

Meeting Notes

Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity

October 15, 2008
Westin Nova Scotian,
Hollis Street, Halifax
10am - 2pm

Meeting Title	RTESP	Time Started	am 10:10
		Time Ended	pm 2:20
Date	October 15, 2008	Place	Westin Nova Scotian

PERSONS ATTENDING

1	Ray Côté, Resource & Environment	2	Martin Janowitz, Jacques Whitford
3	Mark Butler, Ecology Action Centre	4	Dr. Edith Callaghan Acadia University
5	Ann Janega Can. Manufacturers & Exporters	6	Robert Grant Stewart MacKelvie
7	Leanne Hachey Can Fed. of Independent Business	8	Stephen Hawboldt Clean Annapolis River Project
9	Judy McMullen Clean Nova Scotia	10	Peter Lund NS Environment Industries
11	William Simpkins Can. Petroleum Products Inst.	12	Stephen Talbot NS Forest Products Assoc.
13	Peggy Crawford Union of NS Municipalities	14	Nancy Vanstone Deputy Minister, NS Environment
15		16	

Guest: Marah Haywood, Bill Turpin, Ted Ross, Heather Foley Melvin,
Kim MacNeil, Chris Daly

Regrets: Gordon Dickie, Paul Taylor, Dwight Whynot, Laurence Nason,
Tamara Lorincz

Did not Attend: Michael Cox, Stephen Talbot

Secretariat: Pat Littlewood – Note taker
Michael Langman

MEETING NOTES

1.0 Opening Remarks and Review of Agenda

- Chairman Côté welcomed everyone to the Fall Meeting and informed the meeting that there would be a few other guests arriving during the day to make presentations.
- The Chair was disappointed that the Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) was removed from the Agenda and said that he would ask Deputy Minister Vanstone the status of CCAP when she arrives.
- The Chair suggested that as Energuide is linked to CCAP to a degree that this might be discussed during the Energuide presentation.
- The Chair explained that Bill Turpin, NS Environment, will attend the meeting to give a presentation on the EGSPA Communications Strategy.
- Members had indicated an interest in wanting to know more about what organizations are doing. Judy McMullen and Gordon Dickie had agreed to make presentations on their organizations. Unfortunately Gordon was unable to attend the meeting but Judy McMullen will give a presentation on Clean Nova Scotia.
- The Chair advised the members that he has a meeting scheduled with Minister Parent to talk about the role of the Round Table and how the group will advise the Minister – Is the Round Table going to get referrals from Government on specifics to discuss? Will the Round Table suggest issues to the Minister? Will the Minister ask for Round Table input on issues outside the Environment and EGSPA (e.g. Coastal Management Strategy led by Fisheries and Aquaculture.) To date the only significant involvement of the Round Table has been comments from members on the EGSPA Annual Report .
- A member expressed concern that the Round Table needs time to become informed about issues, such as the CCAP, if it is to give a coherent view with meaningful input. The Round Table needs time to make a meaningful contribution. It was suggested that the Round Table should pick one or two items of concern and not wait for referrals from the Minister.
- It was felt that this could be an opportunity to create sub-groups – maybe pre-empt and prepare for government requests and do our homework – then perhaps the Round Table could meet in the middle to reach a consensus.
- It was suggested that the Round Table should be providing advice according to the Terms of Reference.

The agenda was amended to include opportunity for discussion about how and what issues the Round Table should be involved in and interact with the Minister. The Chair proposed that this discussion could follow the Deputy Minister's Update on the Green Forum and that lunch could be shortened to accommodate this agenda item.

The Deputy Minister's Update was moved to 12:30 on the agenda, followed by "Other Topics Discussion".

2.0 Approval of Meeting Notes, March 26, 2008

- The meeting approved the notes of the 18 June, 2008 Meeting without changes.

3.0 Business Arising from the Meeting Notes

Chairman Côté reviewed the “actions” arising from the meeting notes of June 18, 2008.

