

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA)  
Board of Directors Meeting #11  
Hoyle Tanner & Associates  
Suite 360  
100 International Drive  
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

**Draft Minutes**

April 11, 2011 @ 1:30 PM

**Members Present**

Peter Rice, Portsmouth  
George Rief, Durham  
Wally Fries, Danville  
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls  
Jim Irish, Madbury

Michael Trainque, Chester  
Alison Watts, Newfields  
R. H. Snow, Candia  
Michael Perfit, Stratham  
Dean Peschel, Dover

**Guests Present**

Bill Arcieri, Newmarket  
Bill Hounsell, Hounsell Consulting/CDM Inc.  
Emily Schmalzer, Brentwood

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Wally Fries called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM.

**Approve Minutes**

Richard Snow moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Trainque. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Reports of Committees**

**Program Development**

The plans for the symposium are nearly finalized. The symposium will be held on May 11 from 7:30 AM to 2:00 PM. The first set of invitations are going out this week. Additional sets of invitations will go out over the next couple of weeks. Wally will do the initial introductions, build common ground, and talk about the "rules of the road."

There was also some discussion of Chesapeake Core Volunteers. The volunteers approach seems similar to AmeriCorps. One group we make be able to better utilize would be the Student Conservation Association of Petersborough, NH. To take advantage of this resource we are going to need a Monitoring & Restoration

game plan.

### **Education and Outreach**

Proposal for \$15K from DES for outreach, education, branding, and support will be sent around for comments next week.

Candace Dolan is working on a Rain Garden Workshop on June first.

### **Finance Committee**

DES has agreed to pay for lunch to be provided the attendees of the May 11 science symposium.

There was some discussion of accounting. Consensus was that we want to keep everything simple. Michael Perfit agreed to send out an email to the Alliance membership looking for a CPA volunteer.

### **New Business**

#### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Monday, May 9 at 1:30 PM at Hoyle Tanner & Associates' office in the Pease Tradeport.

#### **Other Business**

Wally spoke at the New England Water Environment Association congressional briefing breakfast last week in Washington, DC. It was well attended by delegations from all of New England and several other states. It provided an opportunity to talk with a number of our senators and representatives and other concerned with preserving water quality and meeting Alliance objectives. NEWEA should be bulishing a briefing paper shortly. After introducing the Southeast Watershed Alliance and its objectives, he pointed out that state and federal funding are essential. Individual communities can't afford the necessary investments on their own. In the past, they could count on 90% state and federal coverage of costs. In addition to seeing the job creating benefits of these projects, it is essential to consider also the damage and consequent cost impacts of recovering from the damage caused by deferring or not performing these projects. Congress needs to re-examine our national priorities and give proper weight to clean water for drinking and other purposes. This means investing in waste water management including non-point sources.

Congress may also need to redefine or reinterpret the legislative intent of prior regulations. Enforcement alone doesn't work. EPA and all stateholders need to work collaboratively to solve problems facing our waterbodies. Innovative approaches are necessary. We should even look outside the US for successful

ways to address our challenges, for example, partial septage processing on trucks as practiced in some other countries. Also bio-extraction could lower nitrogen levels in the bay and the numbers suggest a ten year financial payback. This would require the combined resources of federal, state, and local authorities and could even stimulate commercial investment.

The response from the congressional delegations was positive.

### **Watershed Action Plan Committee**

There was significant discussion that now is the time for the Alliance to take a stand and offer a total watershed plan. This approach needs to be more holistic rather than regulatory. Our land use patterns are significantly different than those of other watersheds such as Chesapeake Bay. One size does not fit all.

The plan needs to address stormwater regulation, fertilizer load, increasing buffer widths, new site plan regulations, and best management practices.

The consensus of the board was that we should create a committee to come forward with just such a Watershed Action Plan. The following persons will serve: Bill Arcieri, Alison Watts, Candace Dolan, Peter Rice, Chris Albert, Dean Peschel, and Michael Perfit. They will report at the next board meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Unanimously moved to adjourn; unanimously seconded; unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.