



Minutes Steering Committee Meeting #37

June 18, 2011



Table of Content

Table of Content	2
Tentative Agenda.....	3
Meeting Minutes.....	4



Tentative Agenda

ORDRE DU JOUR / AGENDA

LE SAMEDI 18 JUIN / SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Location: Le Château Madelinot, 323 ch. Principal
Salle/Room Échourie

Steering Committee/Comité directeur

RÉUNION DU COMITÉ DIRECTEUR	9:30 am	STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING
Nomination et élection des membres et officiers du comité de gestion	9:35 am	Nomination and election of Management Committee Officers and Members
Table ronde du comité directeur	10:00 am	Steering Committee Meeting roundtable
Révision des projets 2011-2012, du plan de travail, et du plan d'action	11:00 am	Review of 2011-2012 Projects, Work-plan and Action Plan
Diner	12:00am	Lunch
Levée de la séance/Début de la visite guidé	1:00 pm 13h00	Adjournment/beginning of field activity

Activité de groupe: Tour guidé des sujets importants pour la viabilité des îles-de-la-Madeleine. Durée 4 heures.

Field activity: Guided tour of important sustainability issues for the Magdalene Islands. Duration 4 hours.



Meeting Minutes

Steering Committee Meeting #37 Minutes

Location: Salle Échourie, Château Madelinot, Cap-aux-Meules, QC

Date: Saturday, June 18, 2011

Time: 9:30 am

Attending Members:

Marie-Hélène Thériault, Public-at-Large
Chantal Gagnon, E.D. Coalition-SGSL
Annie Johnson & Hubert Nicholas, UINR
Rémi Donelle, Coalition des b.v. de Kent
Irene Novaczek, Oceanna Seaplants
Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary
David Boyce, Three Rivers Heritage Association

Yves Martinet, Comité ZIP IdM
Randy Angus, MCPEI
John Legault, Public-at-Large
Debbie Nielsen, UNSM
Normand Haché, Basaltec Inc
Tanya Dykens, Agr.Cdn.

Regrets:

Lisa Arsenault, Consultant
Omer Chouinard, UdeM
Justin Huston, NS Agr.Fish Dept.
Mark Sark, GMRC
Jean Goguen, Kent Planning Commission

Melanie Corkum, Env.Cnd.
Steve Plante, UQAR
Robert Capozzi, NB Env. Dept.
Doug Deacon, Town of Stratford
P.Nagarajan, UPEI

1. Approval of agenda

Rémi started the meeting and made some additions to the agenda. He added the approval of the agenda and the approval of the previous meeting's minutes before the nominations. He added the review of current Steering Committee meeting processes before the Roundtable. Rémi asked the members for approval of the agenda as amended.

Moved as amended by: John Legault

Seconded as amended by: David Boyce

Approved: All agreed

2. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Rémi gave members a few minutes to read the minutes from Meeting 36, held in March 2011. Chantal explained that the minutes still have some errors, and that they did not have to approve the minutes if they disagreed with them. Randy mentioned a few corrections needed. In section 4, *Consent Document*, the end of the sentence does not



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

specify what Action Item was assigned to Randy. “Randy asks to have an Action Item”. He asked for details. Chantal informed him that this was related to increasing First Nation presence at this year’s AGM.

As well, point 5, *Review of Information Document*, Action Item 3, the abbreviation NHS was unclear. Chantal explained that it likely stood for Northumberland Strait. This correction is to be made. It was also highlighted that the Date of the document is wrong and needed to reflect the actual date of March 4th. Rémi asked for the minutes to be approved with the requested amendments.

Moved as amended by: Debbie Nielsen
Seconded as amended by: Yves Martinet
Approved: All agreed

Randy mentioned that Mark Sark is no longer with the Gespe’gewag Mi’kmaq Resource Council.

Action Item 1: Chantal to contact GMRC directly to see if they are still interested in being members and represented on the Coalition-SGSL Steering Committee.

3. Nomination and election of Management Committee Members and Officers

Rémi explained that we had three positions to fill on the Management Committee. The Management Committee is also the Coalition-SGSL’s Incorporation Board of Directors, though only Officers have signing authority on behalf of the Coalition-SGSL. The current Officers are President – Rémi Donelle, Past-President – David Boyce, Vice-President – Alice Power, and Secretary – Omer Chouinard, and Treasurer – John Legault. As John was re-elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 17th, he is now eligible to be nominated anew for the Treasurer position. John accepted the nomination and he was elected by acclamation. John is therefore Treasurer for another two years mandate.