- Environmental Footprint – Michael Langman reported that a number of environmental footprint/carbon footprint models were researched for use as measures of the environmental footprint associated with Round Table activities. The members suggested that a simple table of “impacts” would suffice for the use of the Round Table. **Action: Mike Langman will prepare a draft footprint table for review by Edith Callaghan and Martin Janowitz. A draft table will be presented at the next Round Table meeting.**
- Working Relationships - The Chair suggested that at each meeting, two members will be invited to give presentations to showcase what their organizations are doing relevant to the Round Table and EGSPA.
- Government Budget – Marah Haywood provided information on government expenditures related to EGSPA and other environmental Initiatives. Some examples of “new” green funding included:
 - \$200,000 for Water Resources to take us to 2010.
 - \$450,000 for Climate Change (includes 4 new positions)
 - \$800,000 - Acquisition of legally protected lands.
 - \$24 Million into NS Crown Share – target 2015 – EGSPA – Education and Outreach plus Wetlands.A new Wetland Specialist has been hired.
The sustainable procurement policy is also related to this issue.
There is a lot of competition for Budget dollars – EGSPA really helped to reinforce the profile of budget proposals. In the final analysis \$24 Million was identified to support land and meet the 12% target of legally protected land. Hopefully it will expand to double or triple that.
- A member noted that there are substantial resources required and preparation work involved in land acquisitions and trust agreements. The question was asked, “Is there government interest in providing staff resources to prepare for land trust/acquisition agreements?”
- Government met with Nature Trust as part of its review of priority lands. Work is ongoing to find funding to do preliminary work.
- The Coastal Management Strategy is not part of EGSPA – it comes under Fisheries and Agriculture and there is funding through that department that is not covered under this green funding summary.

- Comments on the first annual EGSPA progress report. Members submitted a number of comments supporting the tone and content of the EGSPA Report. There is general satisfaction with the report, but some members wanted more details. There were strong comments about the need to balance environment measures with economic measures.
- It was suggested that perhaps a comment card should be sent with the report which could be used for feedback.
- A member asked about the distribution of the report – who is reading it? Most of the reports went out on the Green Economy Roadshow with the Minister, it was also released in the Legislature and on the government web-site.
- It was suggested that definitions of key words such as “sustainable” and “prosperity” would be helpful in the report.
- A member also suggested that there needs to be some reference to the current state of conditions in the province to give context to the goals and progress in achieving them (“What’s going on with our natural resources?”).
- Another member suggested that the report also needs to compare Nova Scotia to other jurisdictions, also to give some context to the goals.
- There also needs to be some discussion about “effectiveness” of funding/resources expenditures towards achievement of goals.
- Marah Haywood explained that next time the document will be shorter and that there are MPA students undertaking projects with the department at the moment who will be engaging the right people and business to discuss the EGSPA report.
- A member thought that there was a lack of guiding principles in the report, and there needs to be a current state of the province with regard to water, air, solid waste. There also needs to be a comparison with other provinces to see where Nova Scotia stands. A summary would be helpful.
- The view needed to be a little more balanced. Discussion should be on the dollars spent on objectives, delaying some goals to make a faster completion on others.
- Marah Haywood felt that she should be able to give a draft of the report in sufficient time for the Round Table to give it more thorough consideration.

Action: Marah Haywood will prepare a schedule regarding preparation of the next EGSPA report with reference to when a draft will be ready for the Round Table to comment.

Action: Edith Callaghan advised Marah that she had comments on the report that she would send to Marah directly.

- Comments on GPI Presentation Some members did submit comments on the GPI presentation. However, during discussion Round Table members indicated that the presentation and concept was interesting but felt that the GDP would have to be used until we had a better alternative. It was felt that more economic indicators are needed to measure what is being achieved by Government. GDP is one that people recognize, but it is limited in what it

covers. A member noted that GPI is “entrenched” in the first annual EGSPA progress report which implies that it is the measure that will be used by government.

