

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)

2007 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

Board Room, Canadian Wildlife Service, Sackville, NB.
Thursday, November 29th, 2007, 3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Peter Wells (Chair), Pat Hinch, Barry Jones, Marianne Janowicz, Maria-Ines Buzeta, Gerhard Pohle, Jon Percy, Owen Washburn, , Hugh Akagi, Peter Fenety, Mike Brylinsky, Peter Etheridge, Michael Butler, Claudette LeBlanc, Brad Walters, Andy Didyk, Cindy Spicer, Raul Urgarte, Dawn Allen, Peter Etheridge, Dianne Hamilton, Al Hanson, Peter Hicklin, Dave Duggan, Kathryn Parlee, Doug Campbell, Anita Hamilton, Leanna McDonald (BoFEP Secretariat)

1) *Welcome and Introductions*

Peter Wells, BoFEP Acting Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed all to the 2007 BoFEP Annual General Meeting. It was noted that enough members were in attendance to achieve a quorum.

Coffee and cake was served to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of BoFEP.

2) *Approval of the minutes of the last AGM meeting.*

Motion to accept the minutes, Barry Jones.

Second: Peter Fenety

Motion Carried.

3) *Report from the Chair (Peter Wells)*

Report to the BoFEP AGM November 2007 from the Chair.

BoFEP's history and role with its members:

BoFEP was started by a small group and a vision for a Fundy Marine Ecosystem Science Project in the winter of 1995. A commitment was made at its first workshop to act as a focal point for the bay's science and knowledge base covering timely topics and issues. BoFEP was formally established in November 1997 at the 2nd Workshop, hence our 10th Anniversary at this AGM. Over this period, we have held five more (now biennial) workshops; held community meetings and forums, and participated in many others; coordinated and conducted research under numerous working groups; produced fact sheets, internal reports and Proceedings; run an increasingly popular web site; strengthened our relationship with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment with a signed agreement; and through our extensive and informal network of members, made important linkages to many other coastal groups. BoFEP is fulfilling a much needed function for its members, by creating, sharing and using knowledge on the Bay of Fundy in a largely non-advocacy role.

Environmental sustainability of the Bay of Fundy:

The Bay of Fundy and its coastline and coastal lands are increasingly in the news and on the public and political agenda. It is a major tourist destination (emphasized by NB and NS). It is an area of continued and increasing industrial and other economic activity crucial to both provinces and the livelihoods of its many coastal communities. The Bay's living marine resources and biodiversity, changed

in many ways since European settlement, are under stress due to some of this activity. This situation persists, despite several really positive, recent, “ground-breaking” events: in NS, e.g. the recommendations pertaining to the proposed quarry on Digby Neck by the EIA panel and the NS government; NS government’s support for developing a (much overdue) coastal management plan; and the Cheverie Creek salt marsh restoration project; in NB, e.g. the implementation of the provincial Coastal Areas Protection Policy, the decision to bridge the Petitcodiac River to replace the causeway, designation of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve, and establishment of the Musquash Estuary MPA; and federally, with renewed commitments and funding for the Gulf of Maine and health of the ocean programs.

However, evidence shows that the bay is still being exploited, built upon and industrialized, incrementally, potentially leading to further loss of habitats, biota and overall health and ecological integrity. The Bay and its coastal lands on both sides suffer from unplanned and uncoordinated use and development. Some fishing practices have not changed, despite considerable criticism about their impacts e.g. groundfish and scallop dragging. Proposed developments of late include further coastal quarries, the LNG terminals in Passamaquoddy Bay, the refinery expansion at Saint John, mining in the Shubenacadie River estuary, undersea mining in mid bay, highway twinning at Windsor, more aquaculture sites in the lower Bay, more coastal housing developments, and not least, the tidal power projects being considered for the upper and lower bay. The region is still experiencing exposure to acidic rain and fog, and trace chemicals transported from afar, not to mention a progression of invasive species into the bays habitats.

On the land side, one only needs to look at and experience Fundy National Park and note how its recovered forests stand out compared to the deforestation, road building and plantation-based management that surround it. The effects of incremental development on the Bay’s aquatic resources and ecosystems are not easily measured, but many indicators show why we should be concerned.

One solution, of many, is to ensure that knowledge of the state of the bay, with all of its ecological complexity, is both current and accessible to the public. Work of the BoFEP working groups, the timely Fundy workshops, and our excellent Fundy issues series, contribute to this new knowledge and understanding. BoFEP’s work, along with that of many other groups and individuals around the bay, is vital to developing a much needed integrated coastal planning and management framework and plan for the bay.

BoFEPs status and future:

BoFEP has been in place for 10 years. It’s continued niche and role as a place for reliable information, networking and a stimulus for new research, long term monitoring, and frequent reporting is much needed. We should both celebrate and plan for the future.

We have faced a challenge since 2005 that must be solved. BoFEPs annual support (financial and in-kind) from the federal government (Environment Canada) has become uncertain. After seven good years, we functioned with very late core funding in FY 2005-06, no federal funding for FY 06-07, and again delayed funding in this fiscal year FY 07-08. We are not being critical of Environment Canada, as times and policies do change. We are very grateful for the funding received for this FY, and for dedicated support from EC staff, but it is very difficult to run a productive, largely volunteer, organization with such uncertainty.

