

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA, or The Alliance)
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Meeting # 28
 Hoyle Tanner & Associates
 Suite 360
 100 International Drive
 Portsmouth, NH 03801
 DRAFT Minutes
 September 5, 2012 @ 2:00 PM**

BOD 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
 Shelley Frost

Guests Present

Emily Scmmalzer, Brentwood
 Chris Epping, SWA
 Carl DeLoi, EPA
 David Murphy, NHDES (NH Coastal Program)
 Peter Wellenberger, CLF
 William Hounsell, Hounsel Consulting/CDM Smith
 Helen Perivier, SWA

Call to Order and Introductions

Michael Trainque called the Board of Directors (BOD) meeting to order shortly after 2:00 PM. There was a round of introductions.

Housekeeping

The BOD discussed what level of detail was necessary for recording meeting minutes. The BOD decided that minutes should not attempt to transcribe every individual statement, but instead be limited to record decisions and subjects discussed.

The BOD recognized that there needs to be greater access to uploading information onto the website. This will be resolved when the Secretary returns.

Committee Reports

There was an update on the Coastal program grant currently underway and reviewed two upcoming grants.

1. Coastal program grant

The first part of the \$28,000 grant received from NOAA and DES has been used to fund work by the Rockingham Planning Commission and UNH Stormwater Center on development of the model stormwater standards currently under revision. The standards are almost finished. Julie LaBranche is pulling together a committee of professionals to finalize the standards and present to the SWA membership for approval at the next quarterly meeting.

The second part of the EPA grant has gone toward organization and coordination, and finalization of the strategic plan, tasks for which Helen has been hired. George Rief offered to head up working group to finalize that the strategic plan. There was agreement that we should present a final draft to the advisory committee for comment and that Michael Trainque would be the best person to coordinate a meeting with the advisory committee to discuss its contents.

A formal motion was made, seconded and supported to hire Helen Perivier for the program management and coordination portion of the DES grant. The formal vote confirmed the decision made in principle, but lacking quorum, at the previous BOD meeting in June. A motion was passed giving Michael Trainque the authority to finalize and sign the contract.

Alison also made the important reminder to all attending SWA meetings and participating in its work to keep track of mileage and time, both of which will be billed to the grant.

2. Stormwater grants

There is also a DES grant, via 319 EPA funding, to build stormwater control structures in four communities. The first part of the grant will go towards developing a GIS pollutant loading model that will then be used to support implementation as a matching grant with the four municipalities. The pollutant load model, however, will benefit as many as 15 towns, depending on the chosen resolution. Alison is trying to meet with state people doing pollutant load models and create tools that will really be put into use. We still need to recruit one more community. We need to decide on the resolution.

The overall \$24,000 grant with a \$15,000 subcontract to SWA is set to run till next summer. Alison's goal is to be a senior subcontractor with project with Candace Dolan as a junior subcontractor. If this is the case, Alison thinks she should resign from the BOD out of conflict of interest, as she would become a SWA employee. Rob Roseen is resigning from the UNH Stormwater Center and Jamie Houle will be the prime investigator. Participating towns are [Durham, Newington, Stratham....with Epping as a possibility]?

The second grant is coming via NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS) Science Collaborative. This will be very similar to DES grant just described, beginning with a pollution load model and followed by implementation. This grant also includes a strong outreach component with SWA as the main outreach vehicle to involve communities within the watershed.

Communications and Outreach Committee

Candace Dolan is looking into possibilities for a logo through a socially minded web service that networks with graphic designers and provides organizations with dozens of different logo options at a minimal cost.

Symposium Committee

An agreement was made to begin weekly and biweekly conference calls to plan for the symposium. This had worked well for planning the event before. The regular time would be to begin making the calls on Thursdays from 11 to 12 and that SWA could pay for a call in number.

There was a suggestion to have the symposium focus on rainwater gardens. It was mentioned that Candace would be putting in a number of rain gardens on September 11, and that the Town of Durham was in the process of building a lot of them. The comment was made that everyone loves rain gardens, but it is not clear whether they are cost effective. A discussion centered on the need for field verification and monitoring to see how well they stand up to wear, tear and abuse in a real world setting. It was commented that it is hard to get money for post-installation monitoring, which can be costly. While the BOD thought it better for the symposium to have a wider focus than just rain gardens, there was a general feeling that rain gardens would be a great topic to include the symposium and that it tied in with the theme of watershed restoration. There was also recognition that the symposium ought to provide a forum for basic information about stormwater to communities that could clear up misperceptions, such as the fact that permeable pavement doesn't catch rainwater.

Finance Committee

Richard Snow circulated the annual report and funding request. Emily Smaltzer volunteered to join Chris Albert in auditing the report. One more Representative is needed to audit the annual report. Helen Perivier will check with Exter, Michael Trainque with Madbury and Chris Albert with Nottingham.

Chris Albert also offered to check with the planning board of Nottingham (he was an alternate) to see if they might have someone who could represent Nottingham, now that the position is vacant.

Peer Review

The Great Bay Municipal Coalition proposal for a peer review of the 2009 NHDES nutrient criteria was on the table. This issue had been discussed at length in the past two BOD meetings in July and August and at the August 8 quarterly all members meeting. At the subsequent August BOD meeting, the BOD approved a motion to continue to explore the idea of sponsoring an independent peer review with participation by EPA and DES and to bring the issue back to the general membership before decision.

Wally Fries reported that the DES was considering the proposal, but that there had not yet been discussions with the EPA. The Chairman reconfirmed that participation by EPA and DES would be essential for any impetus to move forward.

Pros and Cons for the proposed peer review were discussed.

Carl DeLoi of US EPA was invited to share his thoughts about the peer review. He said he did not know much about the proposal, but suggested that rather than going back and re-reviewing DES nutrient criteria, the Coalition communities would better spend its money on a comprehensive monitoring plan. He added that EPA would be happy to help develop a comprehensive monitoring plan.

There was a lively discussion about upcoming EPA permits in the coastal region. Carl DeLoi informed the meeting that EPA was not using the DES criteria in setting permit levels, adding that the EPA was not interested in seeing any delay in the permitting process..

A comment was made that that the DES criteria would be used to identify the areas of impairment in Great Bay and that this in turn could affect the EPA permit levels.

Carl DeLoi informed the meeting that EPA is still in process of responding to comments on the science behind proposed permits. He said there was no doubt of impairment in the watershed due to nitrogen.

No new motions were put forward on this issue. Michael Trainque and Wally Fries will continue to explore whether EPA and DES will participate in the peer review.

Next Meeting

The next BOD meeting will be Wednesday, October 10 (Wed) at 1:30 PM.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting made by Candace Dolan motioned to adjourn . Shelley Frost seconded the motion which as approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 4:47 PM.