

Minutes of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)
Annual General Meeting
November 2nd, 2001-- 10:00 am – 5:00 pm ~
Tweedie Room, Mount Allison University
Sackville, New Brunswick

Present: Graham Daborn (chair), Hugh Akagi, Con Desplanque, Janice Harvey, Russell Henry, Peter Hicklin, Larry Hildebrand, Pat Hinch, Kelly Honeyman, Marianne Janowicz, Barry Jones, Claudette LeBlanc, Jon Percy, Nancy Roscoe-Huntley (secretary), Brad Walters, Peter Wells, Maxine Westhead, Renee Wissink, Tom Young

Regrets: Mark Costello, Stephen Hawbolt, Thierry Chopin

Absent Steering Committee Members: Michael Butler, Gail Chmura, David Mossman

1. ***Welcome & introductions-***

Graham Daborn opened the Annual General Meeting of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership by welcoming all those in attendance, followed by introductions. Nancy noted regrets received. Graham noted that over 400 notices had been sent out advertising the AGM.

2. ***Additions to/ acceptance of the agenda***

It was noted that the new linkage to GPAC (*Global Plan of Action Committee*) for the Gulf of Maine would be discussed under item #12.

3. ***Approval of the minutes from the September 20th, 2000 AGM***

Copies were circulated at this meeting as well as posted on the Web. Larry Hildebrand moved the acceptance of the minutes from the September 20th, 2000 minutes, seconded by Jon Percy. Hearing no errors or omissions, the question was called. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. ***Business arising***

Since the last AGM, a Steering Committee and Management Committee has been elected. The officers are as follows: Chair - Graham Daborn ; Vice-Chair - Peter Wells; Secretary - Anne Mercer-Hall; Treasurer – Tim Hall. Resignations received since those elections are Anne Mercer-Hall and Tim Hall.

The next major meeting will be held in May of next year and will be held at a time when the majority of members are able to attend. It has been suggested that the AGM should be held in conjunction with a major conference. This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

From the Action Items:

#1 Barry Jones reported that there are no plans at this date to make changes to the role of BoFEP re: integrated management proposal; merely seeking approval to explore the question..

#3 – Peter noted that the proceedings from the 4th Bay of Fundy Workshop have been printed.

5. ***Adoption of BoFEP By-laws (posted on the Website for review)***

Graham read each section of the By-laws and members had an opportunity to amend or correct.

Motion to accept . Moved by Jones/seconded by Wells as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. ***Update on BoFEP Working Group Activities***

Short reports were given by those either in attendance or from submitted written reports.

A full report will be attached to the minutes from this meeting as Appendix A.

7. ***Update on Steering Committee/Management Committee activities/decisions***

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Graham and Jon provided an update on the activities from these two committees. They have been busy preparing the By-laws, investigating the possibilities for an Integrated Management Proposal, as well as developing a Strategic Plan. Discussion has also been held regarding whom would best serve as BoFEP's fiscal agent and how to develop financial resources. Since the resignation of the treasurer, there have been problems with producing up-to-date financial statements; however, it is hoped this set back will soon be resolved. Science issues have been dealt with by Peter Wells and general issues are dealt with through the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research.

Motion to accept the report of the Steering Committee and Management Committee Jones/LeBlanc. All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

8. ***Update on the 2002 Bay of Fundy Science Workshop Planning Committee (P. Wells)***

P. Wells provided an update on the progress of the Workshop Planning Committee. Plans are well underway and the first mailing announcing the workshop was sent out with the 4th Workshop Proceedings last May/June. There are two committees; a program committee consisting of Pat Hinch, Barry Jones, Mike Brylinsky, Graham Daborn, Janice Harvey, Jon Percy, Max Westhead and Nancy Roscoe-Huntley. The other committee is the logistics committee. Peter noted that any member from the Steering Committee is welcome to join either of these committees. Janice Harvey provided background leading up to the GPAC summit and will be asked to attend the next workshop planning meeting to further discuss the involvement of this group. Peter noted that the workshop will run from May 13th to 16 and advised of the program structure. It was agreed that the next AGM should be held during this workshop and the planning committee will be asked to determine an appropriate time and date.

9. ***DFO Proposal re: BoFEP role in integrated management in the Bay of Fundy***

Barry Jones provided a detail presentation on the integrated management proposal including a background on why this plan began; he showed geographic areas, current DFO work which included the Minas Basin Working Group Project. He advised that there has been some poor decisions made due to lack of communication and information. Copies of his presentation are available through the BoFEP Secretariat Office. The question is ultimately, does BoFEP wish to pursue the role of being responsible for an Integrated Management Plan in the Bay of Fundy. Larry Hildebrand noted that he has done a brief assessment of the proposal and outlined some of the key points of the proposal. Some of changes might need to be reflected in the BoFEP By-laws. After lengthy discussion, the motion made by Barry Jones:

That BoFEP approve in principal the proposal for adopting a greater role in developing an integrated management plan for the Bay of Fundy.

Motion to accept. Jones/Hildebrand

Further discussion continued. There was concern over conflict resolution and who would be responsible for resolving it. Some felt it was not clear if this body accepts the motion or goes on consensus what would happen. Many concerns were raised from the independence of BoFEP and how DFO would/could change the structure to who would/could become the spokesperson/stakeholders of BoFEP. Independence was seen as a big issue of concern as was the public's perception. A need for clarification of rules and responsibilities; terms of reference is still needed. What are the alternatives?

There was a consensus from the group that there is sufficient interest to pursue this issue further, however, the role of BoFEP needs to be further explored and during the next few weeks this should be done. In the end it was agreed that this item be referred back to the Steering Committee and that a Working Group be established to further pursue this plan.

Motion from B. Jones withdrawn.

10. ***Work Plans and proposed budget for 2002-2003***

Graham noted that he has been working on a proposed budget. He reviewed the expenditures of the past year and proposed a tentative budget for the upcoming year that included guidelines for expenditures. Also, he noted money has been budgeted for working groups that would assist these groups in such expenses as travel and publications.

Motion to move the adoption of this report

T. Young/H. Akagi

Motion carried unanimously.

11. ***Nominations and election of the Steering Committee***

On behalf of the nomination's committee Jon Percy reported that he had contacted all of the current members and received 15 positive responses and 3 negatives. He noted that there is an even distribution in representation from the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The Steering Committee nominations are:

Barry Jones, Janice Harvey, David Mossman, Graham Daborn., Hugh Akagi, Larry Hildebrand, Maxine Westhead, Tom Young, Thierry Chopin, Mike Butler, Peter Wells, Pat Hinch, Gail Chumura, Peter Hicklin, Mark Costello, Steven Hawboldt, Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, Jon Percy (ex officio)

In addition Tom Young nominated Renee Wissink
Peter Wells seconded.

Jancie Harvey nominated Marianne Janowicz, seconded by Hugh Akagi
Motion carried.

The Steering Committee meets following the AGM to elect its Management committee. It was noted that the Management Committee can also select members to fill any unfilled positions.

12. ***Gulf of Maine Council – update on Action Plan/linkages to BoFEP***

Janice Harvey provided a brief update on the strong linkages provided if these two groups worked together.

13. ***Other Business***

The question of having the next AGM in the Spring during the 5th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop was discussed.

Motion to hold the workshop on May 16th, 2002

Jones/Harvey

Motion carried unanimously.

It was agreed that for the upcoming year the audit of the accounts would be carried out by Acadia University.

It was agreed that the issues of providing financial assistance to the GPAC 50 Ways brochure would be deferred to the first management committee meeting.

14. ***Adjournment.***

Janice Harvey moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Larry Hildebrand.