To be proactive, the Management Committee struck a new committee (Strategic Development and Funding, or Outreach) in Spring 2006 to develop BoFEP’s long term strategy and funding initiatives from multiple sources/partners. The committee has been very busy and has met on numerous occasions. It has discussed various ways for funding the operation – memberships, specific contracts, conducting forums, publishing on the Bay, and others. You will hear more about these initiatives at this meeting.

Renewed commitment from the partners and supporters of BoFEP is essential as we move forward into our next 10 years. Your advice, assistance and tangible support are needed in the months

ahead as we develop a new business plan with renewed vigour and capacity for the organization. Your actions and your commitment to the Bay of Fundy, its living resources and ecosystems, and its coastal communities, will continue to make a difference!

I would like to acknowledge all members of the current Management and Steering Committees, particularly our Secretariat at Acadia University, and our past Chair, for their time and support for BoFEP during this past year. Last but not least, thank-you, the members of BoFEP, for participating in this meeting and in supporting and working with BoFEP in the years ahead. All the very best for the holiday season and the New Year.

Peter

P.G.Wells

4) Report of the Treasurer and Finance Committee (Pat Hinch)

Report #1

2006-07 Year End Statement

(as at March 31/07)

Opening Balance \$ 1,941

Revenues:

SETAC \$11,204

GOMC 23,554

BoFEP 4,430

\$39,188

Year End Balance 4,660

(Bank reconciliation to \$4685)

Report #2

BOFEP Budget 2007-08: (Internal)

Opening Balance \$ 4,685

Revenues:

EC \$50,000

Total Revenues: \$ 50,000

Expenses:

a) Committed funds:

GOM Sewage 2005-06	\$ 200 (Ruth Cordes)
GOMC Agreement 2006-07	1,541 (Informatics Working Group)
SETAC	2,944 (Informatics Working Group)

Total committed funding expenses: \$ 4,685

b) EC Funding:

Sea Pen	\$ 8,000
Working Groups	9,700
ACER	10,000 (\$4,087 pd.)
Network Coordination	9,600 (\$3,392 pd.)
BoFEP Workshop	2,500
Community Liaison	1,900 (for MC, SC, AGM travel)
Factsheets	4,000
Website	800
Promotion/Outreach	2,500 (for MS, SC, AGM travel)
Bibliography database	1,000

Total EC funding expenses \$ 50,000

Total Expenses: \$ 54,685

End balance: 0

The BoFEP Budget is to outline the intended purpose for the monies requested from Environment Canada. This document will be presented to the AGM for approval.

Although it has been the policy of BoFEP to have a \$5000.00 surplus at the end of the fiscal year this is no longer feasible as it would result in Environment Canada requiring those funds be returned. This is the reason for the zero balance at the end of the year.

Report #3

BoFEP Financial Statement, November 19th. (P.Hinch/B.Jones/P.Wells)

Year to date (as of Nov. 29th, '07)

Opening balance (end of fy06-07) \$ 4,685.00

Revenues

EC	25,000.00
Bank rebate	99.00
BoFEP 7 th Workshop (returned balance)	805.58
Total	25,904.58

Total Revenues 25,904.58

Total Balance 30,589.58

Expenditures

BoFEP Annual General Meeting

Proceedings (SR)	2,274.00
Bounty Print (Proceedings)	1727.00
G.Pohle (Travel-SC mtg)	190.00
Secretariat – ACER (contract)	4,087.00
Sea Pen (JP Contract)	717.00
Sea Pen (JP Contract)	2,675.00
Bank charges	35.00
Total expenditures (to 27/09/07)	11,705.00
Current balance	18,884.58
Outstanding cheques	
Barry Jones	388.67
Total outstanding cheques	388.67
Commitments	
Working groups (9, at 1.5K each)	13,500.00
R Cordes (contract)	200.00
Dalhousie (E.Toms, contract)	2943.75
Informatics (E.Toms, contract –GOMC)	1,541.17
Audit	900.00
Equity	100.00
Secretariat – ACER (contract)	5,913.00
Sea Pen	4,608.00
Total commitments	29,705.92
WORKING BALANCE	-11,210.01
Anticipated Revenue (2 nd half EC contract)	25,000.00
Overall balance	13,789.99

Motion to accept the financial reports and budget, with a resolution that the \$5K surplus that was formerly carried forward can no longer be retained due to Environment Canada funding requirements.
Barry Jones.

Second: Peter Fenety

Motion Carried.

Motion to assign the responsibility to approve/appoint an auditor (requirement of contract with Environment Canada), to the Management Committee, A. Didyk.

Second: Barry Jones

Motion Carried.

Membership Dues

Annual Membership 2008 in BoFEP

Belonging to and Supporting the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership works primarily as a virtual institute, its only permanent homes being the web site and the Secretariat located at the Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research, Acadia University. Over the past

10 years, BoFEP has been largely supported by one federal department, Environment Canada. However, for the future, we must look towards diversified sources of funding including the broad membership of BoFEP for support of its programs.

