



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

Steering Committee Meeting #3 (2009-10) Minutes

Location: DFO-MPO, Room: Miramichi 1, Moncton, NB

Date: Friday, December 4, 2009

Time: 10:00am

The Attending Members:

David Boyce, Three Rivers Heritage Association

Alice Power, Friends of the Pugwash Estuary

Irene Novaczek, UPEI

Rémi Donelle, Coalition des b.v. de Kent

Nadine LaPlante, Coalition staff

John Legault, Public-at-Large

Matthew Hardy stood in for Ray MacIsaac, DFO

Kathryn Parlee, Environment Canada

Omer Chouinard, UdeM

Randy Angus, MC PEI

Chantal Gagnon, C-SGSL ED

Marie-Hélène Thériault, Public-at-large

Regrets:

Lisa Arsenault, Consultant

Denis Desrosiers, Sentinel Systems Ltd.

David Garbary, St.F.X

Justin Huston, NS Government

Jean Goguen, Kent Planning Commission

Jane Times, NB Government

P.Nagarajan, UPEI

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1. Call to order

Opening prayer done by Chantal Gagnon.

The meeting was called to order by Coalition Chairperson, David Boyce at 10h08 am. Meeting participants introduced themselves.

2. Approval of agenda

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

3. Approval of previous minutes (September 11, 2009)

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and there were no corrections or errors.

Approval of the minutes was moved by Omer Chouinard and seconded by Alice Power. Adoption of the motion was accepted unanimously.

4. Matters arising from minutes

Chantal presented a new format for following up on Action Items (See **List of Action Items from Steering Committee Meetings 2009-2010** document). Chantal reviewed the items related to the last meeting but encouraged the members to ask questions related to all items since the beginning of the fiscal year. Discussion took place with respect to action 6, 13, 18 and 19.

Action item #01: Regarding Sept.11, Action #6 - Chantal is to send the report on lessons learned from the bike raffle.

Action item #02: Regarding Sept.11, Action #18 - Chantal is to follow through on Randy's point that information is needed before the January Management Committee retreat, if a useful conclusion is to be reached.

Action item #03: Chantal is to send the Action Item List Document to Steering Committee before meetings with the other documents.

5. Update of Steering and Management Committees Vacancies

Chantal showed the table that indicates who is on the Steering Committee and who is still missing. Discussion ensued on possible contacts to be made for the available seats and those who had suggestions.

Academics – QC,

Suggestion: U de Québec à Rimouski, Steve Plante or colleagues – **Action item #4:** Chantal to follow-up

ENGO – QC,

Suggestion: Michel Chouinard à Baies des Chaleurs ZIP – **Action item #5:** Omer to follow-up
D. LeBlanc Matépédia rivière Restigouche – **Action item #6:** Chantal to follow-up

First Nations – NB,

Suggestion: Dennis Simon is interested, but not available. – **Action item #7:** Chantal to continue building a relationship with this community and other contacts in other communities in NB.

First Nations – NS,

Suggestion: Kerry or PJ Prosper from Patn'gek (Afton)
Unama'ki Institute for Natural Resources, Laura V, Lissa, Laurie Sutor or Shelly Dennis – **Action item #8:** Chantal to follow-up with Marie-Hélène and Randy on contacting these individuals.

Business Association – NS,

Suggestion: NS Environnement Services Association – **Action item #9:** Chantal to follow-up

Action item #10: Executive director to prepare official invitation letters for new members of Steering Committee, if one does not already exist from previous ED.

Discussions were held around attracting tourism associations focused on the Gulf area to be part of the Steering Committee. Rémi mentioned that some do exist for the Gulf.

Action item #11: Chantal to contact Nadine Gauvin to see if she has any ideas from her new role with Parks.

Action item #12: Omer to contact folks in Lamèque involved in this subject.

6. Financial Report

Chantal and John provided the revised budget and financial report as of October 31st, 2009.

Discussion

Questions related to the 3% remaining to receive from Service Canada.

Action Item#13: Chantal to confirm Service Canada expected revenue.

Marie-Hélène discussed that funding from DFO was multi year funding as per our agreement.

Action item#14: Marie-Hélène to send Chantal information confirming what DFO has in their books with us for this year.

Incorporation fees were discussed. Chantal explained that an average was made from the previous year's budget, which seems to include annual incorporation fees, as well as some insurance fees and an extra space for unexpected government fees.

Irene asked whether differences in the ED expenses were known given that Chantal lives in Nova Scotia and commutes to Moncton. It was explained that it is too early to determine whether the travelling expenses related to coming to Moncton have exceeded last year's ED salary and expenses. However, the travel expenses category is budgeted lower in 2009-2010 than it was in 2008-2009 when the ED lived in Moncton. To be noted that all travel expenses related to staff and not related to a project are entered under ED travel expenses.

Chantal emphasised to the Committee as well that under our Charitable Status obligations, 80% of revenues must be expended in projects. Balancing the budget and assigning expenses is therefore a very important component of managing the Coalition's affair and the Treasurer and Executive Director are working closely with the bookkeeper and accountant to ensure we meet or exceed that percentage.

7. Working Group updates

Coastal Erosion

Status: Active

Projects currently involved in:

- Nadine LaPlante is working on a coastal erosion monitoring project which some WG members are involved with. All sites have been visited twice. Entering the data, preparing the presentation, and looking for additional funding are the next steps.

Potential projects coming: Getting the word out - public education about coastal processes.

Next meeting: Mid December or early January.

Discussion:

Randy mentioned climate change adaptation projects with the department of Indian and Northern Affairs and Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Program in PEI that may be of interest to this working group.

Communications & Education

Status: Inactive

- No activity since last Steering Committee meeting.

