

Meeting Notes

Round Table on Environment and Sustainable Prosperity

January 22, 2009
Marriott Harbourfront Hotel,
Upper Water Street, Halifax
9:30am - 1:30pm

Meeting Title	RTESP	Time Started	am 9:30
		Time Ended	pm 1:50
Date	January 22, 2009	Place	Marriott Harbourfront Hotel

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	Meinhard Doelle Dalhousie Law School	6	Dwight Whynot
7	Debbie Neilsen Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities	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	Sidney Peters The Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq	14	Tamara Lorincz Nova Scotia Environmental Network
15	Henry Vissers Nova Scotia Federation of Agriculture	16	Gordon Dickie Mining Association of Nova Scotia
17	Nancy Vanstone Deputy Minister, NS Environment	18	Ian Thompson Deputy Minister, NS Economic Development

Guest: Jason Hollett, Marah Haywood, Bill Turpin, Chris Bryant, Judy White, David Morse

Regrets: Leanne Hachey, Anne Janega, Robert Grant

Secretariat: Michael Langman
Bruce Findlay
Amy Nickerson – Note taker

MEETING NOTES

1.0 Opening Remarks and Review of Agenda

- Chairman Ray Côté welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed the meeting that Minister David Morse would try to join them for lunch.
- The Chair announced that Peter Lund had been elected as a Councilor for HRM.
- Ray Côté asked for additions to the agenda. None were brought forward.

2.0 Approval of Meeting Notes, Oct 15, 2008

- Mark Butler pointed out that on pg. 6 of the meeting notes where it states that “HRM makes money every year from recycling, maybe they could put some money in the Trust Fund”, that it should be clarified that HRM was not expected to put the money in the Trust Fund. There are however some organizations, like RRFB that make money from recycling, that might be considered.
- Mark Butler also brought up the fact that names should be associated with comments in the minutes. A discussion ensued and it was decided that names would be added to the minutes for comments made by members.
- The meeting approved the notes of the October 15, 2008 meeting.

3.0 Business Arising from the Meeting Notes

Chairman Côté asked Michael Langman to review the “actions” arising from the meeting notes of October 15 2008.

- Environmental Footprint – Michael Langman reported that Edith Callaghan, Martin Janowitz and himself had not had a chance to meet on the issue but were still intending to meet to discuss the issue. **Action: Mike Langman, Edith Callaghan and Martin Janowitz will meet to discuss the environmental footprint.**
- Preparation of EGSPA Report – Michael Langman stated that Marah Haywood would be giving a presentation later in the meeting on the EGSPA report and would address the issue then. Edith Callaghan had sent her comments on the report to Marah.

- Sustainable Procurement Policy – The policy was provided and Raymond Côté has received information on the fairness of the procurement process from Rick Draper, reported by Marah.
- Work Plan – Members sent ideas on the Round Tables work plan and they will be discussed later in the meeting.

4.0 Deputy Minister's Green Forum Update

- Nancy Vanstone reported that the Forum meets every couple of weeks and that a recent highlight was that Ian Thompson joined them at last weeks meeting.
- Key responsibility is to make sure that items line up with EGSPA, looking at progress and other issues coming forward.
- The Green Forum has had discussions on the CCAP and Energy Strategy, renewables, measures, and efficiency.
- There is a link between the Green Forum and a new intergovernmental committee on social prosperity. The Green Forum is ensuring that we are moving towards sustainable prosperity and making sure there is a connection with the committee on social prosperity.
- Ian Thompson stated that he was impressed by the plan that is in place. He also said he had attended a number of briefings on the Procurement Policy.
- Edith Callaghan noted that HRM has a sustainable prosperity policy and it would make sense to have synergy between the two.
- Mark Butler asked if the Round Table will have an opportunity to comment on the procurement policy. Ian Thompson responded, "yes".
- Ray Côté stated that they were working closely with HRM and that consistency would be helpful.

Action: Debbie Nielsen stated that she would check with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities on their role in this.

- Nancy Vanstone mentioned that Minister Parent had asked about having a member of the Round Table on the new Economic Council but t had not heard anything back and thought that the membership had already been appointed.
- Tamara Lorincz asked if the Round Table could communicate more with the Economic Council to raise the issue of green jobs.

Action: It was decided that a letter could be sent to Minister Morse and he could raise the issue to the Premier's Office.