As a committed member of BoFEP, we now rely upon both your in-kind and financial support. The membership categories below are designed to fit the level of ability of your organization or yourself to pay and to focus your contribution on core areas of BoFEP's activities. Please note that we plan to seek Charitable Status; when this is achieved, we can issue you or your organization tax receipts for donations over \$25.

Annual Memberships

Honor Roll of BoFEP Donors

The Fundy Society
(>\$5000)

The Tidal Society
(\$1000-4999)

It expected that such members would be corporations, private foundations, and government agencies, either provincial or federal. The donations provide core support for BoFEP, going towards the Secretariat, communications, and selected working groups.

BoFEP Associates

Life Members
(\$1000)

BoFEP Fellows
(\$500-999)

BoFEP Patrons
(\$250-499)

Sustaining Associates of BoFEP
(\$100-249)

Contributing Associates of BoFEP
(\$25-99)¹

Student member
(\$20)

¹ Proposed fee range, depending upon ability to pay.
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Donors and associates should indicate below the preferred use of their contributions:

Operations - General Functions of the Secretariat _____

Specific Roles

Communications _____

BoFEPs Biennial Bay of Fundy Workshops _____

BoFEPs Working Groups _____
(please specify which ones, if there is a preference)

Student Support to any function above _____

Operations, where it is needed the most _____

Your name/primary address/phone number/e-mail address:

Name: _____

Street _____ Address: _____

_____ Phone: _____

Email _____

Please send your 2008 memberships to the Membership Secretary, with cheques (in Canadian dollars) made out to "Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Inc.":

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
Membership Secretary,
Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research,
23 Westwood Avenue,
Acadia University, Wolfville, NS. B4P 2R6. Canada.

Dues are due by January 31st for the current calendar year. A receipt and a letter of benefits will be issued as soon as a membership is received. A full accounting of all memberships will be given annually at each AGM, as well as be posted at www.bofep.org as part of each BoFEP annual report.

Many thanks for your continued support of BoFEP.

The BoFEP Management Team.

Form: BoFEP-D5-11-07

Student membership is too high and should be \$5-\$10.

Membership would include mail out of fact sheets, other mail-outs during the year, belonging to a part of a network interested in the Bay of Fundy, possible reduced registration fees at workshops.

Motion to move ahead with the membership fee for 1 operational year with the amendment that the Student Membership fee should be revised to \$0-\$5.

Second: Hugh Akagi

Motion Carried.

5) *Report on Working Groups* (Peter Wells)

Working Group (WG) Meetings/Project Development/Activities

Note: Meetings and projects of many of the BoFEP working groups were delayed due to funding restrictions, limiting travel to meetings, and funding of student interns during the summer months. It is anticipated that work and planning of several of the groups will continue in Fall and Winter months, FY 07-08.

Sub-littoral Ecology and Conservation WG (Chair: Maria Ines-Buzeta)

Work is continuing on compiling data on benthic species assemblages in the Quoddy region. Coordinated work through the WG has been delayed due to funding constraints.

Eelgrass WG

Work of this WG has been delayed due to funding constraints in the present as well as in the last FY. The WG had intended to meet at the 2006 BoFEP workshop (Oct 2006) but this did not occur.

Biosphere Reserve WG (Chair: Peter Etheridge)

Throughout 2006 and 2007, BoFEP members provided ecological and other information to the WG, chaired by Peter Etheridge. This was used to prepare the application to UNESCO for designation of the Upper Bay of Fundy, on the NB side, as a Biosphere Reserve, submitted in winter 2007. UNESCO approved the designation of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve in early October 2007, thus illustrating the very special nature and status of this geographic area of the Maritimes.

Minas Basin WG (Chair: Peter Wells)

The group met monthly throughout the Winter 2007 and Spring (April-June). The meetings were largely for information transfer, though efforts were made to continue work on the works plan of FY 06-07. Some members at Acadia are also quite involved in background work associated with the upcoming SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) for tidal power in the Basin. In April, a talk was given by Patricia Hinch on her university work on tidal power opportunities in the Bay of Fundy. A talk was presented by Don Aldous at the June meeting on his thesis work on Minas Basin governance and the development of a framework for an Integrated Coastal Management Plan (ICMP) for the basin. New projects of the WG, planned since Winter 2006, were delayed once again due to financial restrictions. The group will meet again Fall 2007 to discuss the way forward with a modified work/project plan for FY 07-08, and plan for the next FY.

Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems (Chairs: Deanne Meadus and Tony Bowron)

This group has not yet met in this FY, due to funding restrictions.

Fundy Informatics WG (Chair: Peter Wells)

The group (7 members) has not yet met formally in FY 07-08. However, two of the members (MacDonald, Wells) received a 3-yr SSHRC grant (137K) for continued research on the influence on decision making of information generated by intergovernmental marine science and environmental management groups. Work on the Fundy Information Collaboratory has unfortunately slowed due to lack of funding during this period. The report on the GOMC publications, completed in the last FY by Ruth Cordes et al, was mounted on the GOMC web site. Considerable informal interaction continue between members on bibliographic databases and software, and web site design, useful for BoFEP's projects.

