



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) Round Table Notes

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

Date: Friday, December 4, 2009

Time: 11:30am

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

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 John

Marie-Hélène Thériault, DFO

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

Notes from Steering Committee Meeting Roundtable (**Item 9, 11 :30 am**)

David Boyce (Three Rivers Heritage Association) is planning for the hosting of the Canadian Rivers Heritage Conference at UPEI in June of 2012. For more information, visit:

Randy Angus (Mi'kmaw Confederacy of Prince Edward Island) They have a Black Ash Project and they are co-managing, with the PEI government, 80 hectares of land, which contains 70 rare or endangered species. All the trees have been identified and their GPS location documented. Black Ash seeds have been collected and greenhouses purchased to start growing the seedlings.

John Legault (Public at large, Coalition-SGSL Treasurer) is adapting to retirement.

Matthew Harding (Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)): Our main message is that information from the Coalition is important to DFO and does come to the attention of senior personnel. The Coalition serves a functional link from grassroots to government to bigger initiatives.

Marie-Helene Theriault (Public at Large, Science, Research & Habitat Working Group) – currently involved in CAMP and SECOA projects. More information is to come in 2010 on the long-term objectives of these initiatives.

David Garbary (St-Francis Xavier University – submitted in writing to Executive Director)

1. Co-hosted a meeting at SFX (along with the St. Mary's River Association) in February 2009 on issues surrounding Salmon stocking. This was attended by representatives of community groups, federal and provincial fisheries agencies and a few academics. The theme of the meeting was the role of stocking in the conservation toolbox for managers and stewardship groups. A final report is nearing completion and will be sent to the Coalition in due course.

2. Worked with GAMS (Gulf Aquarium and Marine Science Centre) in Cheticamp to establish a salt marsh erosion monitoring station in Cheticamp Harbour. This complements work that has been in progress for six years in Antigonish Harbour.

3. Completed a study on the status of the ribbed mussel (*Geukensia demissa*) in seven estuaries from Cheticamp to Pugwash. The populations of this mussel seem to be endangered in the Gulf because their primary habitat (the edge of the salt marsh) is being lost through sea level rise. A manuscript has been submitted for publication and we are waiting the evaluation.

Justin Huston (Nova Scotia Department of Aquaculture and Fisheries – submitted in writing to Executive Director)

On December 9th, the Government of Nova Scotia will release the State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report. The first of its kind for Nova Scotia and Atlantic Canada, the Report provides an overview of the Province's coastal areas and resources, and detailed baseline information on the Province's priority coastal issues. These are:

- Coastal development
- Working waterfronts
- Public coastal access
- Sea-level rise and storm events
- Coastal water quality
- Sensitive coastal ecosystems and habitats

The release of the Report is an important step toward the development of a Coastal Strategy, which will outline the commitment and actions necessary to address the coastal issues that matter most to Nova Scotians. We will be seeking public feedback on the Report and ideas for the Coastal Strategy in Spring 2010. The target date for release of the Coastal Strategy is early 2011.

The State of Nova Scotia's Coast Report includes three components:

1. Full technical report (260 pages + appendices)
2. Summary report (20 pages)
3. Fact sheets for each of the six priority coastal issues (4 pages each)

To download a copy of the Report and learn more about this initiative, please visit www.gov.ns.ca/coast on December 9th.

Nadine LaPlante (Project Officer - Coalition-SGSL) Nadine has finished the field work for the Coastal Erosion Monitoring Project and is now entering the data and profiles.

Irene Novaczek (Institute of Island Studies – UPEI) is involved in the planning of the Youth Forum for the Coastal Zone Canada Conference of July 2010. The Social Economic Cultural Overview Assessment mapping project is well under way. There will also be an event in PEI in June called "A place in Time" which relates to environmental history.

Kathryn Parlee (Environment Canada) had nothing new at this time.

Alice Power (Friends of the Pugwash Estuary Current Projects) has been involved with:
Locally

Culverts – Summer students started a catalogue of culverts in the Pugwash River Watershed. They completed 13 on public roads and we are developing a priority list to present to the Department of Highways for repairs or replacement.

Adopt-a-Stream - We are developing a habitat improvement project for Patton Brook, a stream flowing into the Pugwash River.

Trails - We provide stewardship for several parcels of estuary land owned by the Nature Conservancy and are developing a walking/skiing trail on one of those properties.

Provincially

The Nova Scotia government is in the process of developing policy on a number of issues. The Friends of the Pugwash Estuary is a member of the Water Caucus of the NS Environment Network (NSEN). We have just completed a "Blueprint for Water Management" document, which is to be sent to the minister for consideration for inclusion in their Water Strategy.

We are also a member of Team Coast, coordinated by the Ecology Action Center. This group looks to influence the provincial Coastal Development Strategy and is currently looking at organizing a province wide Coastal Congress to give all sectors a chance to have input in the development of this policy.

Remi Donelle (Coalition des bassins versants de Kent) is working on water monitoring ecological integrity at 18 sites in the three local watersheds using the water qualification standards by the province (inventory of point source pollution).