

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Meeting # 26
Hoyle Tanner & Associates
Suite 360
100 International Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

Minutes (DRAFT)

July 16, 2012 @ 1:30 PM

Members Present

Michael Trainque, Chester
Wally Fries, Danville
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls
Shelley Frost, Northwood

George Rief, Durham
Richard Snow, Candia
Peter Rice, Portsmouth
William Arcieri, Newmarket

Guests Present

David Murphy – NHDES Coastal Program

Call to Order and Introductions

Michael Trainque called the meeting to order at 1:42 PM.

Approve Minutes

Dick Snow moved to approve the minutes of the May 07, 2012 (Meeting #24) and the June 11, 2012 (Meeting #25) Board of Directors meetings with minor correction. Motion seconded by Peter Rice. The minutes were unanimously approved with the noted corrections.

Reports of Committees

Program Development

There was discussion of the planned Symposium for the Fall of 2012. The Symposium would be a good opportunity for the SWA to present the draft Stormwater Regulations being developed under the grant (#1) from the NHDES. We could also present aspects or objectives of the SWA Watershed Management and Restoration Plan. Most members present had the opinion that the focus of the Symposium should be on stormwater. There was general consensus on this. Other suggestions included: the symbiosis between point sources and non-point sources; discussion of the Adaptive Management Approach, and perhaps a couple of case studies (rain gardens, urban stormwater management, BMP's, Hodgson Brook Restoration Project, etc.).

The symposium will be held in Dover, NH. There was discussion as to whether it should be a morning, afternoon or evening symposium. If held in the evening, more Town officials and others that may not be able to attend during the daytime might be able and more apt

to attend during the evening. This will be discussed further. The idea of conducting weekly symposium planning sessions (\pm 1 hour/week) by telephone conference call, as was done for the previous symposium, was raised. There was agreement that this will be necessary and should start soon. No specific start date was determined but it will be by the next BOD meeting (August).

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.

Someone from the Town of Exeter wants to be involved as a volunteer in Education and Outreach for the SWA. We will reach out to this individual to get him/her involved in the outreach activities.

Helen Perivier and Candace Dolan are working on a draft letter for outreach to SWA communities. The title of the letter is (or may be): "*Working Together to Mend Our Watershed*". As part of the outreach effort, we really need to engage members who are already part of SWA. The information may include the potential impacts of Residual Designation Authority on land use. Peter Rice will write up an explanation of Residual Designation Authority. There was discussion of the compelling need for SWA to continue to each out to and engage other groups within the watershed such as sub-watershed groups, local river advisory committees (LRAC's), and other similar groups. These groups are actively involved, with the help of volunteers, in monitoring and restoration of local water bodies within the watershed and SWA must encompass, embrace and support these groups in their efforts. This is critical to the successful restoration and management of the overall watershed and needs to be a cornerstone of our education and outreach program.

SWA also needs to contact and work with those communities within the watershed that have joined SWA but currently have no representative because their previous representative had to resign for one reason or another. Communities in this category include Madbury and Raymond. There might be one other community. Michael Trainque will contact these communities to offer SWA assistance.

Logo and Brochure. Candace will obtain pricing for development of a logo for the SWA. We also need to complete the brochure.

Finance Committee

There is currently \$ 1,800 in the SWA account as a result of disbursement of funds under the NHDES grant (Grant #1). We need to pay our Program Coordinator for the month of June. Dick Snow will send out the check this week. 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 for clarification and relay that information to the BOD. There was brief discussion of the need to develop additional sources of funding and what those potential sources of funding could be.

Watershed Action Committee

Tabled since Alison was not present at the meeting.

Grants Management

Grant 1

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. Michael Trainque prepared and submitted semi-annual Progress Report No. 2 on July 12, 2012. A copy was furnished to all BOD members. Michael Trainque is working on grant reimbursement request No. 2. SWA also needs to compile the grant match hours and expenses to include on the next grant reimbursement request.

Under Task 2 of this grant, stormwater regulations are being developed that will create, promulgate and implement regionally consistent and effective stormwater management in the coastal watershed. This task includes the creation of model standards approved by the SWA community. The standards are being developed based on recommendations from the New Hampshire Storm Water Commission (2010), EPA Region I, the model ordinance created by NHDES (2008) and existing innovative stormwater ordinances from communities in the Great Bay (e.g. Durham, Newmarket and Newington) or other New England watersheds. The standards will incorporate low impact development approaches and will cover both new and re-development. The standards will incorporate 'lessons learned' by Towns which have recently adopted new stormwater standards. The Rockingham County Planning Commission and UNH (Stormwater Center) are under contract to the SWA assisting in development of these standards

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.

New Business

Housekeeping

- The next quarterly meeting of the full Alliance is scheduled for Wednesday, August 8, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. A meeting location has not yet been confirmed. This needs to be done ASAP. Possible meeting locations include Dover and Rochester. Notice of the meeting and location will be sent out to members and friends of the SWA via email as soon as the location is confirmed.
- We still need three volunteers (non-Board members) to serve on the Audit Committee. This will be addressed at the August 8 SWA meeting.
- Tim Fortier of the NH Local Government Center (LGC) would like to be added to the contact list for SWA. Mr. Fortier is an Advocate on the Government Affairs staff at the LGC and is interested in working with the SWA. He is involved in water and watershed related

programs and activities.

Other Business

● **Peer Review Proposal - Great Bay Municipal Coalition**

The GBMC presented a proposal to the SWA Board of Directors to have the SWA host a Peer Review of the 2009 nutrient criteria report in light of new or additional data and information that has been obtained subsequent to issuance of that report. The Coalition had hired consultants who found flaws in the nutrient criteria, outlined in the distributed proposal, leading the GBMC to call for a more formal review. The GBMC views the peer review as important because the criteria will serve as the basis for regulation of not only sewage, but eventually stormwater and land use regulations. The GBMC is also of the opinion that understanding the science is essential to ensure that the substantial financial investments to be made to improve water quality will be invested prudently and will produce effective results. The actual details of the Peer Review would have to be worked out but the GBMC envisions a 3 to 6 month process with SWA acting as an impartial host and the GBMC providing the funding. The government agencies (NHDES and EPA), the GBMC and other stakeholders would select mutually agreed upon experts who would then be given mutually agreed upon charge questions. A public forum would be part of the process, after which the peer review panel would generate a report highlighting what is known, not known, data gaps, etc. The role of SWA would be to ensure a valid and credible process.

There was considerable and lengthy discussion about this proposal by Board members. A number of questions and concerns were raised and discussed. The Board members present decided that the best course of action would be to present this Peer Review proposal to the full SWA membership at the upcoming quarterly meeting on August 8 for further discussion and action.

A motion was made by Wally Fries, seconded by George Rief, to establish a 3-5 person subcommittee of SWA to explore the possibility and feasibility of hosting a peer review to be facilitated by SWA and held in a completely open and public forum. Motion passed.

A second motion was made that the Peer Review proposal be presented to the full SWA membership at the upcoming quarterly SWA meeting on August 8 for discussion as a proposal for review and acceptance by the SWA membership. Motion passed.

Next Meeting Date

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

Adjournment

Richard Snow moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Candace Dolan and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:12 P.M.
