

**Marine and Aquatic Committee**  
**Tues., January 30th**  
**6:00 - 9:00 p.m.**  
**Clayoquot Field Station, Tofino Botanical Gardens**

**Meeting Summary**

Present: Spencer Evans, Stephanie Hughes (and Andreas), Jeff Mikus, Wendy Szaniszló, Stephen Mack, Hudson (Janet), Randy Mercer, Jim Whitworth, Katie Beach,

Staff: David Fraser, Rebecca Vines, Jean Wylie

1) Dinner (6:00 – 6:30)

2) Review and approve agenda

Rebecca welcomed the group and began by thanking the members for their commitment to this process. Agenda was approved with one addition being an update from Wendy on her Sea Lion Survey project

3) Summary of 2006 Committee Process and Funding Call

The committee spent their 2006 discretionary funding allocation and has a new allocation of \$10,000 for this year as well as \$5,000 for logistics. David updated the group on the 2006 call for proposals – most proponents have received their funds and have their projects underway, with the exception of the Wolf Study which is still under discussion. For 2007, the Board has already committed some funds in multi-year funding and will commit an additional \$44,000 to the funding call this year. The next call will be in September 2007.

Wendy provided a summary of her Stellar Sea Lion project in which she conducts monthly data collection on the movement and habits of the species. Steller Sea Lions are a species of 'special concern' yet little information exists about them. Wendy agreed to present a more detailed report later in the year, as well as a presentation in the outlying communities.

It was noted that a group of multidisciplinary 'oceanographers' from UW have been coming to the region for seven years and will be returning four-five times this year. Committee members agreed that we should invite the researchers to do a presentation at a future Committee meeting. We should also inquire if any of the data collected to date can be shared with the public.

4) Update from Jan 11<sup>th</sup> and Jan 18<sup>th</sup> CBT Board 2007- 2009 Business Plan Meetings  
David summarized the seven key priorities including fund development, enhancing the committee process, promotion of the Biosphere Reserve, the Indicator Monitoring program, improving outreach (e.g. the Call for Proposals and event sponsorship), recruiting a new Executive Director and national and international networking. The budget also includes \$25,000 towards promotion of the Biosphere Reserve and a significant budget for research and indicator monitoring. David committed to sharing the Business Plan when it is finalized.

5) Committee Recruitment Strategy

While the membership of this committee has been fairly constant, David will be putting an announcement in the newspapers to invite new members. A number of issues/questions arose during the discussion including: what's the optimal number of members; How many meetings should we have annually; successful project proponents should go to Ahousaht and other communities to talk about their projects; "come and be part of the Committees" is not going to work; need to schedule off-peninsula committee meetings; we should look to organizing a 'celebration of the Biosphere' event in Ahousaht and/or other communities. It is more likely that we could increase participation through interaction. All Committee members agreed to the need to increase the connection with the remote communities and will aim to hold a meeting in Ahousaht to continue this conversation.

6) CBT Research Agenda

Rebecca introduced the new CBT Indicator Monitoring Initiative. The CBT sees an opportunity to facilitate the development of a comprehensive monitoring package to report on social, cultural, economic and environmental indicators for the Biosphere region. This is a key commitment for the 2007 – 2009 Business Plan and will be a long-term deliverable. The CBT will work with local organizations to lead the development of a comprehensive package that can be reported to communities. Building on past and current monitoring in the region, the results will inform future priorities for the Biosphere and the CBT. Rebecca invited committee members to attend an evening talk by Steve Litke, Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Monitoring Program Manager on February 22, 2007.

7) Discretionary Funding requests

Neither the "Westcoast Activity Book" nor the "Whales on the Wall" projects were reviewed favourably by the Committee. Spencer advised that the Wick Elementary School still has many copies of the document left over from the donation made by Creative Salmon last year.

It was agreed that staff needs to do a better job getting detailed information on project proposals to the Committee members, and develop a funding criteria guideline document for Biosphere residents.

8) *Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 13<sup>h</sup>, 2007 at the Warden's Office.*