

**Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA)
Meeting No. 1
Brentwood Community Center
190 New Hampshire Route 125
Brentwood, NH 03833**

Minutes

December 14, 2009 @ 6:30 PM

Members Present

Steve Conklin, Barrington	Alison Watts, Newfields
Richard Snow, Candia	Jamie Wood, Somersworth
Sue Foote, Seabrook	Walter Fries, Danville
Robin Collins, Lee	Michael Trainque, Chester
Michael Perfit, Stratham	Maurice Sodini, Greenland
Tom Willis, Rochester	Brian Quinlan, Kingston
James Irish, Madbury	Therese Thompson, Nottingham
George Rief, Durham	Jennifer Perry, Exeter
Peter Rice, Portsmouth	
Dean Peschel, Dover	

Guests Present

Scott Gessis, Somersworth	Toby Fedder, Greenland
Jean Eno, Greenland	David Michelsen, Exeter
John Boisvert, Pennichuck Water	John Terninko, Nottingham
Skip Webb, Hampton	Frederick Welch, Hampton
David Borden, New Castle	Jill Scahill, New Castle
Jeremyn Tomkiewicz, Dover	Jennifer Hunter, PREP
Amanda Stone, UNH	Kimberly Reed, Rye
Bruce Montville, Hampton	Jim Raynes, Rye
George Mathios, Kittery Sewer Dept.	Jon Beekman, SEA
Larry Morse, CZA/NHSC	Bill Brown, Wright-Pierce
Julie LaBranche, RPC	Bill Stewart, New Castle
Steve Tapley, Kittery, Maine	Eric Figenbaum, Madbury
Bill Hounsell, consultant	Cliff Sinnott, RPC
Dave Cedarholm, Durham	Paul Boisvert, Berwick, Maine
Cynthia Copeland, SRPC	Paul Currier, NHDES
Ted Diers, NHDES	Barbara McMillan, NHDES
Cathy Coletti, NHDES	Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls
Rep. Donna Schlachman, Rockingham #13	
Karen Young, Spruce Creek Watershed Association and Kittery Land Trust	

1.1 Introductions

Dave Cedarholm called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM. He began the meeting by welcoming everyone. He explained that he is not an appointee to the Southeast Watershed Alliance (SWA), but a volunteer facilitator. Dave mentioned that the SWA is a legislated group. SWA members as well as the non-member attendees introduced themselves.

1.2 History/Background

Ted Diers gave a brief talk on the water quality decline in the coastal watershed. He encouraged everyone to take a look at the Piscataqua Region Estuaries State of the Estuaries Report. Cathy Coletti will post a link to the report on the SWA blog. The SWA was established through RSA 485-E in the 2009 Legislative Session (SB-168). The final legislation was the result of many drafts and lots of stakeholder feedback. The legislation evolved from the Seacoast Wastewater Study and Estuary Commission.

1.3 Mission and Goals Discussion

Dave Cedarholm outlined the purpose of the legislation, highlighting inter-municipal coordination. He asked members for comments on the mission and goals of the SWA. DES staff wrote down the group's thoughts at the front of the room. The comments will be used later to draft the mission statement of the SWA. Comments were as follows:

- ❖ Focus on prevention, not just fixing. The legislation includes prevention and curing.
- ❖ Trying to improve conditions; restoration over time. Enhancing the health.
- ❖ Consider that the environment is always changing. What measurement are we using for water quality? Need to quantify the problem. Trace back to sources.
- ❖ The mission deserves a thorough discussion and runs parallel to the tasks of the Planning Committee.
- ❖ Multiple impacts, not just nitrogen.
- ❖ Educate ourselves.
- ❖ Pool financial resources; structure to optimize funding availability.
- ❖ Don't just throw money at the problem. Define what we're shooting at and what kind of bullet we need. Track success.
- ❖ Augment science. Provide resources for science.
- ❖ Is the purpose planning or implementing? Who is going to do the work?
- ❖ Stay connected to coastal water quality; not just Great Bay; ie. Hampton/Seabrook.

