

APPROVED MINUTES
Regular Meeting Covehead and Tracadie Bay Enhancement Committee
Monday, Jan 6, 2020
North Shore Community Centre

PRESENT:

Committee Co-Chair Mayor Gerard Watts, Committee Members, Wanson Hemphill, Richard Abblett, Rollin Andrews, Rob Moore, Wade MacMillan, Nancy MacKinnon, Derek Cook, Peter Vriends, phone-in Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark and CAO Stephanie Moase

Regrets: Krista Shaw, Bob Doyle, Tracey Allen

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** 1:10 pm by Committee Chair Councillor Wanson Hemphill.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

It was duly moved and seconded that the agenda be approved with the addition of 8. Letter of Resignation and 9 DFO Update

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

3. **DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

Part VI, Section 23 of the *Municipalities Act*, which maintains that *No member of Council shall derive any profit or financial advantage from his/her position as a member of Council and, where a member of Council has any pecuniary interest in or is affected by any matter before the Council, shall declare his/her interest therein and abstain from voting and discussion thereon. (1983, c.33, s.24.)*

DECLARATIONS: There were none.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES :**

It was duly moved and seconded that the minutes of the Sept 23, 2019 meeting be approved with the changes to page 2

All in Favor

MOTION CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Review of Terms of Reference and Mandate

CAO noted the Committee name change, now Covehead and Tracadie Bay Enhancement Committee. It was agreed by Committee this is the new name.

Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark noted that we should include Brackley Bay, however Gerard noted Covehead Bay runs into Brackley Bay, we need to be careful of getting involved with Brackley territory we don't want to take ownership. If Brackley is looking after their Bay we don't have mandate to cover Brackley. We can advise them of the Terms of Reference and inform Brackley resident(s) or invite them to sit on this Committee.

Gerard, Stephanie or Sarah will approach Brackley resident(s) to advise them. Sarah also noted any studies that have been done from Parks Canada or other studies done is public domain and we have the right to access that information. Committee discussed, it would be helpful to have data or presentations on studies that have been previously done. It was also discussed on what information was collected and previous done, what has the Federal Government done regarding erosion or climate mapping. Committee needs a decent working knowledge of what studies have been previously done.

5.2 Presentation of the Issues of the Bays

Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark discussed her presentation on Possible Next Steps (Appendix A) on points of her slide presentation. She suggested other groups that have done work on the Bays we need to gather that information and liaison and not repeat what has been done. Sarah pointed out we need starting point she has put down ideas what threats there are in the Bay and what we need to protect, who could we partner with and how could this be funded. There was discussion by Sarah on having healthy eel grass beds, biodiversity to maintain species in the bay, good water perimeters and good water flow, consumers, decomposers, low levels pollution and Community members who value a healthy bay. Sarah discussed with Committee members threats to the bay, as per her presentation on Possible Next Steps. One major species threatening the bay is the green crab, trapping was done in the past and Wanson mentioned they will be trapping again this year. Current method DFO advises is Trapping and Removal to reduce the green crab population to keep low population. Trapping could be done for purpose of community group to monitor and research education to see a decrease in population size. If we can identify people wanting to trap Sarah and her husband have a license and can add additional six individuals to her license, send her an email of anyone interested in trapping. If we can identify individuals interested in trapping we can add them to our license.

Tunicates are another invasive species, finding or identifying as soon as possible is a way to prevent spreading they are tagged to see what is growing on them. Key information should be posted to inform boaters on their role in spread of invasive species, how to clean their boats to prevent tunicates going from bay to bay.

Erosion – How can residents deal with flash flooding events some of critical areas?

Sarah mentioned that Derek Mills is now the contact at DFO, we could come up with a Project and present it to them. Sarah noted you can attract researchers to study your Bay, and buy in, if you have

a group of stake holders interested and can come up with the priorities and what to focus on and she could come up with a Project .

Pollution – chemicals, gas or oil from boats, from the Golf Course, what levels have been detected in Covehead Bay, contaminated water, the report Tracy Allen did, outlined what levels of pollution were detected in the Bay. Plastic pollution, ie washing machines, you can get a filter that filters this out it is similar to a dryer filter litter, this can also help reduce the plastic in the Bays. is found in our streams and oceans.

Noise pollution - affects species

Nutrition Pollution - species grow out of control and harm other species.

Other Possible Pollutions -Sewage, hair products, medications, residue gets washed down toilets and showers, this is all having an effect on species. These are source of pathogens and nutrient pollution to the Bays. Accessing monitoring and making people aware of the impacts on the Bays.

Climate change will impact Bay, ocean acidification caused by CO2, increased water temperature stressing species, reduction oxygen, food webs, species affected, if temperature changes you might have to move to another location of the bay for the food chain, impacts on where things are living.

Protect infrastruture -so we don't have it washing into our estuaries, plan in the future the impact, determine species, temperature range or increase you could lose species in the Bay.

Coastal Erosion – map silt added to Bay, work with Researchers on ways to deal with that.

Managing commercial species in the Bay.

Biggest thing we can do with climate change is reduce stressers.

Funding – Provincial Government has some funding, and funding from Municipality or private donations if we coordinate together we can access Federal Funding 2 to 1, projects can be matched with Federal Government. There were discussions on what types of projects can obtain funding.

Wanson requested to share Sarah's presentation with others, like the local watershed. Gerard noted we will have the CAO send out the presentation to Watershed Group.

DFO UPDATE

Gerard noted we sent a letter to DFO, asking for a meeting on what DFO's plans are for our Bays, and suggested we include the Province as well. Sarah spoke to DFO with that very question, Mill River was the first and they planned to do Tracadie and Covehead at the same time but that did not happen they focussed on Mill River only, they held meetings and everything is on pause on other estuaries in the province. They are on a way to move forward, they did propose re-zoning in Mill River, recommendations were made but nothing has been implemented.

Other Business

Letter of Resignation from Tracy Allen, accepted, as there was a conflict.

Approved Minutes Jan 6, 2020 Covehead and Tracadie Bay Enhancement Committee

There are a couple of names who have come forward, one lady on Bay Shore who is an Environmental Engineer, who has interest.

Gerard noted he, Robbie and CAO will discuss. Megan Senechel accepted to be part of the Committee.

NEXT MEETING – Gerard will discuss with CAO and come up with a date for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT