

**Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Committee
Vancor Motel, Head Bay d'Espoir
Inaugural Meeting
March 14, 2005**

Attendance

Individual	Group/Department/Agency/Organization
Committee Members	
Conrad Collier	Coast of Bays Corporation
Craig Mercer	Newfoundland Salmonid Growers Association
Steward May	Harbour Authorities
Herb Dunphy	Municipalities
Joseph Mackey	Recreational Boaters and Cabin Owners
Clarence Kelly (for Stan Hill)	Arts & Exploration Centre/Tourism
Daniel Jeddore (for Ross Hinks)	Conne River Band Council
Ex-officio Members	
Joan O'Brien	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Steve Moyse	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture
David Mercer	Department of Environment and Conservation
Wesley Harris	Coast of Bays Corporation
Scott Dawe	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency
Staff	
Tamara Strickland	Coast of Bays Corporation/Coastal Planning Committee

There were three committee members that were unable to attend the meeting and sent along their regrets. These individuals are: Eric Day (FFAW Processors), Mildred Skinner (FFAW Inshore Fishers) and Roy Cox (Fishers Committee).

Adoption of the Agenda

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with three items added to the agenda.

- a) Presentation of the Coastal Planning Website
- b) Marine Infrastructure Study
- c) Next Steps for the committee

Introductions

Mr. Conrad Collier began the meeting with a welcome to everyone in attendance, especially those who traveled from outside the region. Then he asked everyone to introduce themselves stating the group they represented. Mr. Collier gave a brief overview about coastal planning and explained its importance in general and to the region.

Mr. Wesley Harris, Chair of the Coast of Bays Corporation, commented that the time is right for coastal planning to begin in the region. He discussed Harold Murphy's report from 2002, *Coastal Zone Planning: Investigating the need for a Coastal Planning*

Committee in the Coast of Bays Region, stating that the findings of this report showed strong support for coastal planning in the region, 97% of the people surveyed felt it was needed. Mr. Harris also stressed that the Coastal Planning Committee does not override government bodies.

Selection of the Executive

It was decided by the committee that with the exception of selecting a Chair, the selection of executive officers would occur at a later meeting, preferably with all committee members in attendance. Mr. Conrad Collier was appointed Chair of the Coastal Planning Committee by general consensus.

Presentation by Coordinator: Introduction to Coastal Planning Committee

A copy of this presentation has been attached to the minutes.

Mr. Steve Moyse mentioned that the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture is in the process of developing a Sustainable Development Act for the province, which could also be used in conjunction with Canada Ocean's Act for Coastal Planning in the region. Mr. Moyse stated that the concept of coastal planning was new to his department as well.

Ms. Joan O'Brien continued the discussion saying that the coastal planning process and concept is new for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) too. Even though the Ocean's Act has been around 1997, it is only in the past two or three years that coastal planning has been pushed into full force. Ms. O'Brien then mentioned that there are two other Regional Economic Development Boards that are in the initial stages of pursuing coastal planning for their regions.

Mr. Scott Dawe asked Ms. O'Brien if DFO has a plan to establish a certain number of coastal management areas within a given timeframe. Ms. O'Brien replied that DFO has no such plan considering the human and financial resources required.

Roles and Responsibilities

Mr. Collier explained what is expected of the committee members. He used Mr. Herb Dunphy as an example, saying that he has to contact each municipality in the region before a coastal planning meeting to see if there are any issues that a particular municipality wishes to have addressed. Mr. Dunphy is also responsible for reporting back to municipalities after the meeting takes place to inform them of the discussions that took place especially regarding their issues of concern. Mr. Collier stressed the importance of transparency in this process; it is vital that each stakeholder group in the region be fully informed of what the committee is doing in order for coastal planning to be a success.

Mr. Daniel Jeddore asked if all ex-officio members of the committee would be attending all meetings of the coastal planning committee. Mr. Collier replied that ex-officio members would be invited to all meetings, especially if there is something on the agenda that involves their department.

Presentation of Coastal Planning Website

The Coastal Planning website was presented to the committee by Mr. Collier. He explained and demonstrated many of the features of the website such as the resource library, coastal forum, committee members and news. Mr. Collier stated the website is an excellent source of information whether an individual is seeking general information regarding coastal planning or information that is more specific and deals with coastal planning in the Coast of Bays region. He also said that anyone wanting to know about coastal planning could access this website and learn exactly how to go about beginning the coastal planning process in their area. Mr. Collier also stated that the website is a great way for anyone to keep updated and learn the latest information with regards to coastal planning in the Coast of Bays region.

Presentation of Communication Strategy

A copy of this presentation has been attached to the minutes.

Mr. Harris suggested that an alternative to public meetings in sub-regions might be public hearing where the committee members would be present to listen to public opinions as opposed to the coordinator conducting the meetings and reporting the information. This way the committee will be more involved and hear first hand the feelings of the public.

Marine Infrastructure Study

Mr. Collier explained to the committee that the marine infrastructure study would be used to prioritize the infrastructure needed by all industries in the region. The consultant group Aqua Neuve Solutions Inc. will be conducting the study. The study is essentially a five-year plan for the region on what infrastructure is needed. Mr. Collier also stated that this study would be used when applying for future development projects. He also stated that the partners in the project are ACOA, DFA, the Coast of Bays Corporation and NSGA. The project's steering committee has representatives from DFA, INTRD, NSGA, COBC and ACOA.

Next Steps

"Where do we go from here?" The coastal planning steering committee felt that an extensive, one-day workshop on a number topics related to coastal planning is necessary so that the committee becomes familiar with various policies and procedures from different departments. Some examples mentioned were DFA's licensing process,

Environment and Conservation's policy on Crown Lands, and DFO's Habitat Management policy.

Ms. O'Brien invited two members from the committee the Oceans Workshop 2005 being held in St. John's on March 22 and 23, 2005. This workshop will include presentations from all over Newfoundland and Labrador.

Ms. O'Brien stated that DFO would be covering all travel costs for this trip. It was decided that Conrad Collier and Steward May would attend the workshop on behalf of the committee.

Next Meeting

There was no official date set for the next meeting, however, it was decided that it would be have to be held prior April 19, 2005 since this is when the lobster fishery begins and many members of the committee will be extremely busy.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.