Projects currently involved in: None

Potential projects coming: Waiting to review feedback from PR and Communication professional on current strength and weakness of our communication material.

Next meeting: TBD

Discussion:

The Steering Committee discussed the possibility of building alliances with Universities and colleges for student to receive course credit in exchange for taking on administrative or communication tasks at the Coalition-SGSL.

Action item#15: Marie-Hélène to contact Bronwyn Pavey about possibility of contributing to this working group.

Action item#16: Kathryn Parlee will try to look into her communication group for resources, contacts and advice.

Action item#17: Omer to talk to the communication group at UdeMoncton to look further into the possibilities of credit exchange or getting a professor engaged in the working group.

Funding/ Development

Status: Active

Projects currently involved in: None

Potential projects coming: Annual fundraising event planning, development of policy for fundraising activities, trust development and donor submission.

Next meeting: TBD

Science, Research & Habitat

Status: Active

Projects currently involved in: CAMP, SECOA,

Potential projects coming: Reviewing the Sustainability Indicators to bring it up to date.

Next meeting: Dec.4. After the SC meeting

Discussion:

Marie-Hélène informed the committee that DFO is proceeding in the coming weeks to a first meeting on the evaluation of CAMP after five years of activities. There was much discussion on the path of CAMP and SECOA. Irene shared what is coming to PEI that this working group may want to be involved in, such as the sustainable food research project, and the environmental history conference in June.

Technical Advisory

Status: Inactive

- There is still no chair for this working group, since John Legault stepped down.

Projects currently involved in: None

Potential projects coming: None

Next meeting: TBD

Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Status: Floundering

- The group has not been able to hold one effective meeting since last June. Both Chairs had to step down.

Projects currently involved in: None

Potential projects coming: Potentially three related to forestry stewardship with youth, conservation of important traditional areas and black ash conference.

Next meeting: TBD

2010 AGM

Status: Chaotic

- The ED has approached Coastal Zone Canada in following up on the SC recommendations for the AGM. The ED has also verified the accuracy of the AGM plan for 2010 with the Constitutional and Legal Obligation. There will be more to come in future months.

Next meeting: TBD

Discussion:

Chantal looked into the constitution as per the action items from the last meeting. Though there is nothing in the constitution preventing from holding the AGM twice in the same province in a row,

there is a deadline for holding the AGM which is three months after fiscal year, i.e. June 30. As such, the AGM can not be held at the same time as the July Coastal Zone Canada. The Management Committee also discussed the realization in the last few months that the AGM holds a legal obligation to our Charitable Status, as such the working group ends up being the only one that has on its shoulder a legal responsibility. These responsibilities as per the constitution rest with the Management Committee of the Coalition.

The Management Committee has therefore discussed that it should lead all AGM organizing efforts. For 2010, the committee will focus on highlighting the great projects we have been involved in, include a field trip with a CAMP group, and try to piggy back the event if ideal with another event in June. For the time being the Committee is focusing on Nova Scotia around the Pugwash area for simplicity and because of time restraints. The focus is to make a decision in early January, that we can make announcement and save the dates before February, find partners and sponsors.

Chantal informed that the Coalition has two submissions with Coastal Zone Canada in any case, and the AGM could be a great place to advertise CZC2010 as well. One session the Coalition-SGSL could submit to CZC2010 is on coastal erosion project.

Policy Working Group

Status: Not started

Projects currently involved in: None

Potential projects coming: None

Next meeting: TBD

8. Follow up Northumberland Strait Ecosystem Working Group – Ray MacIsaac

Matthew Hardy filled in for Ray MacIsaac, DFO. In regards to this working group and its results, DFO is held a meeting of senior manager in November. There is still a push to move the agenda forward on this issue and maybe a reintegration of the group. The Coalition's role will likely be one of communicating with the local groups, partners and act as a liaison.

9. Steering Committee Roundtable

See Accompanying document (Roundtable Notes)

10. Executive Director's Report

Chantal provided the Executive Directors report listing her activities since the last Steering Committee meeting. She explained all the items and what has been going on in the last three months, attending meetings, networking events, etc.

Action item #18: Randy to send email regarding the Dalhousie Marine Affairs student summer internship program.

11. 2009-2010 work-plan update

Chantal presented and explained the changes to the work plan. The new format was adequate as a quick reference to follow-up on projects. Chantal is to ensure that this document gets sent with enough time before each SC meeting.

12. Approval of recommendations

Discussion:

1- Approval of potential new Steering Committee member Debbie Nielsen the Sustainability Officer for Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities to fill the sector seat for Municipal government in Nova Scotia.

Moved by: Irene Novaczek

Approved by: John Legault

2- Approval of recommendation to remove the AGM as a working group and make it a ad hoc committee on an annual basis working with the Management Committee on its legal responsibilities.

Moved by: John Legault

Approved by: Alice Power

3- Approval of potential projects in 2008-2013 Strategic Workplan.

Moved by: Irene Novaczek

Approved by: Randy Angus

4- Approval of inviting Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment to present at the next Steering Committee.

Moved by: Irene Novaczek

Approved by: Rémi Donelle

13. Any Other Business

David explained the situation from the ACAP perspective regarding the Environment Canada Atlantic Ecosystem Initiative lack of information. Dave is working with them to coordinate their voices and look into working together under one umbrella. David invites anyone who has questions or comments to talk to David Boyce.

14. Lunch

15. Special guest: The experience of the Chiloé, Wichiche by Manuel Millancova Munoz – Presented by UPEI – Institute of Island Studies

The summary of Mr Millancova Munoz is included in the Fall 2009 Messenger newsletter.

16. Adjournment

David Boyce moved for the meeting to be adjourned at 1h50 pm.

Closing prayer and song by invited guest Manuel Millancova Munoz