

Coast of Bays Coastal Planning Committee Meeting
Belleoram Municipal Centre
Belleoram
Nov. 15th, 2006

Attendance:

Conrad Collier – Coast of Bays Corporation
Craig Mercer – Aquaculture
Steward May – Harbour Authorities
Baxter House – Tourism
Jeffery Roberts – Fisheries Committee
Ross Hinks – Conne River Band Council
Kevin Lawrence – FFAW – Inshore Fishers
Bret Pilgrim – Coastal Planning Coordinator
Dawn Mercer – Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Ex-officio
Laura Park – Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Guest

Regrets:

Pius Howse – Rec. Boaters & Cabin Owners
Herb Dunphy – Municipalities
Eric Day – FFAW – Processors

The chair opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Review of meeting agenda
Motion to adopt Meeting Agenda – Baxter
Second – Steward

1. Welcome and Introduction

The meeting commenced by welcoming guest Laura Park (DFO) to the Coastal Planning committee meeting, followed by a brief roundtable introduction.

Conrad informed the committee that the main focus of the meeting is to lay the foundation of the COB Coastal Management Plan. The plan will provide the committee and the Coastal Planning Initiative with a future strategy. The process requires input from all committee members.

2. Review of Meeting Minutes

After reviewing the minutes of the last committee meeting (Oct. 3rd, 2006) no amendment was necessary.

Motion to adopt minutes – Baxter
Second - Craig

3. **Business Arising**

a. Bret attended the Placentia Bay Integrated Management Committee meeting in Marystown on Nov.10th. The meetings primary focus was to review the committees Charter and its draft Coastal Management Plan. This exercise provided a good starting point for the development of the Coast of Bays Coastal Management Plan.

Dawn indicated that the Placentia Bay Coastal Management Plan was a good outline for the COB Coastal Planning committee to follow.

b. Coastal Planning Coordinator Funding – a proposal has been submitted and approved by DFO.

4. **Presentation: MEQ and the Coast of Bays**

Laura Park (DFO) delivered a presentation on the various Marine Environmental Quality projects within the Coast of Bays region and an overview of possible future MEQ work involving fish plant effluent and best management practices.

Conrad informed the committee that there has been numerous discussions among by the Coast of Bays Aquaculture Sub-Committee regarding offal and possible solutions as to how it may be used. While the Mink Farming Industry uses small amounts of offal, the problem lies in attracting long-term investment to deal with large quantities of offal produced within the entire region.

Kevin indicated that the bottom of Fortune Bay is rich Lobster Ground and that nothing has been done to safeguard lobster populations against long-term impacts of salmon aquaculture farms.

Jeff provided an example of how Cod aquaculture farms in Hermitage Bay devastated the benthic environment in close proximity to cages. Within one year of cage removal, the area revived naturally.

* Conrad recommended that the Coastal Management Plan would include consideration/strategy for maximum use of offal and bloodwater treatment/containment.

Laura stressed that there are numerous low-cost approaches to lowering the levels of offal flushed back into the marine environment. These include Best Management Practices such as how clean-ups are conducted within plants and how processing lines are established and managed.

Laura's processing plant audit process could provide recommendations to how processing operations could be improved.

Marine Debris Awareness Campaign Update

Bret - The committee has been granted permission to use the background music selected for the Marine Debris Advertisement. *Been There Done That Entertainment* granted approval for one-year non-exclusive use of the selected music tracks.

A sample Marine Debris Awareness Poster was presented to the Committee. The poster will be distributed throughout the region to be displayed for public viewing (e.g. schools, town halls, libraries, community bulletin boards, harbour authorities...etc.). DFO has offered to assist with printing cost.

Motion to approve the poster – Jeff.
Second – Kevin.

5. Coastal Planning Boundary

Three boundaries were identified for discussion including a revised boundary that was suggested at the Coastal Planning Meeting on Oct. 3rd. Mainly for logistics of management the area identified as the Coastal Planning boundary encompasses only the Coast of Bays region and adjacent coastal/marine areas.

This site-specific boundary will be called the *Coast of Bays Coastal Planning and Management Boundary*. This area rests within the much larger Fortune Bay Management Boundary. The Fortune Bays Management Boundary is a planning area encompassing Fortune Bay.