4.0 Sustainable Procurement Policy

- Although it has been slow off the mark there is a 2009 Target for this policy. A considerable amount of research and planning has been done. There are two pieces of policy to implement and this is a huge amount of work. The process is now going through internal consultations. People have to be educated before this rolls out – however, the policy will be ready to go to Cabinet before the end of the year and then will be implemented incrementally. The Policy will be in place a year before the target deadline. The lead person for this initiative is Rick Draper from Economic Development.
- A member thought that HRM are doing something along the same lines and it would be great if there was some consistency.
- A member asked if there were guiding principles as he did not see them in the handout. **Action: Marah Haywood said she assumed that there are guiding principles but she will find out and report back.**
- Members thought it would be interesting to see if procurement costs go down by implementation of this policy. One member informed the meeting that Universities in Nova Scotia are working on initiatives about procurement. It would be interesting to track this work to make sure these things are working in parallel.
- From a vendor’s point of view it would be good to have one set of principles and source products which meet everybody’s standards.
- One member said that this has to be fairly administered – he felt that we should require that everyone meets the standard and then allow bids – the process has to be fair and everyone is subjected to the same standards. He asked if there is a process in place. **Action: Marah agreed to find this information.**

5.0 Update Items

Environmental Trust (Michael Langman) With amendments made to the *Environment Act*, the administration of the Environmental Trust was moved from the Round Table to the Minister. Two advertisements were sent out to solicit Trust Fund Board members. No applicants submitted letters of interest. A letter was sent to the Courts asking that environmental fines and penalties be forwarded to the Trust. There needs to be a secure and ongoing source of funds for the Trust to work effectively.

The Deputy commented that we have a process, what we need are members of a board and secure funding. The funding source is not sustainable at this point.

A member described a process where an “administrative penalty” can be invoked rather than going through a costly court and prosecution process. The members asked that the call that was sent out could be sent to them as they did not see it. **Action: Mike Langman will circulate a copy of the ad to members.**

One member informed the meeting that the Conservation License plate for vehicles should be advertised more, people do not seem to know about it. It costs \$35 extra which is all revenue that could go into the fund. There have only been about 1000 of them sold.

It was felt that the Trust Fund issue should be resolved as smaller groups around Nova Scotia could benefit from the source of funds. A member stated that HRM makes money every year from recycling, maybe they could put some money in the Trust Fund. Fines from environmental court decisions could be put into the fund. It was suggested that a sub committee of interested Round Table members be formed to consider secure funding sources that might be used for the Fund.

Economic Indicators (Marah Haywood)

- This item was covered as part of the GPI discussion. Marah Haywood gave an update on the development of economic indicators at the Senior Officials committee. The goal is to find a number of indicators and then do a relative comparison of their merits. There is a working group led by the Department of Finance presently working on this issue. GDP is not going to be the only economic indicator. A group of MPA students and Finance have looked at Eurostat as an economic measure, but nothing is finalized yet. There will be more to report in January 2009.
- The Chair asked if the Round Table members feel that this is one of those topics they would like to comment on before it goes too far into the system.
- The Deputy Minister informed the meeting that the department would be receiving information from GPI at the end of October which will go through a process in Government departments and then the Round Table will have time to comment on it.

6.0 Presentation on Communications Strategy – Bill Turpin, Public Engagement

Bill informed the meeting that there is a campaign underway with Policy and Communications to release a new initiative which has a working title of “Second Nature”.

Bill explained that this initiative is to inform the public what the EGSPA Act is all about. He reported on a Focus Group who had hit all the key points within the Act and yet they did not know about it. He explained that there were three points to the communication initiative:

1. Encourage the public to participate.
2. Web Portal – not just EGSPA but ALL environmental issues.

3. Get direct public engagement.

Bill showed proposed logos/tags for the Second Nature concept and a handout of what the web-site would look like, there were three different logos shown. The logo could be used in many ways, to recognize businesses that are environmentally friendly, certifying them in some fashion using the “second nature” tag.

The web portal will contain resources both in and outside of Government. One area of the portal would be for the scientific community where scientific information in a common language form, would be available. As there are many sites dedicated to the environment, links will be included. A blog will be on the site to get input from Nova Scotians.

