

Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA, or The Alliance)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Meeting # 30
Hoyle Tanner & Associates
Suite 360
100 International Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801
DRAFT Minutes
November 19, 2012 @ 1:30 PM

BOD Members Present

George Rief, Durham
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls
Wally Fries, Danville
Michael Trainque, Chester
Michael Perfit, Stratham

Alison Watts, Newfields
Bill Arcieri, Newmarket (by speaker phone)

Guests Present

David Murphy, NHDES (NH Coastal Program)
Bill Hounsell (CDM Smith)
Helen Perivier

1. Call to Order and Introduction

Michael Trainque called the SWA Board of Directors (BOD) meeting to order at 1:51 PM.

2. Approve Meeting Minutes

Alison made some clarifications to the October minutes. Candace made a motion to approve the October minutes with this clarification. Michael Perfit seconded the motion. All approved, without discussion.

3. Reports of Committees

Reports were folded into the Status Report on the NHDES grant, as discussed below.

4. Grants Management

4.1. Status Report on NHDES grant

The update on the status of completion of the NHDES grant included status reports on the model stormwater standards, matching hours, logo, website and strategic plan.

The draft model stormwater standards are in place. Julie LaBranche will be discussing the draft standards with EPA, who will comment via Trish Harrigan. The BOD will finalize the standards at its December meeting.

The matching hours can accrue as of Sept 2 of 2011 and the professional billing hours should be capped at \$150. Helen has been preparing a spreadsheet with the hours from meetings. All

BOD members should send Helen additional billing hours for time spent on SWA business outside of meetings.

Dave Murphy said it would be possible for the SWA to submit final reimbursement request to the state shortly after the end of the year. There are outstanding bills, including those to pay for the logo and for services by the Rockingham Planning Commission. Wally recommended that the BOD get some help with maintaining the financial records, so as to be prepared for future audits. Michael Trainque said that he knows a CPA whose firm was interested in doing pro bono work, and that he would inquire if they could help. Dave Murphy said he did not know of any specific auditing requirements for DES grants, but that it was always a possibility.

The new logo is now on letterhead and on the website. There are numerous logo versions: color, black and white, gray scaled, small, big, etc. The crowdsourcing project is now closed with a total cost of \$663. Candace will make stationary and put remaining money towards a display board, which she would work on with Helen.

Helen and Michael Perfit have been updating the website.

George Rief reported that he had integrated comments and added an Appendix B that would contain a summary of possible funding and grants into the Strategic Plan. He said that the plan would be updated with current information after the release of the new PREP State of the Estuary Report in a couple of weeks. Candace Dolan offered to provide a copy of the list of “Organizations” associated with the Coastal Estuary. It was mentioned that the BOD needs to have a planning session and a January retreat was suggested.

3.1.2 NSC/DES Green Infrastructure

It was mentioned that the revised MS4 permits were due out any day and that the number of MS4 communities has increased from 26 to 45. Alison said that the DES and the NSC green infrastructure grants will probably cover about 14 installations and communities would apply to participate. A press release went out to announce the grants.

3.1.3 Other grant information

There will be a large multimillion dollar grant to provide research funding for nutrient management. It will build off of the EPSCoR project and look at trading schemes and other mechanisms to manage nutrients. A National Estuary Research Reserve Science Collaborative grant is in the works to fund a proposal for integrated watershed management. This latter grant is still in a conceptual stage but would involve communities within the watershed. Alison suggested that these projects could help move forwards the Great Bay Municipal Coalition’s adaptive management plan and the Squamscott action plan.

The Town of Durham, together with UNH, is applying for a 319 grant to fund research and modeling on the Oyster River which would quantify benefits from improved stormwater management. Michael

Trainque, on behalf of the SWA, has sent a letter of support for the project, saying it will help demonstrate the positive value of the model stormwater ordinance for communities. There is the assumption that communities will pay more if they postpone infrastructure improvements, compared to making modifications today.

Education and Outreach Committee

Michael Trainque gave a presentation about the Alliance at the 2012 NH Water Symposium cosponsored by the Business & Industry Association of nH and the NHDEs and held on November 9th, where he said he had to clarify misperceptions and remind people that the Alliance is not part of the Great Bay Municipal Coalition. He said that the BOD should be mindful to make this distinction.

There was a discussion on how to improve community participation and how to better connect with both represented and unrepresented towns. Alison suggested establishing a focal point in each of the towns. Michael Trainque suggested updating the list of talking points with a list of all the upcoming projects and sending them out all the representatives. There was a suggestion to broaden the FAQs to address issues that are of relevance to upstream communities, for example presenting stories that address water impairment by chloride.

Housekeeping

No comments.

Next meeting Date

The next BOD meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12th at 1:30 pm.

There was a general agreement that the BOD should schedule a meeting with the Advisory Committee to review the Strategic Plan and discuss the grants and that such a meeting could potentially be combined with a BOD meeting. The BOD will ask the Advisory Committee if they could meet with the BOD on December 12th, or if not on January 9th or 16th.

Other Business

Michael Perfit met with Sarah Cleaves regarding possible contract to work on the website. Sarah recommended that the BOD first develop an integrated marketing plan. It was suggested that the BOD explore the development of a communications plan in an upcoming planning session or retreat.

There was no news regarding the proposed independent peer review of the NHDES 2009 nutrient criteria. So far neither DES nor EPA have accepted nor flat out rejected the peer review proposal.

Adjournment

Candace moved to adjourn the meeting. Alison seconded. All approved and the meeting was adjourned at 3:57.