Stress and Cumulative Effects WG (Chairs: Mick Burt and Peter Wells)

The M.Sc thesis research by Laura Jardine, at the Biology Dept., UNB Fredericton, on mercury cycling in the food and food chain at salmon aquaculture sites in the Passamaquoddy Bay region was successfully completed and defended in July. Several papers are in preparation. This study was one of a series on the interactions between chemical contaminants and ecological variables in the Bay of Fundy, led by M. Burt.

Corophium and Mudflat Ecology WG

Research of two members (D. Hamilton; M. Barbeau) proceeded with resources from the research granting agencies. The larger long term literature review on Corophium and its biology and ecology was again delayed due to lack of funding, although its bibliography was substantially brought up to date. Coordinated work of the group has slowed due to resource constraints.

Outreach (formerly Strategic Development and Funding) WG (Chair: Marianne Janowicz)

This group's primary role is to plan the diversification of partnership support and involvement in BoFEP's activities. Membership is open to anyone in BoFEP interested in helping the group find long-term sustained funding for its primary projects and initiatives. This follows two general meetings of the group in Winter and Summer 2006.

Two main activities have occupied the group over the past few months:

The first is to design a forum for Quoddy Region residents, managers, scientists and politicians to inform them of the region (ecosystem, socio-economics, Canadian heritage, International Law, Fisheries activities, Jurisdictional issues, Risk analysis, International Security) so that a community ethic can be established regarding industrialization of the region. The recent issues that bring this to the public's attention are tidal power development and the Bayside Quarry perceived impacts on the coastal zone.

The second activity involves developing a membership/sponsorship structure to take to the Annual meeting later this fall for discussion by membership. The forum concept was first introduced to membership and endorsed at the 2006 annual meeting. The working group of 5 members has spent time developing the concept, exploring funding sources and exploring potential partners. This process has included:

- Writing a brief that was presented to the New Brunswick Non-Profit Task Force in July.

- Developing a brief indicating the history of BoFEP and the forum proposal was also developed for presentation to Federal MP, Greg Thompson. That presentation, while developed in July, was finally presented in early October.
- Meeting with potential partners
 - A meeting was held August 1st with DFO and Huntsman Marine Center personnel at the Biological Station in St. Andrews to ascertain opportunities for coordination on the forum.
 - Meetings and discussion has also occurred with the Energy Department of New Brunswick to determine if BoFEP could play a role in the public information sessions in tidal power development and to identify if there were opportunities for funding and partnership regarding the forum.
 - Discussions have also been initiated with SCEP to identify opportunities for partnering on the forum.

All of the potential partnerships and funding opportunities have some promise and require active follow-up.

a) Ecosystem Overview and Indicators

Members of BoFEP have been interacting with the GOMCME, ESIP (Ecosystem Indicators Partnership) to choose suitable indicators for SOE (State of the Environment) reporting. Members are also interacting with DFO as they plan the preparation of an Ecosystem Overview Report for the Gulf of Maine-Bay of Fundy region, following from a report for DFO prepared in the last FY (M. Parker, P.G. Wells, D. Walmsley, unpubl. report, March 2007). No other work is being planned under this project for FY 07-08.

6) Report on the Outreach Working Group (Marianne Janowicz)

a) Presentation – A New Vision for BoFEP

BoFEP Working Groups

What are they doing

Are there new issues to be addressed through working groups?

BoFEP is dedicated to: promoting the ecological integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem, in support of the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities.

- Working Groups:
 - Conduct research to fulfill the objectives
 - Report out on research and activities contributing to the objectives
 - Provide the opportunity for contributions to the objectives through participation and research contributions

Current Working Groups

- **Active Working Groups**
 - Biosphere Reserve
 - Eelgrass

Corophium and Mudflat Ecology
Fundy Informatics Group (FIG)
Minas Basin
Salt Marsh and Restricted Tidal Systems (SMaRTS)
Stress and Cumulative Effects
Sublittoral Ecology and Habitat Conservation

- **Proposed/Dormant Working Groups**

Coastal Development Ecotourism
Eutrophication and Nutrients
Resource Development
Fish Migration
Integrated Fisheries Management
Zooplankton
Integrated Coastal Zone Management
Marine Energy
Toxic Chemicals and Marine Environmental Quality

Eelgrass Working Group

- Researchers are working on eelgrass mapping techniques and now need a face to face meeting with the larger eelgrass conservation community on conservation issues---follow up from meeting a few years ago to discuss: progress, new findings and research initiatives.
- The WG hopes to include the broader Gulf Of Maine community in the eelgrass activities.

Sub-littoral Ecology and Conservation Overview

- Previous work by SLEC WG has collated existing data (provided by A. MacKay) or gathered new data (Lawton & Strong; Buzeta & Roff) to develop a model that looks at factors that are more or less persistent, building toward a model of species assemblages and species richness in the BOF, that would statistically predict assemblages & richness according to those conditions. The focus has been outer BOF benthic communities.
- So far, we have looked at geographic regions, hydrographic conditions (T, S, turbidity, Chlorophyll a), geomorphology classifications. Results showed that there is a significant effect of those factors on species richness. Our goal is develop the model further by adding measures of current velocity obtained directly by ADCP recorders and indirectly by modelling, and benthic topographic complexity obtained from multibeam data.

