



Alliance du bassin versant
Petitcodiac
Watershed Alliance

**PWA – ABVP
AGM meeting minutes
7:00 pm, June 11, 2007
Université de Moncton (Rémi Rossignol building, room B – 115)**

Members of the Board of Directors present:

David MacDonald, President
Alyre Chiasson, Vice President (Interim)
Beth McLaughlin, Communications officer
George Brun, Director
Peter Etheridge, Director
David Holt, Director
Winston Jones, Director
George Lyons, Director
Jim Weldon, Director

Members and non-members present:

Gérald Leblanc (member)
Renée Morel – Sentinelles Petitcodiac (member)
Noel Corriveau – Sentinelles Petitcodiac
Lucie Grould
Angèle Spencer - GNB
Jonathan Burt - GNB
Richard Landry – City of Moncton
Marie-Hélène Thériault (member)
Bronwyn Pavey (member)
Jacques Léger
Mathieu Leblanc (coordinator)
Mélicca Daigle
Catherine Dallaire – City of Moncton (speaker)
Alain Clavette – Memramcook Naturalists Club (speaker)
Yvon Gauvin - Times & Transcript

Meeting start: 7:10 pm

1.0 Approval of agenda

Mathieu Leblanc mentions that a few changes were brought to the agenda, such as the first presenter of the AGM is now Catherine Dallaire with the City of Moncton instead of Alain Clavette with the Memramcook Naturalist Club, which will be the second presenter due to his unexpected delayed arrival. It was also mentioned that Alain Clavette is a member of the Memramcook Naturalist Club and not the Moncton Naturalist Club as announced previously in the initial agenda sent by e-mail.

Proposition 2007-11-06-01 (G.B.; B.P.) : "Proposition to approve the agenda"

Approved unanimously

2.0 Catherine Dallaire – City of Moncton presentation

Development vision for the lands north of Wheeler Boulevard

The City of Moncton is proposing a project with an approach focusing on sustainable development, such as taking advantage of this untouched portion of land and undertake intelligent development methods. An important aspect of this project consists of protecting the natural sector on the lands north of Wheeler Boulevard in order to improve the Hall's Creek and the north branch of Hall's Creek watershed environment. This project will take part in creating a high density of houses, nature trails to encourage people to walk to work or to go downtown, and narrow roads to induce vehicles to circulate slowly.

A few questions were raised concerning measures undertaken by the City of Moncton to slow down poorly managed construction projects potentially harmful for the watershed and what kind of power the municipality possesses to implement environmental regulations.

Catherine Dallaire pointed out that environmental regulations are an integral part of the project and should be respected.

Another preoccupation that was manifested concerning this project was the established measures by the municipality to prevent sedimentation near the constructions sites such as "Best Management Practices".

Catherine Dallaire indicated that a buffer zone will remain intact near the stream and offer protection against sedimentation.

Alyre Chiasson commented that the presence of a buffer zone isn't necessarily efficient if a large section of exposed land is waiting for construction. A heavy rainfall will easily drain the dirt toward the stream and will pass right on through the buffer zone without being slowed down properly.

Richard Landry specified that the Fisheries Act can be of help to slow down the process. Someone made the remark that this measure is good but often too late to prevent the damage from being done.

3.0 Alain Clavette – Memramcook Naturalist Club presentation

Importance of the Petitcodiac ecosystem

A large diversity of avian population depends on the Petitcodiac River aquatic ecosystem because of its high production level in the food chain. Certain bird species can adapt to municipal development while other species are highly affected and will literally change their migration pattern and stop visiting certain areas. Development must be done adequately and consciously in order to minimize harmful effects to the fauna and flora.

George Lyons asked if we could see any impacts or changes on the bird population from the sedimentation problems that occur within the Petitcodiac Watershed. Alain Clavette explained that their distribution has changed and we can actually see birds in areas that we didn't before.

Comments: Very interesting presentation.

4.0 PWA presentation

Mathieu Leblanc explained the organization's vision and mission and pointed out that the name has recently changed from the Petitcodiac Watershed Monitoring Group to the Petitcodiac Watershed Alliance.

The main projects for 2006 mentioned were:

- *Long term water quality monitoring* – Many parameters were measured for the 7th year. Water temperature of streams in rural areas was of concern and should be explored further. *E. coli* concentration and suspended sedimentation concentration levels were considered high in streams in the urban area.
- *Culvert study* – Four out of six culverts distributed throughout the north branch of Hall's Creek, Fox Creek, Rabbit Brook and Jonathan Creek (3 culverts) obstructed fish passage. Future projects could involve the surveillance of fish movement during all life cycles and water levels.
- *North branch Hall's Creek habitat assessment* – A variety of water parameters and physical aspects of the streams were evaluated using a protocol set-out by the New Brunswick Department of the Environment and Local Government and the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Even though many species of birds and fishes were present in this ecosystem and the buffer zone was in good condition, a siltation problem remains in that

area. This project has not yet been completed and should be before the end of summer 2007.

2007 projects mentioned were:

- *Long term water quality monitoring* – The monitoring started in April and the same observations as mentioned earlier for the 2006 projects were manifested. The Rabbit Brook is of concern because of the high *E. coli*, total coliforms, and SSC levels and will be under surveillance with the help of the City of Moncton.
- *Jonathan Creek culvert study* – An inventory will be done throughout Jonathan Creek in order to determine the shape of the culverts and their roll in fish passage. This project will be accomplished in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (protocol development), the Department Of Transportation and Mr. Stephen Wood (consultant).
- *Greening our Greens* – Establish Best Management Practices with the Moncton Golf and Country Club. We will look at the types of pesticides and fertilizers used and if storage of these products is adequate. We will also be looking at the wildlife habitat in the area. Ideally, we would like to develop an interest in building partnership with most of the golf clubs in the Petitcodiac watershed.
- *Watershed Health* – Determine the health of the watershed by observing environmental indicators. Develop and publish a booklet annually, with the collaboration of Environment Canada, focusing on the watershed's health by using collected data.

Other projects:

- *Fox Creek restoration* – Trees and shrubs will be planted in certain regions of the Jonathan Creek to reestablish the riparian buffer zone.
- *Petitcodiac River Run* – Educational field trip with high school students to go canoeing on the Petitcodiac River to inform the youth about pollution sources and identify potential restoration areas.
- *Stream clean up (TD Bank)* – We would like to do a stream clean up in September with the help of volunteers.
- *Booth at Farmers Market* – Opportunity to obtain exposure within the community, target volunteers and possibly induce people to become members.

Comments: Booth at the Université de Moncton at the beginning of school year to induce students to take part in the watershed and become a member at the student price of \$10.

Finances:

The financial statement of the PWA for the 2005-2006 fiscal year demonstrates a deficit close to \$8,000. Most of the budget was distributed towards the salary, rent and office administration. Someone made the remark that we have to remember there were four employees that year, which could explain the deficit.

Questions: none

Comments: none

5.0 Approval of last year's AGM minutes

Proposition 2007-11-06-02 (G.L.; B.M.) : «Proposition to approve last year's AGM minutes.»

Approved unanimously

6.0 Nominations

Nominations will be discussed at next board meeting.

7.0 Varia

Peter Etheridge brought us up to date with the Bay of Fundy Biosphere project's proposal.

8.0 Door prizes

Noel Corriveau and George Lyons were the two winners of 25\$ gift certificates to the Wanderlust Outfitters.

9.0 Next meeting

The next AGM meeting will be in June next year.

Meeting end: 9:30 pm.