

**Frenchman Bay Planning Group Minutes**  
**6-27-2011**  
**Maine Coast Heritage Trust**  
**3-5 pm**

In attendance : Antonio Blasi, Terry Towne, George Kidder, John Bennett, Tom Martin, Fiona deKoning, Anne Krieg, Bob Pulver, Carol Korty, Jane Disney call in: Bridie McGreavy, Nikita Kacer, Lucie Hutchins

- I. We discussed how, when, and where to re-schedule the bay planning retreat at SERC. Facilitator Marcia Brown from Foundations of Success is available starting in October. The available dates at SERC are: Monday and Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, or Friday and Saturday October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. We agreed that a Sunday and Monday are preferable days. Jane will inquire of SERC whether the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> are possibilities. We discussed the fact that MDI Biological Laboratory also has availability if we would rather find a Sunday-Monday combo. Jane will send out a doodle and determine everyone's availability as well as preference for planning retreat location.

We reviewed what will be happening at the retreat: it will be essentially the same agenda as the one we had planned for May 1<sup>st</sup>. We will spend one day identifying conservation targets (habitats and species) and identifying direct threats to those targets, as well as brainstorming strategies to address those threats.

The following individuals were recommended for the last retreat and will be invited to the October 2011 retreat: Dana Rice, harbormaster and selectman in Gouldsboro, Dick Fisher, owner of US Bells, property owner with 30 acres on Stave Island, Glen Mittlehauser, Maine Natural History Observatory, Gouldsboro, who has worked on Natural Resource Inventories with Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

- II. We discussed what we could do between now and then—do we want to invite input before the retreat? We agreed to host focus groups with stakeholders who we feel have important input to provide to our planning process, both before we get started and after we have a framework for our plan.

**Stakeholder Group I.** Regional Shellfish Committee (RSC) with representatives from Trenton, Ellsworth, Lamoine, Franklin, Sullivan, Hancock, Sorrento. This group, headed by Joe Porada, meets every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Lamoine Town Hall at 7 pm. Therefore, their next meetings are July 20<sup>th</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>. We agreed that we would attempt to get on their July agenda to introduce the Frenchman Bay Partnership and ask for more time on the August 17<sup>th</sup> agenda to conduct a focus session with specific questions about conservation targets and perceived direct threats. The plan is take this input to the October retreat for incorporation into the bay planning process.

**Stakeholder Group II.** Municipal officials representing Hancock, Sorrento, Sullivan, Trenton, Lamoine, Bar Harbor, Winter Harbor, Gouldsboro, Ellsworth including shellfish (marine resources) committee members, harbor committees, harbormasters, conservation commissions. We believe that Lamoine and Bar Harbor may be the only towns with conservation commissions.

Harbormasters may have their own group through which we could work to pull some of these stakeholders together.

**Stakeholder Group III.** Seafood Dealers: these individuals have unique opportunities to gain information related to the state of the bay. A one-on-one interview or survey approach may work best for this stakeholder group.

**Nikita Kacer and Bridie McGreavy** from the Department of Communications at the University of Maine were on the phone for this part of the discussion. They have expertise in developing interviews and surveys to help garner input from diverse groups of stakeholders. Their next steps will be to develop an interview protocol to be shared with the IRB (Internal Review Board) at University of Maine. This will ensure that there will be informed consent, confidentiality, and ethical standards in place for working with human subjects in our stakeholder interview process.

- III. We discussed how to proceed as the Frenchman Bay Partnership. With supplemental funding from the Alex C. Walker Foundation, we plan to set up a website, create outreach and education materials, as well as support the focus groups described in Agenda Item II.

**Lucie Hutchins** is willing to meet with a subgroup to explore what the website will look like. We briefly discussed our interest in the website as an educational resource. The Frenchman Bay Plan will be housed on the website. There will be links to partners, a place for new partners to sign-up, results of focus group discussions etc. Lucie suggested that she could produce an interactive map of Frenchman Bay, which could include bay history and other information on habitats and issues related to habitats.

John Martin described the interpretive signage being planned for the Schoodic Scenic By-way. It may be possible that some of the information generated for the Frenchman Bay Partnership could be integrated into this signage.

**Catherine Schmitt** from Maine Sea Grant has offered to help with development of outreach materials (for example posters for municipal buildings, post offices, schools etc.) The graphics generated for these materials may be useable for the website.

We developed three committees to take on the tasks described above:

| <b>Website Committee</b> | <b>Outreach Committee</b> | <b>Focus Groups</b>           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Antonio                  | Catherine Schmitt         | Antonio                       |
| Jane                     | Jane                      | Jane                          |
| Lucie                    | Anne Krieg                | Anne Krieg                    |
|                          | Carol Korty (editor)      | Fiona de Koning (liaison RSC) |
|                          |                           | Nikita Kacer                  |
|                          |                           | Bridie McGreavey              |

Jane offered that MDIBL's new Americorps Volunteer Leader, Molly Miller, could be helpful with the logistics as we move forward. Her position is funded in part by the Alex C. Walker Foundation.