Sub-Littoral Next Steps

- Complete (c) the direct statistical analyses for the relationship of current velocity and the biota from the six ADCP stations, and (d) the analyses and mapping for the relationship of current velocity and the biota from the individual sites surveyed by MacKay.
- Complete the statistical analyses and mapping exercise for (a) the rest of the geographic regions now available, and (b) for the individual sites surveyed by MacKay, building on what BoFEP supported last year to get correlation between overall regional complexity and overall regional diversity.

Outreach (formerly Strategic Development and Funding) WG

- Continue planning a forum for Quoddy Region residents, managers, scientists and politicians to create, share and use knowledge about the Quoddy region so Quoddy coastal residents and

stakeholders discuss and come to agreement on a vision for the sustainability of the Region based on shared values related to conservation, social and economic objectives.

- Proceedings will provide decision makers with the outcome of the discussion so that the information and values identified are incorporated into planning for the region.
- Do other tasks identified at the AGM from the Strategic Development Plan

More Working Groups

Fundy Infomatics

- Considerable informal interaction continues between members on bibliographic databases and software, and web site design, useful for BoFEP's projects.

Eutrophication and Nutrients Working Group

- Interaction continues among members
- Reports of work will be presented at BoFEP biennial meeting.
- New research will be reported to members through BoFEP Tidings.

Corophium and Mudflat Ecology WG

- Corophium-related bibliography update and insert on BoFEP website;
- Meeting of researchers to update on what is happening and identify future directions;
- Find a coordinator to pull together meeting and review paper on the state of knowledge

Stress and Cumulative Effects WG

Looking for another project to support with a focus on chemical contaminants and parasites and possible interactions between the two.

Biosphere Reserve WG

- The WG is seeking advice on how it can interact further with BoFEP activities and objectives.
- The first AGM of the Biosphere Reserve Stakeholder Group will be held in January. There working groups on education, outreach, research and monitoring will be created.
- The Stakeholder group seeks to draw on experience of BoFEP in the development of these groups, their TOR and direction.

What is Next?

- Are there new issues to be addressed through working groups?
- Should some inactive working groups be activated?
- Are there champions for new or reactivated WGs?

More social scientists are needed to be members of BoFEP.

Traditional knowledge would be a possible issue to be supported.

b) Discussion on the Future Activities of BoFEP

BoFEP Strategic Development Priorization of Activities

BoFEP is inclusive

- Solicit participation from industry
- Identify a high-profile champion to help approach senior government and other sectors.
- Solidify and expand linkages with academic and research institutions and link institutes to industries with specific needs for knowledge sharing

BoFEP incorporates economic factors in its activities

- Industry and other sectors are asked to identify projects to help them become more sustainable.
- An industry advisory committee will be created
- BOFEP will enhance linkages with fisheries organizations, industry and NGO's
- BoFEP will advertise its capacity to provide forums for disseminating information on pertinent topics
- Linkages with the Gulf of Maine Council should be maintained

Ecological planning includes cultural and spiritual components and traditional knowledge

- Working groups will create the balance between socio-cultural factors and traditional knowledge in their activities.
- BoFEP will design a forum where differing concepts of conservation are better understood

BoFEP facilitates

- BoFEP facilitates community involvement including early states of an ecological assessment of the Bay of Fundy as a lead up to integrated management

Working Groups are revitalized

- A champion is sought for a Cumulative Impacts WG
- WG chairs are members of BoFEP and attend AGM
- Workshop registration form should include opportunity for voluntary contributions to working groups
- Working groups must have funding

Develop a report card on organizational achievements

- A special steering committee meeting will be devoted to identifying progress over past two years
- Indicators of progress will be developed by looking at issues from 1st BoFEP workshop
- Each biennial workshop will have a report card session

Strengthen the Organization

- Steering Committee members are asked to participate in working groups
- Working groups have a person to liaise with management and steering committee
- Subsidies for non-government members will continue

Please forward your comments to Marianne or another member of the Outreach Working Group.

Raul, Marie, Gerhard and a member of the Outreach Committee to meet to discuss Intertidal Ecology and the expansion of Sublittoral Ecology.

7) *Report on Communications (Jon Percy)*

Communications Report to Steering Committee November 29, 2007

Jon Percy

Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership Annual General Meeting - November 29, 2007 Report of Communications Coordinator

1. Website

The Website was routinely updated and revised at regular intervals, particularly in relation to the large amounts of promotional and organizational material pertaining to the 7th Science workshop and its aftermath. The outdated workshop material has now largely been removed and replaced with a pdf copy of the workshop proceedings and information about the award winners.

Various relevant publications, reports and articles are routinely posted to the website as are news items interest to Fundy community. An online calendar of BoFEP/Fundy events is regularly updated as required.

The Website has been successfully transferred to new server (IMHOSTED.COM) with much more functionality and ease of use than previous one (interhop/auracom.com). The hosting fee for one year is \$95.40, considerably less than with our previous service (\$32/month or \$384 per year). There is an added advantage is that the web hosting is now completely separate from my ISP account and thus the invoicing (annually) and reporting to the treasurer is greatly simplified. We are now fully paid up until October 3, 2008 on the hosting account.

