, Three Rivers Heritage Association
Randy Angus, MC PEI
Annie Johnson, UINR

Omer Chouinard, UdeM
Chantal Gagnon, SGSLCS ED
Rémi Donelle, Coalition des b.v. de Kent
John Legault, Public-at-Large
Irene Novaczek, Oceana Seaplants
Yves Martinet, ZIP
Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary

Regrets:

David Garbary, St. F.X
Justin Huston, NS Government
Mark Sark, GMRC
P.Nagarajan, UPEI
Jean Goguen, Kent Planning Commission

Lisa Arsenault, consultant
Robert Capozzi, NB Government
Doug Deacon, Town of Stratford
Marie-Hélène Thériault, Public-at-Large

Steve Plante, CURA, UQAR – due to technical difficulties

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1. Log in

Log-in was done a 10: 00 am.

2. Opening prayer

Ray MacIsaac said the opening prayer.

3. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Remi Donelle at 10:07 am. Remi welcomed everyone to the meeting and roundtable introductions proceeded. Remi advised members that the call is recorded for the purpose of improved minutes and explained how the meeting will proceed on Webex work.

4. Approval of Minutes

Rémi reviewed the document that was sent to members. Remi asked if there is any question or comment of the previous minutes. Chantal came back on Action Item #4 of the previous minutes, which asked members to provide ideas and solutions to the fact that there is no more roundtable in the meeting since there is only 2 hours of virtual meeting. Otherwise, there were no comments or questions. Rémi asked for approval of the minutes.

Moved as amended by: Omer Chouinard

Seconded as amended by: David Boyce

Approved: All agreed

5. Review and discussion of Minutes

Rémi ask Chantal to go through the document.

Chantal briefly explained the entire document. She told members that if they want to join the working group meetings, the dates are indicated in the Information Document and they simply need to contact us.

6. Financial Update

Remi asked Chantal to present the financial report. Chantal explained that a new document was sent a few days before the meeting. It reflects an accurate Profit and Loss and Balance Sheet for the Year to date (unlike the usual by quarter numbers). She briefly draws attention to the project expenses versus the operational expenses, and clarifies that the difference between the amounts in Total income over total expenses, and the amount of funds available to the Coalition-SGSL as indicated in the balance sheet. She also points out that because now most of our meetings are with Webex, the expenses show up in telephone expenses rather than meals, accommodation or travel.

We have a pretty good cushion in the bank however; there are still many project related expenses before the end of fiscal year. We will be okay until end of fiscal year, but cash flow may become very tight in early 2011-2012 if funds do not come in early and quickly enough.

7. AGM 2011

Remi asked Chantal and Alice to talk about the Annual General Meeting of the Coalition-SGSL for 2011. Chantal started by presenting the tentative agenda for the AGM. After she asked Alice to explain what we need from the Steering Committee.

A) Alice says that the weekend of June 17-18th 2011 is the best date for the AGM. She explains that they researched lodging options. We need to confirm the date of the AGM.

Question: Did you consider that working people will have to take time off for traveling?

Chantal: Yes, that is why on the tentative agenda, Friday, the meeting is only starting at 7:30pm and finishes Saturday so folks can grab the first Ferry home.

Chantal asked for a motion to approve the date of June 17 & 18, 2011 for the AGM.

Moved by: David Boyce

Seconded by: Omer Chouinard

Approved: All agreed

B) Alice advises that the second point for the AGM is that people have to let the committee know if they are going alone or as a Family vacation.

IRENE: Can you tell us a little bit more of the Hostel?

Chantal: the hotel is like 3-4 km from the center of the Island. They have bunk beds in the rooms, you can fit 4 people per room. She asked Yves if there is more to say. Yves tells that no it is pretty much, but there is also more options for lodging. The hostel has to be reserve quickly and we have to reserve the whole Hostel. Yves tells that there is also in the downtown hotel, a conference and restaurant. It will be equal in price. There is also a list for B&B on the website.

See these links sent through chat by Yves:

<http://www.salicorne.ca/auberge-forfaits/>

<http://www.ilesdelamadeleine.com/fr/hebergement.php>

Action Item 1: AGM group to send participant information for the Hostel and different options.

Action Item 2: Find the website for B&B and provide a list of the different options:

Chantal asked the members present to give us an idea of what they are currently planning (travelling with families, alone, hostel, camping, ferry or plane, etc). This will help us know how many to reserve and the cost to calculate. There is around 5-6 persons that say they will stay at the hotel. More information will be provided around March.

Alice reminded everyone of the topic of the AGM : “Natural resources exploitation in the Gulf: Hydrocarbons and fisheries, and tourism. Can exploitation co-exist? Can they do so sustainably?” Various approaches were considered, yet it seems to us the planned April conference by the municipality of the islands seems to cover most of what we may have wanted to do.

Yves talked about that event which has been planned for few months now. It will summarize the past year`s effort from the working committee there. There was a conference with Zachary Richard, to talk about the disaster that happened in Mexico last year. There have been alot of activities all year long. The April conference is a combination that will try to find solutions or propose ways that they can live with. As such, the Coalition-SGSL doesn`t want to be redundant or competitive with that event. Our challenge is therefore to make sure that the Coalition-SGSL AGM complements their event while meeting the expectations of our members.

