

**Clayoquot Biosphere Trust
Marine and Aquatic Committee**

**June 18th 2007
6:00 – 9:00 pm
Clayoquot Field Station, Tofino**

Meeting Minutes

Present: Walker Charleson, Jim Whitworth, Hudson Webster, Janet Webster, Jennifer Yakimishyn, Steve Mack, Kim Smith-Mack, Celine Tuttle, Josie Osborne, Susanne Hare, Wendy Szaniszló

Staff: Jean Wylie, Rebecca Vines, David Fraser

1) Review and approve agenda & recent minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

2) CBT Update

Rebecca provided an update on current CBT activities: Outgoing CBT Executive Director Stan has retired and has moved on to Victoria. David Fraser will act as the Executive Director until August 2008 and will be responsible for developing the process for hiring the next permanent ED. This will be Sheila's last week as the acting Administrative Assistant as Jean Wylie will be returning to her position. The 2007 "Celebration of the Biosphere" week in Ahousaht was a great success and a big appreciative thank you goes to the CBT staff, Committee members who participated, and of course the Ahousaht community itself. CBT will be hosting all Canadian Biospheres for the CBRA AGM during the first week of June 2008.

3) Criteria for allocation of discretionary funds

The Committee has \$10K in discretionary funds for the remainder of 2007. They reviewed their 2006 discretionary funding criteria as a starting point for the allocation of funds in 2007. The following comments were raised during the discussion;

- The Committee needs to take more ownership of these discretionary funds (e.g. "The Marine and Aquatic committee would like to focus projects in these areas...")
- Should there be a maximum amount for each project or should the Committee allow for more flexibility? Should there be a preference for projects that link other programs/issues/committees and which build local capacity?
- The focus should be on outreach and capacity building...it always seems to boil down to education.
- The Committee discretionary funding should not be used for multi-year funding.
- Should the Committee build on CBT's profile and reputation taking on an advocacy or supplementary role to existing projects, or should it try to be more forward looking and creative taking advantage of emerging opportunities through, for example, seed funding for new cooperative projects?
- How can CBT stimulate people to be actively engaged? How can we host and 'wake-up' the people?
- The Committee should host an open house/forum – a public meeting about the marine environment asking residents what the priorities are in Clayoquot Sound and how they should be addressed. The forum should be scheduled in September during a weekend or afternoon/evening. September 13th was proposed as a possible date.

An advertisement should be placed in the local media inviting participants and refreshments or desserts should be served if the meeting is scheduled during the evening. Previous funded projects proponents should be asked to present their projects during the first part of the forum; the second part should allow for an 'open-mike'. The Committee will also consider hosting a second public forum in Ahousaht.

4) 2007 Funding Call Timelines

The 2007 Call for Projects will be streamlined relative to the 2006 Call. The Call will begin in early September with funding decisions announced in December 2007. A funding application template will be developed to assist project proponents and the Call will be advertised widely. Proponents will be asked to attend committee meetings to present their projects. The Committee considered individual project funding levels and suggested that the maximum grant could be reduced from the current \$10K to \$4K allowing more and smaller projects to be funding. Committee members agreed to forward any additional thoughts on the 2007 Funding Call to staff prior to the September announcement.

5) Committee projects

This agenda item was discussed in agenda items 3 and 4 above.

6) CBT Research Agenda – Measuring Community Health

Rebecca provided a summary of the status of the 'Measuring Community Health' Initiative and asked the Committee what indicators may be useful from a marine and aquatic perspective. Committee members provided a number of possible contributions to the Measuring Community Health initiative including monitoring salmon streams (e.g. salmon returns, eel grass, water quality, impacts of sport fishing and marine birds). These will be considered as part of the package to be brought back to the Committee in the fall.

7) Projects

The Raincoast Education Society, Parks Canada and the Clayoquot Field Station submitted a \$2.4 K proposal to assess the impacts of recreation (human) on the marine invertebrates that inhabit the mudflats in the Tofino Mudflats Wildlife Management Area. After much debate the project was approved with the caveat that this should not be construed as a precedent to fund projects over \$2K.

The proposal from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District for funding of new orthographic aerial photos in support of regional planning and research will be considered at a future meeting. Rebecca will send additional information on this proposal prior to the next meeting.

8) Next meeting

Committee meetings will not be scheduled for the summer. The group will reconvene in the fall to discuss the 2007 Call for Projects and the Measuring Community Health initiative.