- Edith Callaghan pointed out that green jobs would be relevant for new graduates. They would help to keep new graduates in Nova Scotia, providing them with jobs with new technologies. These innovations would help support communities.
- Ian Thompson suggested the letter should be sent to the Minister for him to address to the other cabinet members.
- Edith Callaghan suggested the letter could also be forwarded to the Economic Council's attention as there is a link between environment and economy.

- Nancy Vanstone suggested that the letter could be drafted quickly after the Federal Government releases their budget with a deadline of February 1st.
- The Chair asked who would like to write the first draft of the letter to the Minister. **Action: Ray Côté agreed to prepare the first draft and circulate it to Meinhard Doelle, Dwight Whynot, and Edith Callaghan who will provide input. Tamara will send Ray Côté some items she has already written that could be used for the letter.**
- Tamara Lorincz asked if green collar jobs had been discussed at the Green Forum.
- Nancy Vanstone stated that they had high level discussions about labour and that the Round Table may want to present information on green jobs to Labour and Workforce Development for some of their labour initiatives.
- Tamara stated that NSCC is showing great leadership under Ron Farrell in these kinds of initiatives.
Action: Nancy Vanstone agreed to follow-up to determine whether the membership was finalized and set.
- The issue that there should be information sharing between the Round Table and the Economic Council was discussed further. It was felt that it was critical for there to be some way to share information. Nancy Vanstone pointed out that the Economic Council is not legislated but the Round Table is and that the letter to the Minister would have great influence.

5.0 EcoNova Scotia Annual Report – Jason Hollett

Jason Hollett gave a presentation on the EcoNova Scotia Annual Report. He provided a summary of the results, some examples of projects they had supported, as well as looked at some of the next steps involved with EcoNova Scotia. EcoNova Scotia started as a federal trust fund and is being administered by Nova Scotia Environment. It is being used by the province to support projects that reduce GHGs and APs. In the first year they were able to support 43 projects, which resulted in 161,000 tonnes of GHG reductions/year. One of the major concerns is to ensure that the EcoNova Scotia program is continued beyond 2010.

There were a number of comments pertaining to EcoNova Scotia.

- Edith Callaghan asked if there had been enough funding for the technology side. Jason responded saying that they saw that as being a concern but so far they have not had to turn down any projects that they wanted to support.
- Peter Lund asked if they have worked with any non-profits. Jason said that it usually worked best if non-profits worked with their municipality to submit an application.
- Peter Lund asked about applications having to do with transportation. Jason said they had been looking for those and felt it was a good opportunity for municipalities.

- Tamara Lorincz asked about making a case to continue the federal government funding. Jason replied that the process had already begun.
- Tamara Lorincz added that it would be beneficial to use some of the funding to have awareness education on climate change and energy efficiency.

6.0 Round Table Workplan 2009

Ray Côté stated that the Minister has asked the Round Table to do a number of things and referred to the letter from the Minister which was circulated at the meeting.

One of the items that the Minister has asked for input from the Round Table, is the CCAP, however there are not a lot of details on how this will be accomplished.

Ray Côté stated that he had a meeting with Michael Langman and Bruce Findlay and he is suggesting that the Round Table create three working groups to discuss three of the topics that the Minister had asked for input on.

1. Environmental Trust Fund
2. Indicators or Measures of Sustainable Prosperity (Economic measures, social indicators)
3. Engagement

- Nancy Vanstone stated that the province is moving forward on CCAP and that the Round Table could have more information on the strategies, however some strategies did not need much more direction and some are being dealt with by other departments.
- She encouraged the Round Table to decide where it feels it could add the most value and decide on its priorities.
- Ray Côté stated that the CCAP is an ambitious plan and that there are target dates in the strategy and that perhaps we could have presentations prior to the final strategy release. The Round Table needs to be familiar with the strategies and make sure that they are linked.
- Gordon Dickie pointed out that the government should set realistic targets as this would increase credibility. He encouraged the government to focus on what is important and get it done.
- Judy McMullen stated that the timeline brings focus on what the province needs to do.
- Meinhard Doelle pointed out that the goals have been set so the Round Table should start to help with the implementation instead of focusing on whether or not they are the right goals or if they are too ambitious.
- With respect to the working groups, Ray Côté stated that he envisioned that the working groups would bring information back to the Round Table for additional input.