Regarding the Green Economy Tour, the basic message was that the economy and the environment were not in balance. The Tour met with 10 groups of about 40 people each and the reception was very good. Now is the time to build on public interest. There is a plan to put together a list of Speakers on this topic – NGO’s , Round Table’s etc., Bill asked for some input and suggestions from the Round Table.

One communication approach might be to create a challenge, based on Greenhouse Gas reduction OR solid waste, or maybe something else. Perhaps small businesses, small communities might come together once a year on an initiative and receive Government recognition. The Chair asked if the emphasis was on the Environment or Sustainability. Bill answered that it was definitely on Sustainability.

There were a number of comments pertaining to the presentation.

- One member did not see the link between the strategy and EGSPA
- Another member felt that Government has so many slogans that they will end up competing with each other. The chair expressed concern about duplicating what is already out there. He thought there may be confusion with the branding issue.
- Goals are the message but it is important that people are aware that it is enshrined in law
- One member liked the idea of a forum – it’s where people communicate
- Another member felt that communication issue must always link back to specific EGSPA goals
- A member said that “Second Nature” is already used as a brand in the United States.
- It was suggested that contests, such as the challenge, are very difficult to do and often do not succeed.

Bill Turpin informed the meeting that this will be going live in approximately six weeks and it will be a soft launch before it is complete.

Lunch shortened to one-half hour

7.0 Member's Activities

Judy McMullen of Clean Nova Scotia

- Judy informed the meeting that Clean Nova Scotia (CNS) had recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary and that many activities had been held around that event. Reunion of past members being a highlight.
- Judy explained that Clean Nova Scotia has the distinction of having the status of a Not-for-Profit Organization and is also a registered Charity. The organization has no core funding. It exists solely on the membership, fund-raisers and consulting. It runs 28 different programs and covers Environmental projects – working with 40 partners to deliver on a strategic plan. It coordinates audits of retro-fits to homes to be energy efficient. Clean Nova Scotia also runs school programs to educate the young, entitled “Towards a Brighter Nova Scotia”. The new focus and project of CNS is water which includes stream restoration and protection. CNS used to apply to government to take on projects but now it is more re-active. Judy suggested that this is where the Environmental Trust Fund would be so useful. CNS have a web-site and the upcoming Ministers' Breakfast is a good fund raiser. 23rd October this year.

7.0 Deputy Minister's Green Forum Update

Kim MacNeil and Chris Daly were introduced by the Chair.

Kim informed the meeting that Paul Taylor is retiring at the end of the month and that the “Green Forum” will be working with a new Deputy Minister of Economic Development and will bring him or her up to speed with EGSPA.

- DM Vanstone explained that the DM's Green Forum continues to be well attended and supported and discussion is very active. The Deputy Minister of Community Services has now joined and immediately brought forward a “Large Buildings” project. The Green Forum must look at which Department's Deputy Ministers should be on the Committee making sure of the right memberships. The recent topics of the Green Forum are:
 - Eco-Trusts projects have been submitted during two rounds of funding, the results will be announced at the Power of Green Conference next week.
 - The Forum is looking at government funding for other buildings, hospitals etc., to promote energy efficiency, water etc. This will be implemented in the next month or so.
 - Green Screen – is a series of questions and initiatives that are to be considered before proposals go to Cabinet. Again, this will be going to Cabinet in the next month or so. Kim MacNeil stated that this tool will be used

to assess environmental implications of Executive Council proposals at the start of an initiative, as opposed to an afterthought at the end.

