

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Meeting # 20
Hoyle Tanner & Associates
Suite 360
100 International Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

Minutes

January 9, 2012 @ 1:30 PM

Members Present

Michael Trainque, Chester
Wally Fries, Danville
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls
Alison Watts, Newfields
Peter Rice, Portsmouth

James Irish, Madbury
Richard Snow, Candia
Dean Peschel, Dover
Rep. L. Michael Kappler, Raymond

Guests Present

Bill Hounsel - Hounsel Consulting/CDM Inc.
Peter Goodwin - Woodard & Curran
Jeff Edelstein - Great Bay Dialog Initiative

Call to Order and Introductions

Michael Trainque called the meeting to order at 1:37 PM.

Approve Minutes

Dick Snow moved to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2011 (Meeting #19) Board of Directors meeting with one correction. Motion seconded by Candace Dolan. The minutes were unanimously approved with the noted correction.

Reports of Committees

Program Development

The was extensive discussion, under Other Business, with Jeff Edelstein of the Great Bay Dialog Initiative (GBDI) who arrived at the BOD meeting at 2:50 P.M. to discuss the relationship between the Southeast Watershed Alliance and the GBDI. Notes of that discussion are included under Other Business.

There was very little discussion of the Program Development Committee. Michael Trainque noted that planning for the next symposium needs to get under way.

There are many individuals and companies now contacting the SWA BOD to request the opportunity to make presentations to the Alliance. Mike gave a verbal listing of some of the groups, companies, and organizations that are interested in making presentations either to the Board or the full Alliance. Mike is still suggesting a May 2012 time frame but planning for this must begin soon. No formal motions were made.

Education & Outreach

Candace continues to work with the Rain Garden demonstration sites. These sites provide examples, both on city and private property, from which other communities can learn. The lessons learned from the demonstration sites should be disseminated to the communities within the SWA.

Finance Committee

There were no new developments from the Finance Committee. There was some discussion of the reimbursement process/procedure for expenses on the NHDES/NOAA grant. Michael Trainque will contact David Murphy of the NHDES to discuss and relay that information to the BOD. Mr. Murphy recently sent a grant disbursement request form to Mike Trainque via email for use by the Alliance. There was brief discussion of the need to develop additional sources of funding.

Grants Management

Grant 1

The Governor and Executive Council approved/signed the NHDES/NOAA grant award contract on November 9. The grant award is official and we received a copy of the signed document. The starting date for the match accrual was September 2, 2011. There was discussion of the two tasks for which the grant was received and the efforts required to fulfill those tasks. The grant expires in December 2012 so all tasks set forth within the grant must be completed by then and a report sent to the NHDES. The Alliance must prepare and submit semi-annual reports to the NHDES. Mike Trainque will prepare and submit the first semi-annual report this week and provide a copy to the BOD. All matching grant labor and expenses must be carefully tracked. Spreadsheets are currently being developed for this purpose.

Grant 2

A second grant is in the approval process in conjunction with the UNH Stormwater Center. We have not yet received any official notification at this point.

There was discussion as to the BOD sending a letter to EPA on behalf of the Alliance to express support for and request consideration of continuing funding of the 319 grant program. The 319 grant program should not only be continued but should be maintained at current funding levels. Candace Dolan will prepare a draft letter for the Board's review.

New Business

Housekeeping

- The next quarterly meeting of the full Alliance is scheduled for Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. A meeting location has not yet been confirmed. This needs to be done ASAP. Mike Trainque will contact Michael Perfit to have him contact the Town of Brentwood to find out if the Community Center is available. The fall back location may be the auditorium in Dover. There will be presentations by Mr. Brian Harrington of Scott's Miracle Grow and Michelle Daley of UNH. Mr. Harrington will present information on Scott's slow-release, low nutrient fertilizer. Mr. Daley will provide an update on her nitrogen research work in Great Bay.
- Alison Watts presented an opportunity for the Alliance to support a 319 grant application for the *Great Bay Municipal Bioretention Program*, submitted by the UNH Stormwater Center with SWA as a sub. The application was accepted in the first round, but we still have to wait for the actual funding from EPA/NHDES before it is finalized. SWA receives about \$30k, depending upon the actual program amounts.

Rep. Mike Kappler made a motion to have the Board draft and submit a letter of support for the 319 grant application. Motion was seconded by Richard Snow and unanimously approved by the Board.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Board of Director's will be on February 13, 2012 at 1:30 PM.

Other Business

- Great Bay Dialog Initiative. (Mr. Jeff Edelstein)

Mr. Edelstein was invited to attend this BOD meeting to discuss the Great Bay Dialog Initiative (GBDI) and the role(s) that the Alliance would fulfill relative to the various other groups, agencies and organizations that are currently part of the GBDI.

The initial meeting of the GBDI was convened on December 7 to facilitate discussions among the various groups and organizations. The goal of the GBDI is to broaden the discussion, involvement and coordination among the various groups, agencies and organizations that are involved with Great Bay and the NH Coastal Watershed. The idea is for these various groups to work together to reach shared common goals. This would include cooperation and coordination among the various groups on preparing and executing their respective Work Plans.

One outcome of the December 7 GBDI meeting was the formation of several

“Action Teams” to address specific topics or issues. These Action Teams will convene a series of meetings to discuss and coordinate efforts to move forward. The Action Teams are comprised of representatives from the various groups and organizations (SWA, PREP, NHDES, EPA, etc.).

There was extensive discussion, prompted by questions from Jeff, as to what is missing or what is needed in order for the Alliance to move forward and successfully achieve its mission and goals. Some of the items noted were:

- Funding (lack of)
- Common support and agreement among all groups for adaptive management approach
- Data and information (esp. data gaps) (science-driven dialog)
 - Reliability
 - Validity
 - Good interpretation of data
- Overlap within the environmental community
- Public outreach, engagement and support
- Active involvement of EPA in formulating/implementing work plans
- The strict focus on nutrients is too narrow and too time constrained
- Need better focus on a long-term solutions to water quality impairments
- Dialog and understanding does not necessarily translate into action (human nature)
- Lack of educational outreach to the communities
- Diversity of communities within the watershed is a challenge
- Federal/regulatory requirements need to be sensitive to local affordability

Jeff will prepare a memorandum summarizing the discussions at today’s BOD meeting for review by the Board.

- Great Bay Municipal Coalition

Richard Snow stated that he would be interested in seeing a presentation by the GBMC on what the six wastewater treatment plants currently have for facilities, what level of wastewater treatment is provided, and what is anticipated for upgrading the facilities to meet proposed or anticipated permit requirements. Mr. Snow stated that he is interested in seeing what exists presently.

Adjournment

Richard Snow moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Peter Rice and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 P.M.