- The Environmental Trust working group would look at what the funds should cover, practical options for funding, and recommendations for administration of funds.
 - Nova Scotia Environment is currently accepting nominations on a board for the Environmental Trust Fund and it was suggested that perhaps a Round Table member could apply to be on the board.
 - On other topics, William Simpkins suggested that perhaps there could be another working group looking at where the province wants to be long term.
 - Mark Butler suggested that there could be a practical working group which could focus on the implementation of CCAP, such as renewables or green procurement.
 - Meinhard Doelle suggested that the working groups could focus on opportunities for integration and have industry, government, and universities work together.
 - It was suggested that the Round Table should ask the department about CCAP to find out what they want the Round Table to provide advice on.
- Action: Nancy Vanstone was asked to determine the nature of the input that could be provided on the implementation of CCAP.**
- It was decided to circulate a sign up sheet for the working groups and for people to list suggestions for other working groups.

7.0 EGSPA Annual Report Update – Marah Haywood

Marah Haywood gave an update on the EGSPA annual report. Marah stated that the report will provide information on the general objective we want to achieve as well as the progress to date. Last year the report was heavy on issues and this year that will be lessened to make the report more concise. They also plan to promote stories of success. Marah then proceeded to give the status of various aspects of EGSPA goals. Generally most of the targets are on track. The release date for the report is expected in May or June with review done by the Round Table in March or April.

- Ray Côté stated that the Round Table should have a rough draft to look for glaring issues of concern before the final draft. Then the Round Table could provide its comments on progress in the final report.
- Marah Haywood indicated that it would be beneficial to have comments given as a group instead of from individual members of the Round Table.
- Edith Callaghan stated that last year there were no synergies between the goals.
- It was suggested that perhaps there could be different versions of the report for different audiences. (one-pager, highlights, full report)
- Nancy Vanstone pointed out that this years report would have a report card similar to last year which would allow for comparisons.
- It was decided that the rough draft of the report could be available for the Round Table by the middle of February so that the Round Table could have a

meeting to discuss the report on February 26, 2009. (Note that the proposed date of the meeting is now March 5th, 2009).

8.0 EGSPA Economic Measures – Chris Bryant

Chris Bryant gave a presentation on the EGSPA economic measures. Chris stated the proposed measurement framework is based on a foundation of five capitals which are, financial, built, natural, human, and social. The health of the capitals will provide an indication of the health of the economic, environmental, and social systems. These five capitals also align with both the OfSP and the Social Prosperity Framework.

Chris stated that they could use the Round Table's help in defining the five capitals. They could also use help in what measurements could be used as potential headline indicators.

- Ray Côté stated that a working group was being developed on economic indicators.
- Chris stated that he hoped to have the indicators determined by the Round Table's February 26th meeting.

Action: Chris agreed to have the presentation sent to Round Table members.

Lunch

During Lunch, Minister David Morse joined the Round Table. Minister Morse encouraged the Round Table to be candid with him and that he looked forward to working with the Round Table.

- Edith Callaghan stated that the Round Table was looking for some advice from the Minister.
- Minister Morse responded saying that he finds stakeholders to be a great resource and that if the Round Table sees something that is a gap, let the department know. Don't always wait for the Minister to say that he needs advice.
- Nancy Vanstone stated that the May meeting would be a good time to have a formal discussion with the Minister about the annual report.

9.0 Member's Activities

It was decided that due to time constraints the presentations on the member's activities would be left for another meeting.

10.0 Announcements

- A question was asked about what would happen with the working groups.
Action: Michael Langman, Bruce Findlay, and Raymond Côté will meet to look over the sign up sheet and make sure the groups are balanced.

Action: Raymond Côté will circulate the letter to the Minister when it is drafted and will also circulate information on the proposed working groups.

- Tamara Lorincz announced several upcoming events that she thought would be of interest to the Round Table and recommended a publication titled “Climate Safety: In Case of Emergency...”

11.0 Next Meeting and Agenda Items

The next meetings are set for February 26, May 28 (although this date will need to be changed to an earlier date in May), and September 24.

Stephen Hawbolt circulated comments he had written entitled “Fostering a Sense of Stewardship: The Key to Meeting the Targets for Protected Lands.” From the Round Table’s perspective this raised some questions related to enforcement. Minister Morse finished by saying that the department tries to take a constructive approach to compliance. It is not about fines, it is about compliance.

Proposed schedule of meetings:

March 5, 2009, 12 – 4 pm

May 28, 2009

September 24, 2009