Rémi explained that the other two Director positions need to reflect in some way the diversity of the Steering Committee representation. As such, eligible sectors are Business, Federal Government, Provincial Government, Municipal Government, or First Nations. Irene nominated Tanya as a Federal Government and Annie as First Nations. There were no other nominations. Both accepted the nominations, and were elected by acclamation.

Action Item 2: Randy will talk to the PEI Deputy of the Fisheries Department to see about renewing a relationship with the Coalition-SGSL and get anew PEI member on the Steering Committee.

4. The use of Webex for SC meetings



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

Rémi initiated the discussion about the use of Webex for our Steering Committee meetings. The objective is to determine whether we should continue with this approach or not. Chantal confirmed that feedback she has received from members currently absent at the meeting was generally good. Only one member indicated being absent from meetings because of the technological leap. However, it was mentioned that this member already had a poor attendance rate before using Webex.

Comments from members at the meeting indicated that the initial difficulties with the Webex are the login process and then establishing the audio connection. Once these are overcome, the system works well as we become more accustomed to it. Members agreed that it was better than the past time and fatigued linked to in-person meetings.

This being said members discussed how we could improve the meetings and regain some of the intimacy, sharing and learning that we have lost by reducing the meeting times. The suggestion was to invite guest speakers for special virtual sessions, like webinars. Speakers could talk on specific subjects that would interest Steering Committee members and Coalition-SGSL members. This could also include Steering Committee members sharing the work they are doing, a specific research point or an example of sustainable alternatives to existing resources-use or land-use processes. The idea would be for the webinars to be available to all members, but Steering Committee members would have to make a special effort to attend.

Action Item 3: Coalition-SGSL staff to look into the price of headsets for Steering Committee to reduce cost, by using the Voice over IP system in their computers rather than talking on the phone line.

Action Item 4: Coalition-SGSL staff to look into virtual processes through Webex or Outlook Express for voting by Steering Committee members in between meetings (for timely or urgent affairs).

After a short discussion about attendance at meetings, members suggested trying a change of dates this year, from the first Friday of September to the first Thursday of September and every three months afterwards. The time of 10:00am is still adequate. Therefore, the dates for the next Steering Committee meetings are:

Thursday, September 1st, 2011 10:00am (AST)
Thursday, December 1st, 2011 10:00am (AST)
Thursday, March 1st, 2012 10:00am, (AST)

5. Members' Round Table

Rémi (Conseil de bassin versant de Kent). We have a good year coming. We'll be doing work on water quality, forest health monitoring, the Community Aquatic Monitoring



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

Program (CAMP), education on Acadian Forest native species, and so on. As for the hydrocarbon development in the region and the information we learned at the AGM, we will bring this back to the committees in Cocagne because there is not much talk in our area about these developments. We will inform our neighbours.

Debbie (Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities). As sustainability coordinator Debbie implements sustainability projects for the municipalities. All 55 municipalities have finished their Integrated Sustainability Plans. Now they must implement them. We've held workshops to help with this implementation. Communities have to add a new component for climate change mitigation and adaptation which was not part of the original design for the sustainability plans. This must be done by 2014. We are working with the province to develop a guide or tool kit to include these elements in the implementation of the plans. The Memorandum of Understanding with the province is also on climate change and this will be done through several projects. We are also working on remediation of brown fields (contaminated industrial sites). We are trying to determine the interest of the municipalities for this and we will show them how to move towards remediate of these sites. There is a conference on active transportation in 2013 and we are working on developing an idle free toolkit for municipalities. Regarding the hydrocarbons development, Debbie will inform those municipalities along the Gulf. MIT may be possible to get leaders or elected officials from Quebec to approach the elected officials and leaders in this region (Northumberland Strait and Cape Breton) about the subject and share their concerns and possibilities.

John (public-at-large). Retirement is going well, and he is keeping busy promoting the work of the Coalition-SGSL. Regarding the coastal erosion work that was presented yesterday, using a simple photographic approach would work well for the purposes of the organisation and awareness building. We could promote a camera club approach to encourage the taking of pictures and we could link them to the Atlas. Also, the Coalition-SGSL should promote more the concept of sustainable practices from our region. We could also put these on our Atlas. Particularly inspired by Chris Tuner's book Geography of Hope and we could do our own approach to this but locally and using the website. As well it would be good to add statistics of our region on our website.