The AGM group has come up with 2 scenarios. Both options were provided during the meeting and are explained below. Alice asked members to look at both and decide which is better and what can we change.

Option 1

Based on the current tentative agenda sent to Steering Committee members (see Special Document). Currently – we have separate presentations on tourism, fisheries, and hydrocarbons and they together focused on sustainability plus a section on personal commitment. The concept here is to bring information from the Magdalene Islands as a trigger for discussion on the wider subjects, with the goal of directing the end objective of the whole day to a personal-individual awareness and commitment to change.

In this case the objective of this approach is to inform those present of the sustainability of these three industries in the region, encourage debate on their coexistence and engage individuals present to commit to life style changes.

Option 2

Another approach to the theme is the following:

The objective is that we seek to encourage members of the Coalition-SGSL to debate the situation in the Gulf of St. Lawrence surrounding natural resources exploitation and seek to envision common paths to sustainable alternatives/solutions.

The approach would cover a similar format as option 1 but with short presentations that reflect the current state of each industry in the Magdalene Island as it is known by those there. Followed by a presentation on industry, social and environmental projections for the region in 20 and 50 years. Then together the forum will focus on trying to answer either of the below questions:

1 – What will permit these industries (fisheries, tourism, and hydrocarbon) need to be sustainable given environmental, economic and social projections for the coming 20 and 50 years?

OR

2 - What actions, laws, innovation, or social changes will permit the people of the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence to sustain their quality of life given the 20 and 50 years projections for environmental (climate change), economic (running out of oil) and social changes (inverted demographics)?

The final activity then becomes a search for common paths that describe alternatives or complements to existing realities that we can stand behind as a Coalition-SGSL or chose to increase attention in our common work. In essence, help engage the participants towards trying to see what we need to change now in order to be ready for then. We can target the activities to focus the discussion around alternatives for the above three industries (what changes in regulations may be needed or changed in mechanical tools).

Discussion:

Most members of the Steering Committee tended towards option number 2.

Irene mentioned the need for an aboriginal presence. Randy says that we have to discuss that again later because there would be some person interested to attend.

Debbie asked how many people they are expecting.

Chantal is looking to have 50 people but if we get 30 that would be great.

Irene suggests that since the Coalition-SGSL is member of the CCC-CURA, we could ask academia or partners to present at the AGM.

Alice mentioned that we need an idea here to follow as we need to find funding sources and these will only be available with a draft agenda. Also this must be done sooner than later as April or March would be a little late.

Chantal asked for each member to give a final okay to the option they like best, and all were in agreement to move with option 2. The AGM group will therefore move forward with the planning of the AGM based on this decision.

There were some suggestions of adding Sunday to the schedule of the agenda or starting on Thursday if the need is there. The AGM group will keep this under consideration as the agenda is reworked and details are developed.

The AGM group has developed messages for recruiting volunteers to help with the logistics. This was shared with the Steering Committee. Remi indicated having some availability by mid January and Irene by mid-February. The notice for volunteers will also be included in the up-coming Messenger newsletter.

When the AGM committee will meet, they will have to discuss the publicity for the Coalition-SGSL AGM in the Magdalene Island.

8. Other Business

A) Remi mentioned that Yves Martinet has agreed to represent the Comité ZIP des îles-de-la-Madeleine as the SC Member for NGO-QC. There is no place in the constitution that says that we can elect someone outside the AGM SC reunion. But we can do Interim Election. Therefore Chantal proposed that Yves Martinet assume the new chair in the Steering Committee NGO-QC, pending June AGM.

B) Chantal talked about the RCEN's National Energy Board Consultation on Environmental and socio-Economic Assessment Section update to filing manual call for delegates. It will be held in Calgary, AB on January 14th, 2011. They have to select up to 10 ENGO delegates to participate in a bilateral consultation to seek ENGO input into the Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment (ESA) Section update to the Filing Manual. Chantal asked if there is someone that is interested in going. At this time no one is available to go, however, Irene and Omer are interested to get the information. Chantal asked if the other members of the SC are interested in receiving the information. Yes.

C) Chantal shared the email from Marie-Helene, saying that the EnviroThon will be held next year in Sackville, NB. They will need volunteers, so if there is any people available, to contact Marie-Helene Theriault.

D) Chantal discussed the OMRN – Coastal Network Policy Brief effort. She recommends that Steering Committee members join together to release a policy brief that can be shared with the country as a whole on issues related to coastal and ocean management. Especially, joining members from different sectors on one issue to bring about a balanced perspective. If Steering Committee members are interested, Chantal will send more information and the Management Committee can help provided support to those interested Steering Committee members who want to voice their expertise and opinion on a subject on behalf of the Coalition-SGSL.

All members were interested in receiving more information on this opportunity.

Action item 3: Chantal and Danica to send all the requested information to Steering Committee.

9. Adjournment

The next meeting will be on March 4th at 10:00am.

Moved by: John Legault

Seconded by: Yves Martinet

Approved: all agreed

Omer, and Rémi adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.