- ❖ Need to determine if SWA includes Maine and Massachusetts.
- ❖ Would like to see mapping of segments of rivers that are impaired; would like the state to map out all of the sub-watersheds within coastal watershed.
- ❖ Nitrogen data from Lamprey will help with identifying sources.
- ❖ Don't overlook phosphorous in the high watershed communities. Phosphorous is important.
- ❖ Concern if the focus is only nutrients; other pollutants to be considered:, i.e. thermal pollution from nuclear power plant, pharmaceuticals.
- ❖ USGS has resources on assessments -- NEIWPC.
- ❖ Are we including oceanfront? Ocean issues: red tide, etc.
- ❖ Make sure the SWA is structured to address all of the potentials. Make sure the organization is flexible enough to deal with these issues as they appear.
- ❖ Leverage federal and state dollars. Will have bigger clout together.
- ❖ Focus on the non-point source pollution side; new specific regulatory requirements coming; nutrient criteria, waste load allocation; will need to see 30 percent reduction in NPS; Be cognizant of the train coming down the track.
- ❖ Focus on looking ahead at the near term regulations and the response.
- ❖ New regulations and communities higher in the watershed.
- ❖ Residual designation by the EPA would mean lost control of our future.
- ❖ Address specific watershed variability, i.e. flushing of Great Bay.
- ❖ Look at all of the information available for the whole watershed; Inventory all efforts to address pollution in the coastal watershed.
- ❖ Investigate new technologies to help - need an answer to solve the problem. Nitrogen processing technologies; what is out there? Alternate methods to reduce NPS pollution.
- ❖ Need initial funding source.
- ❖ Define watershed lines in Maine and Massachusetts.
- ❖ In order for an inter-state organization to work, structure it to optimize funding sources available and don't pit against each other.

1.4 Nominations/Elections

Dave facilitated the election of chairpersons for the next six months. The Chairs will work with the Planning Committee on their tasks.

Walter Fries nominated Peter Rice, Peter Rice nominated Walter Fries, and Jennifer Perry nominated Michael Perfit for co-chairs. Candace Dolan moved to

have three co-chairs and Dean Peschel seconded. Motion passed. James Irish moved to appoint the three nominated co-chairs and Candace Dolan seconded. Motion passed. Three co-chairs were elected: Peter Rice, Portsmouth; Walter Fries, Danville; Michael Perfit; Stratham

A discussion about including Maine communities that are part of the coastal watershed ensued. Paul Currier of DES suggested that the SWA could vote tonight to include the Maine communities. No motion followed. It was noted that leveraging funding sources with Maine could be an advantage.

Dave Cedarholm facilitated the establishment of the Planning Committee to the SWA. The Planning Committee is required by the legislation. He went around the room and asked if each member was willing to volunteer. The Planning Committee members:

Dean Peschel, Dover	Brian Quinlan, Kingston
George Rief, Durham	Mike Trainque, Chester
Tom Willis, Rochester	Jennifer Perry, Exeter
Maurice Sodini, Greenland	James Irish, Madbury
Dick Snow, Candia	Alison Watts, Newfields
Ted Diers, Advisory Committee Member	
Candace Dolan, Hampton Falls (Alternate)	

1.5 Other Issues of Concern

A request was made to identify what type of support DES could continue to provide and Ted Diers indicated that DES could provide logistical support. Michael Perfit, Stratham, moved to have Ted Diers (DES) provide support to SWA representing DES's role as a member of the designated Advisory Committee. Peter Rice, Portsmouth, seconded and motion passed.

Action 1.5-1 DES was asked to send the contact information for the SWA Advisory Committee to the Planning Committee.

Action 1.5-2 The SWA members would also like DES to send them a link to the EAST website for background on the study.

Action 1.5-3 DES will develop a Frequently Asked Questions sheet for the SWA.

Action 1.5-4 DES will put together a document with the original purpose of the SWA as defined by the legislation and list all of the comments that came up during the mission and goals discussion. This document will be posted on the SWA blog, and the group can use the blog to comment on the list.

Action 1.5-5 DES will make a map of all of the sub-watersheds of the coastal watershed, including Maine and Massachusetts. This map will also include municipalities. Member towns will be differentiated by a different color than non-member towns.

Action 1.5-6 DES will get a legal opinion from the Attorney General's Office on whether SWA is subject to the same state statute as Planning Boards, Boards of Selectmen, etc. Do we need to public notice the meetings?

Action 1.5-7 The Planning Committee shall Identify financial resources.

Action 1.5-8 The Planning Committee will discuss including Massachusetts and Maine.

Action 1.5-9 The group decided to task the Advisory Committee with outreach to non-member towns. It was pointed out that there were no towns represented from north of Rochester.

Action 1.5-10 The work tasks of the Planning Committee will be:

1. Research organizational structure models
2. Develop Mission Statement
3. Develop organizational structure
4. Discuss process for legal review
5. Propose Board of Directors
6. Determine Maine watershed towns' inclusion
7. Determine Mass. watershed towns' inclusion
8. Identify financial resources.

1.6 Next Meetings

A discussion about meeting times ensued. The SWA will meet approximately every two months. The next full SWA meeting will be held on February 17, 2010 at 6:30 PM at a location to be determined. The Planning Committee will meet on January 6 at 2:00 PM at the DES Pease Field Office. All are welcome to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 PM.