- The Deputy Minister circulated a handout which showed how EGSPA targets were being monitored and the challenges which each project has overcome. The Water Resource Management Strategy is moving along really well.
- The province has done a lot of work on land protection but only moved from 8.2% to 8.7% of land protected - this target might be a good one for the Round Table to get involved in. The Trust requires that the land stays private.
- There is a map of land acquired and there is a lot of land which can be included which has diversity value. There is a lot of land which meets this type of criteria. A conservation easement usually takes a year or two to complete. Large national pieces of land, depending on need and scale require stewardship, trusts etc.
- Greenhouse Gas emissions – this initiative was started in 2007 by the Department of Energy and moved to Department of Environment in early 2008. A lot of work has been done on the Action Plan and it has been through the consultation process with presentations etc.,
- The Green Forum is also looking at Tax Policy Review.
- The DM's Green Forum is a perfect place for multi-departments working on the same project to coordinate efforts.
- The Chair summarized the different topic areas of potential:
 - Develop Guidance Principles
 - Climate Change Action Plan Status
 - Sustainable Procurement
 - Protected Area Plan
 - Challenges with the Environmental Trust
 - The Chair asked the Table to consider what it felt warrants extra time, and to consider the idea of the Round Table picking one or two projects on which to focus. Perhaps the Round Table could break into sub-groups so that it becomes more knowledgeable and gets more deeply involved.

 - A Member stated that we are giving advice, but asked if it was heard or useful. Coming in at the end of the EGSPA process and rubber stamping what had been done, was not very relevant. It was suggested that the Chair ask the Minister what he wanted the Round Table to do. Although the Table is prepared to give advice to the Minister on the EGSPA report and the report is due to be brought out in January 2009, the Table needs sufficient time to review the report. The Table needs to find out what the Minister considers a priority and where he needs advice.
 - The Deputy Minister stated that there will be a five year review and public consultation on the EGSPA coordinated by the Round Table which is very important.

- On Climate Change, the Minister would like the Round Table's help but if it requires a 90 day process by the Round Table, the Minister may not have the ability to do this for this plan.
- The Minister needs advice from Round Table on public engagement.
- The Chair was pleased to hear that the Minister is looking for advice on the Climate Change issue and stated that the targets don't seem like a lot, but 10% is a huge amount.
- A member recommended a book called "Hot Air: Meeting Canada's Climate Change Challenge" by Jeffery Simpson and Mark Jaccard as a very good read and would give a very good understanding of climate change to anyone.
- A member suggested that contacting the Federal Round Table may be an idea to see how they look at business, environment, climate change, energy.
- The chair stated that the Round Table must focus and use time wisely.

- The question was asked that since there has already been a great deal of consultation around most priority issues– is there a role for the Round Table?
- A member suggested that a six month work plan should be developed for the Round Table.
- Another idea was to have a special meeting with the Minister to discuss priority areas, environmental goals, priorities of the Minister and prepare specific questions to ask him.
- Climate Change must be in the forefront.
- The Chair asked if there is a particular issue that the Round Table can work on to get a common/consensus position. **Action: The chair asked members to send any ideas to Ray or to Mike and Pat.**

Presentation by Ted Ross and Heather Foly Melvin CEO, Conserve Nova Scotia

A presentation was given by Ted Ross and Heather Foley Melvin regarding Energy and Water Conservation measures related to the Nova Scotia Building Code 900. The Canadian building code does not address water/energy conservation – however, there are grant programs for retro-fitting.

There is to be a new National Code in 2011 for enforcement of mandatory requirements. Things like water and energy conservation, i.e. low flush toilets, low flow fixtures, grey water, heat recovery systems will be included for all buildings.

The EGSPA goal on energy efficient buildings – and the Energuide label could be mandatory nearly two years early than the EGSPA deadline. This should be in place April 2009.

Training will be starting in November and the hope is that industry people will be up to speed before this becomes mandatory. New homes and additions to homes will have to meet the new regulations.

The Chair thanked Heather and Ted for their presentation.

8.0 Items Raised by Members and Announcements

Paul Taylor is retiring from as Deputy of Economic Development at the end of October.

Laurence Nason is stepping down from the Round Table and retiring from the Federation of Agriculture in December.

Peggy Crawford has accepted a position at Acadia and announced that this was her last meeting as representative of UNSM on the Round Table.

9.0 Next Meeting

January, 2009