

**Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Committee Meeting  
Belleoram Municipal Centre Boardroom  
Belleoram, NL  
October 13, 2005**

**Attendance:**

Conrad Collier – Coast of Bays Corporation  
Steward May – Harbour Authorities  
Baxter House – Coast of Bays Arts & Exploration Centre  
Craig Mercer- Newfoundland Salmonid Growers Association  
Ross Hinks – Conne River Band Council  
Pius House – Recreational boaters and cabin owners  
Joan O'Brien – DFO – ex-officio

**Regrets:**

Steve Moyse – DFA – ex-officio  
Herb Dunphy - Municipalities  
Mildred Skinner – FFAW – Fishers  
Eric Day – FFAW – Processors  
Roy Cox – Fisher's Committees

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with one item added to the agenda – the potential quarry operation in Belleoram.

The Chair noted that the minutes of our meetings are posted to the Coastal Planning Website at [coast.coastofbays.nl.ca](http://coast.coastofbays.nl.ca) or by following the link on the Coast of Bays website home page.

The minutes of the April 9, 2005 workshop were circulated.

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**1. Secretary**

After some discussion, Baxter agreed to take notes from the meeting and send them along to the Chair for transcription.

**2. Fortune Bay Cod Spawning and Status of Herring Stocks**

Conrad circulated a letter that was sent to Julian Goodyear, Director of Science Branch requesting information about apparent cod spawning in Doctor's Harbour in Fortune Bay and the status of the Fortune Bay herring stock. Mr. Goodyear's response was also circulated and discussed. As the herring stock status report needed explanation and clarification in common language, it was agreed to invite someone from Science Branch to our next meeting to discuss this further. We will decide then as to any recommendations or suggestions to present to DFO.

### **3. CZM Coordinator Proposal**

A proposal was sent to DFO and DFA for funding for this position to March 31, 2006. To date, DFO has committed \$14,000 and we are still awaiting word from DFA for \$4000.00. Mike Warren, Executive Director of Policy and Planning, is still working on the file and should have a decision in a few days. The Coast of Bays Corporation will provide \$2,331 in-kind support. The committee will go ahead with the advertisement for the position using "Pending funding approval..."

### **4. Database of Contact Information**

There was a discussion of the type of information to be collected in this database. Joan suggested that it contain the contact information and descriptions of services offered of regulatory agencies and departments only. The committee also agreed that this database should be mounted on the Coastal Planning website so that other groups involved in Coastal Planning will have access to the information. The details of content and platform will be determined later. Joan will handle the contract for this piece of work.

### **5. Report on Coastal Zone 05 in New Orleans**

Joan gave a report of the Coastal Zone 05 conference noting that there was a small contingent from Canada. The issues discussed were more relevant to the USA than any other part of the world. Habitat degradation and coastal erosion were the main topics of discussion. During the poster exhibition though, Joan did have quite a number of visitors who had questions about Coastal Planning in the province. Copies of this poster were circulated.

## **Update on Activities**

### **Steve Moyse Assignment**

Steve has been assigned to duties at DFA headquarters in St. John's. Conrad has written his superiors requesting that he continue to be our contact with the department. They have informed us that Steve's work with the Coastal Planning Committee will continue.

### **ACZISC Conference**

Steve did a presentation on the Coastal Planning initiative in the Coast of Bays at the ACZISC (Atlantic Coastal Zone Information Steering Committee) conference in St. John's. Conrad put the presentation together and e-mailed it to Steve. The presentation was well received and Steve reports that there were a number of questions following the presentation.

### **DFO Report**

Joan spoke about the significant areas work that was conducted by Tim Willcott earlier in the year. A series of maps stemming from this work was examined and she stressed prudence to be used when interpreting the maps. In compiling this information, 17 persons throughout the region were interviewed to discuss significant areas in the Coast of Bays taking into consideration the environmental, ecological, social and economic values. The next step in this process is to review and prioritize the areas. This will provide a baseline to be used as a tool for Coastal Planning.

Joan gave an update on the MEQ (Marine Environmental Quality) assessment being conducted by Laura Park and Helen Griffiths on the Barasway area of St. Alban's. A preliminary assessment report was circulated and the committee suggested that a letter be sent to Ms. Park recommending further assessment as outlined in her report.

Once the second stage assessment is complete, the Coastal Planning Committee will arrange a meeting with the Town of St. Alban's and invite Ms. Park to discuss the findings and possible remedial action. Morrisville is another site with a similar history that may need to be examined.

Joan also informed us that Laura is involved in an Atlantic province-wide study of fishplant effluent. The Committee recommended that Laura be invited in to discuss their findings on the completion of the study as this is a potential problem in St. Alban's considering the proximity of market fish near the effluent discharge.

Joan reviewed the importance and role of the Coast of Bays and Placentia Bay within the context of the Grand Banks Large Ocean Management Area (LOMA). Further to that, the boundaries of our management area, which entails more than just drawing a line on a map, needs to be clarified. Joan will look into the possibility of contracting a study of the area to make a recommendation. Joan informed the meeting that there is an initiative by a group in the Ramea/Burgeo area looking into the potential of establishing a National Marine Conservation Area.. Some information is available on the Newfoundland and Labrador Legacy Trust website.

Ms. O'Brien distributed paper copies of the Coast of Bays Coastal Community Resource Inventory to the committee. It was agreed that copies be held at the Town of Hr. Breton, the Belleoram Harbour Authority, NSGA and the Department of Natural Resources in Conne River. Additional copies will be held at the Coast of Bays office in St. Alban's. Joan also tabled a Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) atlas of the region which will be held at the Coast of Bays Corporation office.

### **Terms of Reference**

Conrad will circulate the Draft Terms of Reference with the minutes to the committee members. The Committee agreed that the quorum for a meeting would be 50% +1. There will be no alternates to ensure continuity and to reduce lost time by having to backtrack at every meeting.

It was agreed that the terms of reference should have a clause to the effect that non-attendance at three consecutive meetings without just cause, the person shall be dropped from the committee. Boundary of management area should be defined. (See DFO report above).

### **Workplan 2005-06**

It was suggested that we obtain the services of a reputable facilitator to conduct a strategic planning workshop to produce a mission statement for the committee. This will be our 'guiding light' for future direction and activities. This workshop will also identify goals and objectives that will be used to formulate a workplan for the coming year(s).

## **Communications**

It was agreed that we must solidify the committee stakeholder representation before doing any amount of public relations. To date, an important sector -the fishery- has not had representation at any meetings. The chair will contact the representatives to discuss this.

## **Stakeholder issues/concerns**

It was mentioned that there was an increase in lobsters in the vicinity of cage sites in Fortune Bay. The incidence of aquaculture feed bags drifting in the harbour was discussed. They appear to blow from transport boats or from the wharf before being taken to the garbage dump. Newfoundland Marine Farms bring in their feed bags twice a week and arrange for the local garbage collector to meet the boat and take the bags to the dump. Is it possible to recycle these bags? In Hermitage, feed storage is becoming an issue. Currently, it is stored on the public wharf which is also used by the ferry service. Joan will send out some brochures on marine debris for distribution as education is an important role of the committee.

## **Rock quarry in Belleoram**

This project is still in the early planning stages and all the relevant government departments and agencies will assess all aspects of it before giving it the go ahead. Once it is in operation, there will be an increase in vessel traffic in the area and we will need to keep a watch for bilge water discharge which could affect aquaculture and the fishery.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on November 30, 2005. It will begin at 10:00 am with a presentation and discussion on the Fortune Bay herring stocks followed by a strategic planning session in the afternoon. Location to be announced and lunch will be provided.