Maintaining the various BoFEP mail lists (Working groups, newsletter, SC and MC etc.) will be much easier and more reliable on the new site and these area now gradually being reconstructed. We are presently using manual, non-interactive lists as an interim measure.

I have begun restructuring the website. This involves reorganizing the structure, enhancing the appearance and simplifying the navigation. This is a major transformation, so it won't happen in a hurry. The old website will continue to be maintained and added to while the new one is under construction.

2. Newsletter: The BoFEP "Fundy Tidings" quarterly e-newsletter has been circulated more or less regularly according to the following schedule:

Winter Issue - January 15

Spring Issue - April 15

Summer issue - July 15

Autumn Issue - October 15

The winter 2008 issue is now in preparation for distribution on January 15th, 2008.

The newsletter goes to a circulation list of about 225 people. This list is routinely maintained and added to as required. Copies of all the issues have also been archived on the BoFEP website.

I have been using a new header for the newsletter also incorporating the following new logo/wordmark that will also be used on the upgraded website.



3. 7th Workshop

I participated actively in workshop planning meetings and activities. Received, collated and acknowledged receipt of abstracts for workshop and prepared material for abstract booklet. Kept website updated with Workshop related material. Assisted with editing of Proceedings. The Proceedings of the 7th workshop are now available on the website.

I arranged for newspaper coverage at the workshop and prepared and circulated a press release.

I coordinated judging for student wards, prepared and collated judging sheets and arranged for appropriate prizes. Sent students summaries of the judging results. Information about award winners has been posted on the website.

4. Displays

BoFEP has acquired three new folding display units for promotional use at various events. The plan is to have one at ACER, one somewhere in NB and one with communications coordinator. Informative display material about BoFEP has been prepared for use with one of the display units. I am holding off on preparing display material for the other two units in view of our current funding situation.

A BoFEP display (including literature distribution) was present at the following events:

- Fishermen and Scientists Research Society conference in Truro, Feb16-17th 2007
- Tidal Power Workshop public presentation in Wolfville, February 22, 2007.
- Nature Canada "Time and Tide" Conference at Acadia University , August 1-5th 2007
- Delaps Cove Walk With Nature, Delaps Cove, NS, August 19th, 2007
- Aquatic Toxicity Workshop, Halifax, NS. Oct. 1-4, 2007.
- SW Nova Experiential Tourism Workshop, Annapolis Royal, November 21-22, 2007

5. Fundy Issues

The text for the Fundy Issue # 28 dealing with the Windsor Causeway issue has been completed. The draft was circulated to 6 reviewers and their comments have been incorporated into the revised version. Suitable graphics have been prepared to accompany the text. The issue is now for publication. A draft copy will be released at the BoFEP AGM in November.

Fundy Issue #29 dealing with the issue of sewage in the Bay of Fundy is nearing completion. All the research has been completed and suitable graphics identified. It is anticipated that the first draft will be available for review and revision shortly. Preliminary research is also ongoing on several other topics that may be suitable for development into future Fundy Issues.

During the year, large numbers of various Fundy Issues in the series have been distributed at a number of venues (see list in Displays section) and have always been well received. They are also extensively used for educational purposes at Fundy National Park, Huntsman Science Centre and a number of academic institutions throughout the region.

6. Communications strategy

A draft communications strategy has been developed for BoFEP and a revised version will shortly be circulated to the management committee for review. This will also include guidelines for the use of the BoFEP logo and wordmark by BoFEP and other organizations.

A customizable Press Release template has been prepared and will form part of a Press/Promotional kit that will also contain a range of suitable BoFEP promotional/informational material.

7. BoFEP pins and cards

The BoFEP promotional pins were designed and have been received. They are mounted on printed card stock (BoFEP logo, contact info etc.) for distribution at various events.

I designed business cards and had them printed for use by the BoFEP management committee in their outreach and promotional activities.

8. Miscellaneous

I prepared a submission to the Whites Point Quarry hearings, largely focusing on the lack of coordinated coastal planning in Nova Scotia. A commentary based on this submission has also been posted on the BoFEP website.

The BoFEP/AFNS Salt Marsh interpretation display "From Habitant to Habitat" is still being presented at the Historic Gardens in Annapolis Royal as part of their Acadian and salt marsh interpretation program. The Fundy Issue "Salt Marsh Saga - Conserving Fundy's Marine Meadows" is being distributed at this site and is reportedly well received by the many visitors.

On November 20-21 I participated in an experiential tourism workshop in Annapolis. I will lead a field trip to Gullivers Cove on Digby Neck to consider intertidal ecology and sustainable harvesting of coastal resources. I also participated in sessions considering potential ecotourism opportunities in SW Nova. I prepared information kits for participants in my particular intertidal portion of the workshop including various relevant Fundy Issues, brochures and the BoFEP Pin. I also distributed BoFEP literature during the workshop plenary.

Motion to accept the communications report, Peter F.

Second: Gerhard Pohle

Motion Carried.

