

**Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Committee Meeting
Vancor Hotel, Head Bay D'Espoir
October 7, 2009**

Attendance:

Conrad Collier – COBC (Chair)
Jeffrey Roberts – Fishery
Ross Hinks – Conne River
Frank Meade – Tourism
Travis Mahoney – Cooke Aquaculture
Max Taylor – Recreational Boaters

Regrets:

Jennifer Woodland, Cooke Aquaculture
Roberta Collier, NAIA
Kevin Lawrence, FFAW
Melissa Abbott, DFO
Rhonda Brennan, DFA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

- 1. Agenda adopted on motion by Frank Meade, seconded by Jeff Roberts**
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed, adopted on motion of Max Taylor, seconded by Ross Hinks.**
- 3. Business Arising**

Oceans Conference 2010

Conrad reported that a proposal has been submitted to DFA and DFO for funding to deliver the Oceans Conference in Hr. Breton in April 2010. We've received a response from DFA saying that while they support the Conference, they are unable to provide any funding at this time as the conference will be held in the next fiscal year. He is still discussing this with Melissa at DFO and a decision is expected soon. Conrad will be working to discuss this further with DFA as well.

2009 Wild Salmon Tagging Program

Ross reported that 64 wild salmon (32 from the counting fence and 32 from angling) were tagged with radio tags. Helicopter surveys were conducted as the fish travelled through the river system. These tags are expensive and they only had \$16,000 for this year. Ross is talking with the Harris Centre at MUN to do a further study on salmon going out the estuary. There was a brief discussion of an apparent salmon fishery at St. Pierre et Miquelon. The Conne River has gone from 12,000 fish returns annually to 2,000 in 20 years.

4. New Business

SmartBay

Conrad reported that NAIA, CCMC and the Marine Institute have submitted a proposal to a new program in INTRD and the National Research Council for funding to install this technology in Fortune Bay. The Coast of Bays Corporation supports this initiative as it will enhance the availability of real-time information for the aquaculture sector and all users of the marine environment.

Marine Infrastructure

Conrad reported that the development of marine infrastructure as identified by DFA to be required to ensure bio-security in the aquaculture is moving along in the region. The wharf that was originally planned for St. Jacques is now being developed in Belleoram. The wharf that was planned for the north side of Hr. Breton is now being planned for Poole Cove at the entrance to Hr. Breton Bay and will be accessed from the Back Arm of Hr. Breton. The wharf for Hermitage will be going to tender for construction soon.

Committee Membership Changes

As Mr. Herb Dunphy did not seek re-election and is no longer a member of a municipal council in the region, he will now be replaced on the Coastal Planning Committee. Likewise, Mr. Frank Meade is no longer associated with the tourism committee in the region and a new member to fill his seat will also be sought. The Chair thanked Herb and Frank for their contributions to the committee and wished them well in their future endeavours.

ACTION: A letter of Thanks will be sent to both.

5. Stakeholder Updates

Jeffery Roberts

Jeff reported that there are 2 months left in the fishery season which closes on December 12. There will be an extra 2 weeks in January if there is any fish left in the TAC for 3Ps. The aquaculture wharf in Hermitage is about to go to tender.

Max Taylor

A good summer for boating in the Bay D’Espoir estuary.

Ross Hinks

Ross questioned the practice of cleaning aquaculture nets in Bay D’Espoir - its possible impacts on bio-security and the transfer of aquatic invasive species from one area to another. The Chair informed the meeting that the company is well aware of the potential impacts and is working with the industry, NAIA and government departments and agencies to move to a land-based operation.

Frank Meade

Frank questioned the status of the Milltown Wharf divestiture. The Chair updated the meeting as to the process and the fact that the province has the first right of refusal on the federal government properties including Botwood and Long Pond – Manuels. The issue now hangs with the environmental liabilities that could be associated with these properties. The federal and provincial departments are discussing these issues.

He also questioned if abandoned mussel sites in the region pose any dangers to navigation and if they were supposed to be cleaned up. Jeffrey noted that some cleaning has been done on some sites such as Round Harbour but he wasn’t sure of the Locker in Little Passage and Great Jervais.

ACTION: A letter to be drafted to DFO and DFA inquiring of the status of the clean-up of abandoned mussel sites in the Coast of Bays.

Travis Mahoney

No concerns at this time.

7. Next meeting will be in late November or early December.

8. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2010 on a **Motion by Travis Mahoney, Seconded by Jeffrey Roberts**