6. Coastal Management Plan: Identification of Goals, Objectives, Issues

Before developing Goals and Objectives for the Coastal Management Plan, the committee was asked to review the Coastal Planning Committee Mission Statement. The words “open”, “transparent”, and “accountable” were suggested to be included in the Mission Statement. After some discussion it was decided that Bret and Conrad would review the Mission Statement and re-word it if deemed appropriate before the next committee meeting.

ACTION ITEM:

Bret/Conrad - review and/or re-word the Mission Statement if necessary

Bret provided a brief overview of how the committee will proceed to identify goals and objectives for the Coastal Management Plan.

The results from this exercise are appended to these minutes. The committee was informed that this exercise is only the first attempt at goal and objective identification.

A table highlighting issues identified from various Coastal Planning documents

was presented to the committee. Committee members were asked to review the table over a two-week period to become familiar with the issues identified and to assess if these issues still exist. Members were also asked to consider issues that were omitted from the table and to determine if any issues fall outside the capacity of the committee (e.g. licensing process). At the end of the two-week period members were asked to return the table along with any comments/suggestion to Bret/Conrad (COBC Office).

ACTION ITEM:

Committee Members - review the issues table and return it to Bret with comments/suggestions in two weeks (Dec. 1st, 2006).

7. Stakeholder Issues, Comments and Concerns

- a. Craig Mercer (Aquaculture)
 - Lack of marine infrastructure including wharfs, feed warehousing, floating docks.
 - Bio-security issues including blood water, mortality disposal and discharge from existing processing plants.

- b. Steward May (Harbour Authority)
 - Marine infrastructure concerns

- c. Kevin Lawrence (FFAW – Inshore Fishers)
 - stressed his concern with the growth of aquaculture in the region and what local traditional fishers are potentially losing.
 - in terms of impact, nothing has been put in place to protect lobster and lobster habitat. It is important to move forward with caution.

- d. Ross Hinks (Conne River Band Council)
 - provided a brief update on the Aboriginal Aquatic Research and Oceans Management (AAROM) project. The ARROM project is doing some similar work as the Coastal Planning Initiative and would like to see collaboration between both initiatives.
 - ARROM has interest to establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the Little River Estuary. This area has traditional significance.

- e. Laura Park (DFO)
 - Laura asked the committee which processing plant should receive the audit. There is only funding to audit one plant and this work has to be completed by March 31st, 2007.
 - The committee suggested that the plant in St. Alban's be audited since preliminary work on the plant has already been complete. As well, it would be the only processing plant processing only aquaculture product in the Atlantic Canada processing plant assessment.

- If more funding could be obtained, then a second audit could be done on the processing plant in Hermitage.

8. Scheduling Next Meeting

Next meeting will be scheduled for February, 2007 in Harbour Breton. Time and date will be specified at a later date.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m. on a motion by Steward May.

Coastal Management Plan Direction
Mission Statement – Goals – Objectives – Issues
Overview from Nov. 15th Meeting

Coastal Planning Mission Statement:

*To foster the sustainable use and development of coastal and marine environments through
(open) collaboration and planning for the Coast of Bays region
(transparent accountable)*

Goals (How do we achieve the Mission Statement?):

1. **_Conflict avoidance and resolution**
2. **_Information sharing and/or exchange**
3. **_Strengthen Initiative Capacity (committee)**
4. **_Maintain a Healthy Ecosystem**
5. **_Fostering Sustainable Communities**
6. **_Foster relations between coastal/marine industries**

Objectives (How do we achieve the Goal?)

Education

Objectives for Goal #1: Conflict avoidance and resolution

- encourage communication between Stakeholders
- Create a forum for input and feedback

Objectives for Goal #2: Information sharing and exchange

- Create a forum for input and feedback
- Input into the government decision-making processes
- Ensure transparency and accountability in all aspects of Coastal Planning

Objectives for Goal #3: Strengthen Initiative Capacity

- promote the Coastal Planning Initiative
- initiate partnerships between stakeholders and appropriate agencies/ departments

Objectives for Goal #4: Maintain a healthy ecosystem

- to promote stewardship,
- to promote conservation restoration and/or maintenance of ecosystems

Objectives for Goal #5: Foster sustainable communities

- advocate government policy resulting in sustainable communities
- promote community stewardship and public awareness

Objectives for Goal #6: Foster relations between coastal/marine industries

- encourage partnerships among stakeholders
- encourage communication between Industries
- Create a forum for input and feedback