8) *Special Recognition Presentation (Peter Wells)*

A presentation of a gift and certificate was made to Barry Jones for his past service and contributions in serving BoFEP as Chair of the organization. He is still serving BoFEP as a member of the Steering Committee, Finance Committee and Past-Chair

9. *Nominations and Election of Steering Committee*

The following individuals have agreed to be on the Steering Committee (there are 22 positions):

Ex officio: Barry Jones (immediate Past-Chair)

1) Hugh Akagi

- 2) Michael Butler (alt: Claudette LeBlanc)
- 3) Maria-Ines Buzeta
- 4) Andy Didyk
- 5) Elwood Dillman
- 6) Peter Fenety
- 7) Steven Hawboldt
- 8) Russell Henry
- 9) Pat Hinch
- 10) Marianne Janowicz
- 11) Graham Daborn
- 12) Owen Washburn
- 13) Jon Percy
- 14) Gerhard Pohle
- 15) Anna Redden
- 16) Christine Smith
- 17) Mark TeKamp
- 18) Raul Ugarte
- 19) Peter Wells

There were vacant seats

Melanie Weiber was nominated by Owen Washburn
Brad Walters was nominated by Doug Campbell.
Peter Etheridge was nominated by Peter Wells.

Motion to accept list including three new members, Barry Jones
Second: Peter Fenety
Motion Carried.

The Chair congratulated those newly elected.

Following adjournment of this meeting, the Steering Committee will meet to elect Officers and others on the Management Committee.

10. Special Talk: The UNESCO Fundy Biosphere Reserve (Peter Etheridge)

Designated by UNESCO International on September 20, 2007

UNESCO -United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

- **Created: November 16, 1945**
- **Mandate:** To contribute to peace and security by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science and culture

UNESCO World Heritage Sites

- **Objectives of Program**

Encourage the identification, protection and preservation of cultural and natural heritage around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity

- **Some World Heritage Sites**
 - Taj Mahal (India)
 - Pyramids of Egypt
 - Old Quebec City (Qc)
 - Village of Lunenburg (NS)
 - L'Anse-aux-Meadows (NF)

UNESCO Man and Biosphere

- **Biosphere Reserve Program**

Recognizes areas that:

- Are typical of one of the world's major terrestrial or coastal ecosystems
- Demonstrate innovative approaches to living and working in harmony with nature
- Demonstrate how to achieve a sustainable balance between conserving natural ecosystems and biodiversity and fostering sound economic development

The Fundy Biosphere Reserve is Dedicated to Conserving Biodiversity and Promoting Sustainable Economic Development.

Existing Biosphere Reserves

- The World*:
 - 529 Biosphere Reserves in 105 countries
- In Canada*:
 - 15 Biosphere Reserves in 8 provinces:
 - Clayoquot Sound BR (Alberta)
 - Niagara Escarpment BR (Ontario)
 - Georgian Bay Littoral BR (Ontario)
 - Mont Saint Hilaire BR (Quebec)
 - Charlevoix BR (Quebec)
 - South West Nova BR (Nova Scotia)

* (September 2007)

BASIC REQUIREMENTS UNECO FOR A BIOSPHERE RESERVE SITE

- The land base that represents a significant portion of an ecosystem or combination of ecosystems.(ELC, Watersheds, etc.)
- A land base that is capable of being organized into
 - Core Area (requires long term legal protection)
 - Buffer zone (new approach used by FBR)
 - Zone of Cooperation (where people live, work and utilized the resources)

BR – Components

- Core Area

- Protected area, such as a National Park
- Act as a reference point
- Area indicative of the Biosphere Reserve

- Buffer Zone
 - Surrounding or adjacent to the Core Area
 - Managed in ways that support the conservation objectives of the Core Area

- Transition Area
 - Act as an area of cooperation
 - Resources are utilized and managed in a sustainable manner to generate revenues

The Three Functions of Biosphere Sites

- Conservation
 - To contribute to the *conservation* of countryside, ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Sustainable Development
 - To foster *sustainable development*, i.e. development that is socially, culturally, economically and ecologically sustainable
 -

- Capacity Building
 - To *build local capacity* by creating a support network of scientists, resource managers and policy makers to assist communities and resource sectors address sustainability issues and concerns

FBR – Land Category Sizes

- Total Area: 442 250 ha
- C 6 Core area : 2 600 ha
- Buffer zone : 26 124 ha
- Transition area : 395 552 ha., including the coastal marine area.
- Coastal marine area : 9 940 ha
- Range in sizes of Canadian BR sites:
 - 1 100 ha (Mont Saint Hilaire)
 - to
 - 1 546 374 ha (South West Nova)

Why Seek UNESCO Designation?

- Geophysical
 - One of the World's richest marine environment
 - One of the highest tidal range in the World
 - Topography defined by bold irregular shoreline with rugged

- near vertical cliffs, that represent the Acadian Forest.
- Forested river valleys which deeply incise the landscape
- Punctuated by waterfalls, rapids and steep rock walls
- Broad sweeping salt marshes, mudflats, agricultural lands

One of Canada's most dramatic and ecological
diverse landscapes;
One of the least disturbed areas on the Atlantic
Coast, between Florida and Nova Scotia

The Basis of the Fundy Biosphere Reserve Nomination Proposal to UNESCO

- Recognition of a special piece of the Atlantic Canada maritime landscape and the uniqueness of the Bay of Fundy
- Recognition of the area's history and its cultural identity in the region and within Canada
- Recognition of the past and continued commitment of residents, policy makers, resource sectors and scientists to seek continued improvement in intergenerational sustainability

FBR – How was it created?

