



## **Coalition pour la viabilité du sud du Golfe du Sainte-Laurent**

### **Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence Coalition on Sustainability**

#### **Annual General Meeting of the Membership**

**Farm Centre, 420 University Avenue, Charlottetown, PEI**

**13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2016**

#### **AGM Minutes**

##### **Opening Remarks, Welcome & Introductions**

**Attendees:** Nathan Croll, Simon Courtenay, Sam Gallant,, Remi Donelle, Billie Joe Fowler, David Forsey, Jesse Hitchcock, Justin Harding, Brigitte Leblon, Armand Laroque, Annie Johnson, Angela Douglas.

**Approval of Agenda-** Motion to approve agenda by Remi, seconded by Billie Joe.

**Approval of minutes from the last AGM and items arising** - Armand moved motion to approve minutes, seconded by Sam. All in favor, so moved.

##### **President's Report- Brigitte Leblon**

Brigitte stated that this was a good year for the coalition as we were funded by EC for the eelgrass project. Brigitte also contributed two additional projects- testing a drone for CCRS with funding from NRCan and a wetland mapping project funded by Ducks Unlimited (Al Hanson). Camp program is also going forward as well as projects via partnership with ACZISC and ECW.

##### **Review of 2015 Projects- Angela Douglas**

**Atlantic Eelgrass Monitoring Consortium-** Great first year of the project with 4 SeagrassNet sites being set up in 4 provinces and our MSs student (David Forsey) beginning his work at UNB. Nathan Croll (NSCC, lidar)- they would like to fly lidar in Port Mouton at reduced rate, they will own the data but they have more sites they could share with us. Cost is currently prohibitive unfortunately although it would be interesting to use different methods to improve accuracy. It was noted that we need to be quite diligent with any contracts, especially in terms of data access. Mitacs funding (for David + field work) has a good chance of being approved. There was some discussion on the economic value of eelgrass as well as the future planting program we are proposing.

## **Community Aquatic Monitoring Program**

New ministers have a mandate letter with a focus on marine protected areas and we hope we have a place in terms of this and the CAMP/Eelgrass projects. Angela should write a letter stating that government employees (EC, DFO) should be able to sit on committees such as the Coalition-SGSL board, as it is extremely important to have input if we want to ensure the success of projects. Simon- an office of collaboration has been set up in Ottawa, we are waiting to hear further details on this. Science branch- Monica Boudreau- wants to look at estuaries of bivalve aquaculture to test assumptions of the CAMP program (random sampling- grad student currently studying this).

## **AZCISC Data Project**

We collaborated with ACZISC in Halifax on their data accessibility project via their AEI grant. We hired and supervised a student (Jayden Price) and assisted in locating and making datasets available. We will continue to partner with them in the future.

## **NorSt-EMP**

The Coalition is involved in the administration of NorSt-EMP. A monitoring framework has been developed as well as recommendations- these are being taken to RCCOM. There was discussion over who will complete the monitoring and certain government folks suggested working with the PEI Watershed Alliance and other citizen science organizations.

## **Eastern Charlotte Waterways (ECW) Estuary Health Project**

Completed an estuary monitoring project in partnership with ECW in Orwell Bay on PEI. We measured fecal coliforms, nutrients, temperature, depth, heavy metals in sediment. A report card was created on the health of the estuary.

## **CCRS \$24,000 & DU Canada \$30,000**

Brigitte worked with the Coalition to develop these projects. We are applying for future funding for the wetland mapping project looking at adaptation plans for flooding including mitigation measures.

## **Future Project Funding Update**

Eco Action- waiting to hear back re application.

RBC- water issues- storm water, urban issues- apply for umbrella funding with other groups involved. Remi and Angela will work together on an RBC Bluewater application.

NSERC Strategic Grant- Simon and Brigitte.

## **Financial Report**

Angela read through the Auditor's Report as well as reviewed the financial report.

Motion to approve financial report with an explanation to follow on the increase in Ceredian charges last year- moved by Remi, seconded by Annie, all in favor, so moved. \*Note, the increase in Ceredian charges

was due to the increase in payroll in 2015 vs 2014 as we had double the amount of employees (3 for mapping projects, 1 for data accessibility projects, the usual 4 for CAMP, and Angela).

### **Nomination and election of Management Committee Officers and Members**

- President –Brigitte Leblon-1 more year for Brigitte.
- Vice President- Marc Skinner- 1 more year for Marc.
- Anita- 1 more year as treasurer.
- Annie- Remi nominated Annie as secretary, seconded by Armand. All in favor, so moved. We discussed the potential for new projects- Angela will arrange a conference call with Annie and Randy to discuss projects involving First Nations.
- Simon was nominated by Angela as the Academia representative for PEI, seconded by Sam, all in favor, so moved.
- Counsellor -NB- Sam Gallant- 1 more year.
- Counsellor- NS is needed- previously Joanne Cook from the Ecology Action Centre but she no longer works there. EAC supposed to get back to us with a replacement recommendation.
- We need to revisit the roles and responsibilities of each member. It would be useful to distribute the constitution and discuss updating it in the future with 1,2,5, and 10 year plans. We discussed what structure would best serve this function and agreed on project based committees.
- Need to recruit members at large- we are now ready to amp up our AGMs to two or three days. Need to have a minimum of 1 counsellor from each province.
- New members to steering committee and members at large:
- Andrew Bogum- professor at Universite du Moncton- worked on Richibucto Env enhancement.
- Ecology action Centre
- Eric Tremblay, Parks Canada
- Dale Cameron, PEI Watershed Alliance

Send out constitution to everyone and put it on the agenda for our next meeting to see if that is the right vehicle to move this group ahead. Remi- motion that we start adding the heading ‘constitution/bylaws’ to the management committee meeting. Seconded by Armand. All in favor, so moved.

Remi moved a motion to remove David Boyce from the signatory list at RBC and to add Brigitte Leblon. Seconded by Sam. All in favor, so moved.

Tradational Ecological Knowledge- be good to get this steering committee started again. Annie agreed to lead this committee. Angela will chat with her to set this up. Brigitte suggested a project on mapping traditional lands in the Maritimes.

Brigitte has a CSJ approval for a First Nations student- Billie Joe knows someone that just finished up at NBCC that will be looking for a position. They will discuss.

Newsletter – Student is being hired to work on the newsletter.

## **New Business**

Angela received a gift from the management committee thanking her for her work

Next AGM- Need to do AGM in Magdalian Islands, Gaspé area or Rustigouche (North of Hamilton). Can we get funding to host a meeting there? Also, we will need translation services. Need to increase French and First Nations membership. It would be good to have a 2-3 day AGM in mid-June.

Meal

Roundtable Discussions

Meeting Adjournment – motion to adjourn by Simon, seconded by Armand.