Tanya (Agriculture Canada – Environmental Services Branch). Tanya started in January with the department, which has been around for about five years. The Atlantic region works on environmental and sustainability practices for agriculture. Tanya's dossiers include climate change, irrigation and water management. We are looking to do integrated watershed management outreach with groups, by looking at what they are doing with agriculture and help with collaboration between farmers and watershed groups. We also have projects on riparian health and education, and we are working on replanting and other alternatives. This education project involves farmers and staff of the department. Regarding the issues we heard about at the AGM yesterday, we can include discussing with farmers about erosion and land loss and climate change.



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

Alice (Friends of the Pugwash Estuary). We have a project on habitat restoration for streams. We're involved in the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP). We continue our work on culverts and evaluating their impacts on water. New developments include that we now have 100 members and an office space. We are starting a new newsletter for our members. We did a good fundraising through the Scotia Bank Fund for small communities. As well we were part of the Ecology Action Centre's project on coastal erosion and communication. Jennifer Graham's report is now available. This summer is busy, but still will be able to go backpacking in Cape Breton. Regarding the hydrocarbons, our group is a member of SOS Save our Shores, and we invited the Sierra Club Atlantic region to speak at our AGM on the issue. Our group is going to continue its efforts in this issue.

Action Item 5: Chantal to send Jennifer Graham's report to Steering Committee Members.

Annie (Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources). We are doing many things similar to the Coalition-SGSL and we can learn from each other. We've developed best practices for being sustainable in small actions for First Nations Communities and it is going well. Neighbouring municipalities are interested in this effort. We've had to work on various erosion issues, because our cemeteries have been hit and we've had to stabilise that situation. We also have a kids program for grade 6 and 7. We've also worked on eels and parasites, as well as with oysters' health. Of course, we make sure we are involved in environmental assessments. There is still much more, but time is running out. You can find most of our programs and work on our website, www.uinr.ca

Marie-Hélène (Pubic-at-large). Marie-Hélène coordinates the Community Aquatic Monitoring Program (CAMP) as part of her work. She did training for community groups and interested individuals on the methodology in May. In June the sampling started with the groups and with the summer student coordinators hired by the Coalition-SGSL. We have one new community this year, Cove Head – PEI. The Pictou, NS, site now has a solid group in place with the Pictou River Association. Marie-Hélène is also working on finishing the analysis of CAMP data and what it can mean for estuarine health. This should be done in English in August. In July a presentation will occur with the Miramichi group to test the proposed method of sharing the analysis and collect feedback for improvement. The final analysis for all groups should be in the spring of 2012. Besides that Marie-Hélène has been involved in the annual Envirothon held on July 25-29th 2011. The theme this year is Estuaries.

Yves (Comité ZIP des Îles-de-la-Madeleine). We are in the midst of the review and possible renewal of the Plan Saint-Laurent. This is an understanding between Environment Canada and the Quebec department for the environment. The creation of our 13 groups (Comité Zips - 5 St-Lawrence river areas, 8 St-Lawrence marine areas) is a direct result of this plan which ends in 2012. The umbrella group for the 13 Comité Zips is Stratégie St-Laurent, and all of these groups have a mandate to create and maintain meaningful consultation and dialogue between the various stakeholders of their specific



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

watershed. For Yves' groups this represents approximately 100 meetings per year and their watershed is the archipelago of the Magdalene islands plus a 100 km radius around them. The basis of our work is around ecological restoration, though it also includes awareness and outreach. Today there are generally 10 to 20 partners per project. You can view a list of our activities on our website. A particularity of our region is that because of the description of watersheds in the Quebec law on water, the Magdalene Islands are not included as part of the watershed system of Quebec, as there are no major rivers, only small streams, salt ponds, and miniature lakes. This makes it challenging to receive provincial support for the health of our waters.

Normand (Basaltec Ltd). We are in the business of producing natural basalt rock dust. We are in the development of this industry. The soil is the source of life and realising this kept us studying for sustainable healthy solutions to soil production of food. We learned more about agriculture and the needs in the region. Our objective is to achieve optimal soil for cultivation of healthy food in Atlantic Canada. We are also doing research with peat moss harvest companies in our region for reducing the impacts of their practices on the acidity input in the water. There may also be some forestry applications and we are looking at this as well.

