

**SMaRTS
Spring Meeting
Canadian Wildlife Service Regional Headquarters
Sackville, New Brunswick
Friday, March 17, 2006
10:00 am to 3:00 pm**

Participants:

Jeff Ollerhead, Mount Allison University (co-chair); Cindy Spicer, Mount Allison Coastal Wetlands Institute; Denise Sullivan, Clean Annapolis River Project; Al Hanson, Canadian Wildlife Service; Léa Olsen, Mount Allison University; Amanda Marlin, Mount Allison Rural & Small Town Programme; Anita Hamilton, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans; Tony Bowron, CBWES; Denise Roy, Nature Conservancy of Canada; Cory Aldus, Ecology Action Centre; Deanne Meadus, Ducks Unlimited Canada; Paula Noel, McGill University; Gail Chmura, McGill University; Janice Harvey, Conservancy Council of NB; Audrey Lapenna, Conservancy Council of New Brunswick.

2005 Budget

SMaRTS 2005 work plan was submitted and received a budget of \$2,000.00 to be spent by March 31, 2006. It was agreed that this money would be spent on travel expenses associated with this meeting and given to three NGO's upon submission of an invoice for expenses associated with salt marsh restoration work completed before March 31, 2006.

CCIAP

CCIAP funded Mount Allison's proposal focused on community capacity to undertake salt marsh restoration as an adaptation. This will be a joint project with the Coastal Wetlands Institute and Rural & Small Town Programme. The project will be looking at salt marsh restoration from socioeconomic and biophysical sides. The Musquash project will be used as a case study. This project will be completed within a year.

NOTE: Nova Scotia Agriculture may have identified sites that they are willing to restore and let the dykes go. (Contact? Possibly: Kenneth Carroll (Aboiteau Superintendent with NS AFA) at 902-798-5325 or carrollkj@gov.ns.ca)

Salt Marsh Restoration Projects

Ecology Action Centre projects - Cory Aldus

- The culvert at Cheverie Creek was replaced in December 2005. The post-restoration Cheverie Creek audit will not be completed by EAC. DU and DFO will be participating in this audit. DU began doing waterfowl surveys at the site and will continue to do surveys for five years. Tony suggested that they contact EAC for previous waterfowl surveys conducted in 2003.
- The link between salmon and tidal barriers will be researched using funds from the Habitat Stewardship Program?
- Outreach Programs – produce fact sheets and pamphlets demonstrating the results of the Tidal Barrier Audit.

Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans – Anita Hamilton

- Self Regulating Tide gates (SRT) – DFO is investigating this as an option for restoring fish passage in areas that are otherwise restricted. DFO is planning a trip to Maine to look at installations of these gates. DFO has extended an invitation to join them on their trip scheduled for June 22 or 28. Golden Harvest and Waterman manufacture these gates and they are competitively priced. Golden Harvest is interested in a pilot set-up in the Bay of Fundy area to test the impacts of sedimentation and ice.
- Database of potential projects – This dBase will link projects to proponents or groups and organizations at Habitat Management. Habitat Stewardship funds will be used to support selected projects within the dBase. A letter of request will be sent out at the beginning of the DFO fiscal year.

Ducks Unlimited Canada – Deanne Meadus

- Musquash Project – Completed invertebrate sampling and avian surveys at the restored site and the reference site (5 helicopter surveys – thanks to Irving). The data are being analyzed and the final report should be completed at the end of March. Deanne noted that further work will be completed to look at the presence of numerous juvenile American eels in the invertebrate sampling sites. (Restoration costs - \$132,000)
- Walton Creek – removed the barrier and restored tidal flow to the previously dyked DUC site. Tony Bowron is monitoring this site with funds from the DFO Harmful Alteration Destruction or Disruption of Fish Habitat (HAD) program. (Restoration costs - \$35,000 (23 acres))
- Red Head – The old DUC structure was removed in August 2005. ACAP is presently monitoring the site. DUC is planning to construct boardwalks and public information kiosks to increase awareness of this project. (Restoration costs - \$45,000 (170 acres))
- Fact Sheets will be produced for all DUC restoration projects.

