

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA, or The Alliance)
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Meeting # 27
 Hoyle Tanner & Associates
 Suite 360
 100 International Drive
 Portsmouth, NH 03801
 DRAFT Minutes
 August 15, 2012 @ 1:30 PM**

Members Present

Michael Trainque, Chester
 Wally Fries, Danville
 Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls
 George Rief, Durham
 Peter Rice, Portsmouth
 Dick Snow, Candia
 Dean Peschel, Dover
 Alison Watts (by speaker phone)
 Bill Arcieri (by speaker phone)
 Shelley Frost (by speaker phone)

Guests Present

Peter Wellenberger, CLF
 Tom Morgan, Newington
 Helen Perivier, SWA
 David Murphy, NHDES (NH Coastal Program)
 David Cedarholm, Durham
 Terry Desmarais, Portsmouth
 Peter Goodwin, Woodward & Curran
 William Hounsell, Hounsel Consulting/CDM
 Smith

Call to Order and Introductions

Michael Trainque called the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting to order at 1:42 PM.

Approve Meeting Minutes

The Chairman explained that meetings from the previous board meeting were not yet posted as the Secretary, who has access to the web site, is away until Labor Day.

Reports of Committees**Symposium Committee**

Alison Watts and Michael Trainque are on the planning committee for the fall symposium. The event will be held in a late-October to November timeframe. Alison and Michael said they could use a few more volunteers. Candace offered to help with logistics. Dean Peschel said that Dover could provide a venue. Peter Rice suggested planning via conference calls, which worked well for the previous symposium. Michael said the biggest thing on plate now is developing the program for the event.

Education & Outreach Committee

Candace Dolan announced that she had received a notice from the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association for a workshop on septic systems at Wolfeboro library on Aug 14, to be held by a septic installer group. The workshop will present good models regarding septic systems.

Michael Trainque noted that the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) will release the results of a report on the benefits for Exeter and Stratham sharing water and wastewater infrastructure on August 21st, 7 p.m. at the Stratham Municipal Center. The actual report is available at the websites of the RPC and Towns of Exeter and Stratham.

Finance Committee

Richard Snow reported for the Finance Committee that we have 1 member for the auditing committee and need 2 more.

Michael Trainque reported that he is working on the next grant input coming in, which will provide revenue to reimburse checks. The P.O. Box is now working. Michael Trainque said that he would sign and submit the NHDES grant reimbursement request.

Bill Arcieri joined by cell phone at 1:56. Michael Trainque reported that the meeting now had a quorum.

Grant Management

Michael Trainque reported that SWA has the DES grant in progress and that he is working with Dave Murphy on the grant reimbursement. The first part of the grant is intended to help with expenses, such as Helen's salary. The second part of the grant is going to develop draft model of stormwater standards for communities to integrate into site plan regulations. Julie LaBranche gave an update at the most recent SWA meeting. Currently, SWA is looking to receive input by the November meeting after which the Alliance will solicit communities to integrate the model stormwater standards within their existing zoning ordinances and regulations.

Alison added that there are 2 other grants in the works that will have SWA as a subcontractor. The first will acquire funding by DES via EPA and will be administered through UNH, for the purpose of supporting Bioretention projects in communities around the Great Bay. A second larger grant is coming that will enable the SWA communities to work on stormwater management, with outreach to as many communities as possible. This grant will kick off this fall. One idea is to integrate the fall symposium as a part of that kick off.

New Business**Great Bay Municipal Coalition peer review proposal**

Michael Trainque opened the floor to discussion of a proposal by the Great Bay Municipal Coalition (the Coalition) for SWA to sponsor an independent peer review of the 2009 DES nutrient criteria.

Michael explained that the Coalition had asked SWA to host the peer review as a neutral, non-partisan entity. The BOD had discussed the proposal in their July meeting and then took the request before the full Membership on August 8, which was received with considerable discussion. Michael added that that he had received comments and questions and that the BOD needed to decide on what course to take.