- Initial concept:
 - Upper Bay of Fundy, NB and NS
 - Discussions started in 1998
- Creation of a planning group:
 - Multi-stakeholder
 - Advice from Canadian Commission for UNESCO, existing biosphere reserves in Canada and Parks Canada

Broad Base Support from Various Stakeholder Groups

- Development of the project / proposal:
 - Funding, information sessions, stakeholder consultations
 - Multiple reviews of the proposal
- Final consultations:
 - Stakeholder Committee
 - Municipalities
 - Provincial government departments
 - Federal government departments and agencies
- Submission of the proposal:
 - Canadian Commission for UNESCO (national review committee)
 - UNESCO (Paris) (international review committee)

- Designation granted by UNESCO: Fall 2007

FBR – Operational Aspects

- Biosphere Reserve sites:
 - Have no jurisdictional authority
 - Do not set or change regulations
 - Have no jurisdictional authority or rights bestowed on the governing body
 - Are required to operate within existing laws, regulations and jurisdictional guidelines
 - Convey the message of sustainable development across resource sectors and to the public at large

FBR – Objectives

- The objectives of the FBR is to:
 - Provide a forum for dialogue and information sharing between communities, resource sectors, government agencies and researchers
 - Create a cooperative network of partners who will work to assist communities to achieve greater sustainable development
 - Governance model include:
 - Research Committee
 - Monitoring Committee
 - Education Committee
 - Outreach Committee
 -

FBR Governance - Board of Directors

- Academic institutions
- Community economic development agencies
- Conservation organizations
- Federal departments and agencies
- First Nation communities
- Heritage organizations
- Municipalities
- New Brunswick provincial departments and agencies
- Public at large
- Regional planning commissions
- Resource sectors
- Tourism associations
-

Present Status of the FBR

- Chair and Interim Board of Directors Established
- Initial Start up Funding in Place Start Place
- Executive Director in Place, a Project Coordinator to be hired
- Office established at Université de Moncton
- Stakeholder Meeting early in 2008 to ratify governance, operating strategy and to identify short and medium term projects and activities.
- Establish: Outreach, Education, Research and Monitoring Working Groups

FBR Interim Board of Directors

- Composition:

Yves Gagnon, Chair	Université de Moncton
Paul Bogaard, Vice-Chair	Mount Allison University
Arnold Kearney	GNB, IGA
Edouard Daigle	Parks Canada
Frank Tenhave	Enterprise Fundy
Vince Zelazny	GNB
Peter Etheridge, Ex. Dir	Ex-officio

- Mandate:
 - Further define the governance
 - Establish the governance
 - Initiate the operational aspects of the FBR

Building the Stakeholder Group

- We want to strengthen linkages with stakeholder organizations, e.g. BoFEP
- We want to encourage further research and monitoring in the FBR through partnerships
- We want to be a conduit for the sharing of information between stakeholder organizations
- We want to assist in facilitating the linkages between municipalities, senior government agencies, researchers and resource managers.

Some Potential Baseline Projects

- Baseline socioeconomic study
- Watershed classification and study
- Monitoring, reporting and restoration initiatives
- Community awareness and education program
- Restoration projects
- Change detection technology
- Sustainable tourism strategy plan
 - Set of voluntary operational standards (BMP's)
 - Regional plan
- Etc.

UNESCO Designation - Benefits

- UNESCO designation will provide an international recognition for recognition for:
 - The Province of New Brunswick, local communities, as well as the uniqueness of the Bay of Fundy and the region
 - The history and culture of the area, and the effort that are

- taking place to preserve our heritage
 - Past and current integrated management planning efforts that promote sustainable development
 - The willingness of stakeholders to work cooperatively to develop and share information for a sustainable development of the region

Benefits to the Tourism Sector

- UNESCO designation is a world class icon
- Environment history and culture in the area is unique to New Brunswick
- It has the potential to be prime destination for nature based tourism; particularly if marketed as being based on sustainability
- The area could have year around appeal

How the FBR Can Interface with Tourism Sector

- Development of sustainable management practices based on a conservation ethic
- Development of Sustainable nature based tourism strategy
- Assisting in obtaining certification at the national and international levels
- Development of an eco tour package(s)
- Development of Interpretation programs
- Developing interpretation centres
- Assist in setting the ground work for a long term approach to ecotourism sustainability in the region

Contact Information

- Peter Etheridge, Executive Director, Fundy Biosphere Reserve, 506-433-3645 pether@rogers.com
- Fundy Biosphere Reserve / Réserve de biosphère de Fundy Room/Bureau 127, Pav. P.A. Landry Building Université de
- Moncton, Moncton, NB E1A 3E9,
- Ph:506-858-4152, Email: (soon)

11. Closure of the Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 pm. Peter Fenety,

Second: Pat Hinch.

Motion Carried.