

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA)  
Board of Directors Meeting #8  
Hoyle Tanner & Associates  
Suite 360  
100 International Drive  
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

**Minutes**

January 10, 2011 @ 2:00 PM

**Members Present**

Peter Rice, Portsmouth	Michael Trainque, Chester
L. Mike Kappler, Raymond	Jim Irish, Madbury
George Rief, Durham	Alison Watts, Newfields
Wally Fries, Danville	R. H. Snow, Candia
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls	Michael Perfit, Stratham

**Guests Present**

Chris Albert, Epping  
Bill Hounsell, Hounsel Counseling/CDM Inc.

**Call to Order and Introductions**

Wally Fries called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

**Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes with some minor typographical edits was moved by Richard Snow and seconded by Michael Trainque. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Reports of Committees**

**Program Development**

Peter Rice has put together an outline sketch for the Science Symposium. The committee will send out requests for abstracts in the next few weeks and publish some of the questions we are looking to have answered. The initial draft will be prepared by Jim Irish by the end of next week and reviewed by the committee.

The Symposium itself will consist of a morning session followed by lunch. During the morning session, the selected presenters will give their presentations. Lunch would start a facilitated round table discussion to more clearly identify any data gaps and how to improve municipal decision making. We would work to encourage attendance by town managers.

Discussion involved the possibility of hiring a videographer who could video tape and then edit the proceedings so that we could post it to our website. There was also discussion about limiting the Symposium to a single track to promote discussion among all the participants.

The concerned communities continue to meet with DES concerning nitrogen limits. DES has responded positively to the request for a Comprehensive Peer Review. This is a six month process, the first steps of which are to identify experts, identify the questions to be addressed, and arrange for expert testimony.

Gaining a common understanding of the regulatory drivers facing the communities of the Alliance is critical. The next Alliance meeting (on March 9<sup>th</sup>) should include a presentation called 'Regulation 101.' We will be asking DES (and perhaps EPA) to participate in this presentation and to lay out the potential consequences especially for the smaller communities without sewers.

### **Education and Outreach**

Alison and Candace are working on a proposal to the Coastal Program to develop a framework for model stormwater ordinances. The current concept is that it would be a joint venture with the Rockingham Planning Commission. The idea is that we would develop an SWA Seal of Approval that can be applied to the model ordinances that are developed with the needs of the entire watershed in mind. Dave Cedarholm has done some significant work developing zoning, subdivision, and site planning requirements to address stormwater requirements. At first, a pilot program limited to the Rockingham communities would be done. Later on, we would reach out to the other counties of the Coastal Watershed. Ultimately, we would like to have a Circuit Rider addressing the consistency and effectiveness of stormwater regulations throughout the entire watershed. We are also seeking support for this project from PREP.

There was some discussion about the importance of focusing on stormwater ordinances and not stormwater utilities. We understand that in a state as dependent on tourism as we are, preserving water quality is tightly coupled with preserving economic viability. Our goal is to give each community an understanding of the tools available to them and to save them the cost and effort of figuring it out on their own.

### **New Business**

The legislature will be holding a hearing on the Oyster River Bill on Thursday, January 13 in LLB-305.

Wally Fries, Alison Watts, and Michael Trainque will be making a presentation to the legislature on Tuesday, January 25 at 10:00 AM.

### **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Monday, February 7 at 1:30 PM at Hoyle Tanner & Associates' office in the Pease Tradeport.

### **Other Business**

There was some discussion of allowing those people who will be presenting at the symposium, write access to the Alliance wiki. We would encourage them to post abstracts and articles in the wiki.

We also discussed how to move forward on the identification of 'hot spots.' We definitely need to encourage research and work to obtain money for sampling and restoration. Alison will search the literature.

The Federal Government has released a draft Estuary Restoration under the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (Public Law 160-457) . It may suggest some grant opportunities for pilot programs.

Finally, we need to develop a committee to put together a plan for Bio-extraction and restoration. The idea would be to develop community partnership that will address water quality and produce an economic return.

### **Adjournment**

Dick Snow moved to adjourn. Seconded by Alison Watts. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.