Peter Rice, from a Coalition community, explained that the proposal was that each interested party, including the EPA/DES and the Coalition, but not SWA, would agree on a panel of experts, data and questions for the peer review. Peter added that SWA would simply host and provide a venue for discussion. He added that this peer review would differ from the previous agency review of the data because it would include input from the communities.

A lively discussion on the proposal followed. A number of participants said that the peer review would benefit Great Bay by providing a better scientific understanding that would help towns avoid implementing costly, ineffective measures. One participant added that incorrect nutrient criteria will affect every community in an influential way. Participants voiced concerns over the risk of real or perceived conflict of interest given that SWA has three BOD members from the Coalition and that these communities were suing DES. Some participants opposed the peer review because it would cause a huge distraction for SWA. One person asked what would happen if the opinions of the peer reviewer's conflict. A comment was made that the peer review would not change anything, in any case, as its outcomes would be nonbinding opinions. One participant said that any peer review should focus on what is needed for future actions, not on permit limitations.

There was general concurrence that any peer review would require EPA and DES engagement.

Michael Trainque informed the meeting that he and Wally had been trying to set up a meeting with EPA, but that if EPA flat out says no, there was not much SWA could do. Peter Rice said that the mayors of the Coalition had already written to DES/EPA, who had not yet responded.

There was also a concern about costs. Peter Rice said the Coalition would pay for the experts and costs of the peer review. He said that they would also ask EPA for some support, but that no money would go through SWA. One commenter voiced concern that this would mean SWA would be working for the Coalition. One person asked if the Coalition needed SWA for this peer review since the Coalition was going to pay for it anyway.

Peter Rice made a motion that SWA support the peer review process and that would go ahead and talk to the Members of DES. Alison Watts said she thought saying that SWA supported the peer review was too open a statement.

Peter Rice then motioned that SWA agrees to explore the potential of hosting a peer review, with EPA and DES participation. Candace Dolan seconded the motion.

Tom Morgan then said he understood that the board of directors had put this matter before SWA Members at the quarterly meeting last week, but that the BOD had not circulated the proposal to the members in advance. Tom said it would be imprudent to go forward with the peer review without properly informing and getting input from its Membership. He asked if this matter were going back to full Membership.

Alison Watts said that SWA would need the Coalition to provide a more detailed proposal before moving ahead and that when the BOD had a clearer description it would inform the full Membership.

Michael Trainque reminded that there was still a motion on the table. Richard Snow said that the BOD should bring the matter before the full Alliance.

The Chairman put the amended motion that **SWA agrees to explore the potential of hosting a peer review, with EPA and DES participation and that prior to the final decision the Board of Directs would bring the matter to the full Alliance for their input** up to vote. Motion was approved.

Peter Wellenberger presented a letter to the BOD urging SWA not to sponsor the peer review proposed by the Coalition. The letter was signed by Selectmen of the Town of Newington; NH Rivers Council; Coastal Conservation Association (NH Chapter); NH Audubon, Trout Unlimited; Winnicut River Watershed Coalition; Conservation Law Foundation; Oyster River Watershed Association; Exeter-Squamscott River Local Advisory Committee.

Michael Trainque shared an email from Bill Hansell that said the Alliance should support support communities who are reaching out to better understand existing knowledge and that EPA should treat municipalities with respect.

Election of Officers

Michael Trainque said that meeting still needed to hold its annual election of the officers for the next one-year term. He named the current officers (Chairman, Michael Trainque; Vice Chair, Wally Fries; Treasurer, Richard Snow, Secretary, Michael Perfit; Project Coordinator, Alison Watts). Richard Snow then moved that the Board of Director casts one vote for the existing slate of officers to re-elect the current officers to another one-year term. The motion was seconded [by...?] and passed..

Housekeeping

The question of whether the BOD would continue to post agenda and minutes as before was discussed. The Chairman informed that aside from current holiday interruptions, normally minutes were to be up in 72 hours with agenda posted prior to meetings.

Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be on September 10, 2012 at 1:30 PM either at the present location, or at Great Bay Community College.

Other Business

Richard Snow said he would like to see watershed conservation as a tool to improve water quality onto the meeting agendas.

Adjournment

At 3:50 there was a motion to adjourn. All agreed. Meeting adjourned.