David (Three Rivers Heritage Association). Hillsborough River Association is holding its Heritage Rivers Conference in 2013 in PEI. We are working on the development of this conference. We are also working with local groups to help them understand the concept of a heritage river.

Irene (Oceana Seaplants). The business makes products out of sea plants and seaweed. There is also a Wild Women Seaweed Spa occurring in August in PEI. Irene's other obligations are as a councillor for the town of Breadalbane, and as director of the University of Prince Edward Islands' Institute for Islands Studies. In this work they have published many studies that could be of interest to Coalition-SGSL partners. Concerning the issues discussed at the AGM, we've been working to get the Grossbrook Research Institute at Saint-Mary's University to engage with us the Royal Society of Canada and direct their interest and attention to studies of hydrocarbon and energy issues and their environmental impacts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Irene's also been involved in food security issues with the Canada Food Security Network on cooperative development and community support for fishermen. She is also still working with the Chilean community of Chiloé on environmental education, and this may involve Mi'kmaq interns in the fall. Finally, Irene is involved with other Coalition-SGSL members in planning the Heritage Rivers Conference in 2013, and in climate change adaptation with the CCC-CURA project, as well as contributing to the Seaflower program for marine areas and economic alternatives.

Randy (Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI). MCPEI is the civil service for the Mi'kmaq First Nation communities of Abegweit and Lennox Island in PEI. His work is on everything having to do with natural resources. They have been doing a lot of work on climate change as both communities are affected by sea level rise, salt water intrusion, erosion,



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

and so on. They held a conference last year on climate change with PEI First Nations and planning commissions to develop approaches for communities. In PEI the December storms took away Cavendish Beach within Parks Canada. There is no mitigation planned because it is a park and it has a mandate for not interfering in natural process. However, this shows how much land can be lost to storms. We are also working on species at risk with the Atlantic Aboriginal Protection of Species (AAPS) that works with government representatives to develop various approaches. We do some activities by protecting habitat for these species and for cultural reasons. We also do forestry work that involves First Nations more. We also work in collaboration with the Veterinary College on lobster quality surveys. In our communities, we do Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping and data collection for First Nation land-use. This information is very important especially with the duty to consult for governments, but also useful for emergency planning in the communities. Our approach is currently being looked at by municipalities and provincial government. We are also involved in wind power with the province. Finally, we were partners in the just finished Coastal CURA and we are a partner in the CCC-CURA which is co-managed by the Coalition-SGSL.

Hubert (Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources). UINR is involved in two aquatic monitoring programs, namely Environment Canada's CABIN (monitors insects in waterways) and Fisheries and Oceans' CAMP (these two sites are independent from the Coalition-SGSL's CAMP). We also do forestry monitoring on both public and private lands. Cutting processes in particular are being monitored. We are involved in fisheries advisory bodies and in the Georges Bank Moratorium. We have been aware of the developments in the Gulf concerning hydrocarbons, and we have been involved in sharing information and being vocal about our concerns. It is important that both public and political support exist behind an initiative on such sensitive issues. It is also important to remember that it took many years for the Georges Bank Moratorium to become. It may be of interest to those here to know that sometimes a paid communication person can be necessary to really get the message to the public and achieve overall objectives.

6. Review of 2011-2012 Projects, Work-plan and Action Plan

Rémi decided that letting the members take this in-person opportunity to share information was more important than reviewing the work-plan and strategies at this time. Therefore these items were postponed to a future meeting.

However, one item discussed was regarding charging admission fees to the AGM. Marie-Hélène mentioned that a small fee of 30-50\$ is affordable for most people and could help cover a portion of the costs. The members discussed this point and were in agreement. Some reflected that whenever the AGM contained a workshop or special meeting there were also registration fees. It was therefore proposed to include a registration fee for future AGMs.



Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Saint-Laurent
Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability

Moved by: Marie-Hélène Thériault

Seconded by: Randy Angus

Approved: All agreed

7. **End of meeting**

The meeting was adjourned by Rémi at 12:30. After lunch, the group and a few members went to visit sites in the archipelago. These included fishing villages, erosion sites, and culturally important sites. Stories of the damages from the winter storms were also shared. Rémi thanked Yves Martinet for being our guide, and Agriculture Canada for providing the support for the visit.