St. Mary's University – Danika van Proosdij (not present)

- Spatial & Temporal Variations in the Intertidal Geomorphology of the Avon River Estuary – completed CD and final report.
- Bay of Fundy Tidal Barriers GIS Database Development final report is posted on the BoFEP website.

Action: Danika announced the completion of the Tidal Barriers final report and indicated how SMaRTS members can receive the associated data CD.

Clean Annapolis River Project – Denise Sullivan

- Found an additional 20 sites to add to the Bay of Fundy Tidal Barriers audit. They focused on the top four sites of restricted tidal flow and talked to landowners about salt marsh restoration. The results identified two priority sites for restoration in the Annapolis area. Preliminary surveys have started at these sites. Tony Bowron noted that all monitoring of restoration should be completed in a similar manner.

Conservancy Council of New Brunswick – Janice Harvey & Audrey Lapenna

- No new data to report – all of the CCNB data collected can be found in Danika's report.
- Would like to see CARP data added to the report as well.
- This report identifies numerous projects and should be put into the DFO database.

McGill University – Paula Noel

- Looked at natural recovery and reference sites along the Bay of Fundy. They are still looking for good reference sites that have never been altered – no ditching, no major drainage, no aboiteau. It is therefore difficult to find a large reference site along the Bay of Fundy.
- Noted a hybrid recovery in Bay of Fundy area marshes – old ditch and original creek networks present.
- It appears that invertebrates recovered fully after restoration.
- Summer of 2006 – plan to look at additional natural recovery sites along the Bay of Fundy. They will be focusing on vegetation, elevations, channel networks and history of events.

Canadian Wildlife Service – Al Hanson

- The Canadian Wildlife Service and Agri-food and Agriculture Canada will be co-hosting another Atlantic Region workshop to inform government employees about wetlands and wetland policies. NGO's are welcome to join. The workshop will be held in Prince Edward Island during September or October.
- Eagle Hill (Bar Harbor, Maine) – hosting a wetland delineation course August 12-19, 2006.
- Submit priority restoration projects to Al for funding consideration as part of the compensation requirements for unavoidable wetland loss associated with highway construction.

Tony Bowron and Nancy Chaisson – Environmental Consulting Business

- Monitoring restoration projects
- Building a consistent restoration data set

Proposed Projects

CCNB – Feasibility study on removing the remaining rail bed from the upper Musquash River Estuary.

MtA – Proposal submitted to the NB Environmental Trust Fund to cover costs for a workshop(s) with the community to discuss salt marsh restoration.

EAC – Applied for a Gulf of Maine Action grant to cover costs for a workshop in the fall. This two-day workshop will be a follow-up to the 2000 workshop. The purpose is to bring together scientists and policy makers to review restoration projects and discuss what's worked and what hasn't.

SMaRTS – Monitoring protocols – **Action:** Gail will apply for an NSERC Strategic grant to review the Gulf of Maine Monitoring Protocols and develop a set of protocols specific for this area.

Action: Request that BoFEP have a session on updating the Gulf of Maine monitoring protocols and further define the elements.

7th Bay of Fundy Workshop (St. Andrews, NB - October 25-27th 2006)

- Abstract deadline: March 31, 2006

Action: Tony Bowron & Paula Noel – Contact BoFEP to arrange a ½ day session for Salt Marsh Restoration and request a one month deadline extension for the abstract.

Other projects

DUC: Restoration project near Yarmouth, NS
Wetland Atlas for Prince Edward Island

CWS: Looking at distribution and abundance of grassland birds
Atlantic Coastal and Estuarine Coastal Workshop

2006 SMaRTS work plan

Jeff will submit a work plan for a SMaRTS sponsored session at the BoFEP workshop. Funding received will cover travel and associated costs for students and other NGO's attending the workshop.

Co-chair

Jeff Ollerhead stepped down as co-chair.
Deanne Meadus (DUC) accepted co-chair position.

Other

BoFEP Steering Committee meeting will be held on April 11, 2006 at Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB.

SMaRTS Working Group: Members Present At March 17, 2006 Meeting

Name	Affiliation	e-mail
Aldus, Cory	Ecology Action Centre	tidalbarriers@ecologyaction.ca
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