

# **SRSF Steering Committee Meeting MINUTES May 3, 2000**

Attending: Sandy Benoit, Arthur Bull, Bill Crossman, Tony Davis, Nell den Heyer, John Kearney, Chris Milley, Flora Murphy, John Prosper, Pat Rhynold  
Tony Charles joins by conference call  
Richard Apostle sends his regrets  
Chair: Tony Davis  
Minutes: Flora Murphy  
2pm - 5:30pm  
St. Francis Xavier University

## **Approval of April 17, 2000 Steering Committee Minutes**

-no changes - Moved Sandy Benoit / seconded Chris Milley

## **Business Arising from April 17, 2000 Minutes**

- Computer fax modems are included with the computers.
- Two of the four Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) student intern grants have come through for Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association and Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association, the Bay of Fundy Marine Resources Centre and Fundy Fixed Gear are still awaiting notification from HRDC. The grants are for just over \$1000.00 each or \$3.86/hr. The additional funding will relieve staffing expense stresses, it will be used to hire additional interns or for the interns infrastructure costs.
- Loka Conference, the Community-Based Network being held in Atlanta, Georgia June 15-18. Flora will cost the trip and inform the Steering Committee.
- Approval of the changes to the chronology which generated from April 17, 2000 Steering Committee meeting.

## **New Business**

### **1. Director's Report**

- Review of budget.
- Review of the focus of today's meeting: Research issues and Workshops and Seminars.

### **2. Report on Visit to the Institute for Community Research, Hartford Connecticut**

Three areas which we should consider of the institutes work:

1. No extensive community-based organization partnership, may be a reflection of the types of groups they are working with (aids/HIV victims and drugs users).
2. No sharing of data, they view the sharing as lending to advocacy purposes. Data is power and must be careful who has access to the power.
3. Participation of other community researchers: very selective invitations to work with them, but not enough dissemination of information.

Concerns, Questions and Comments of Steering Committee members:

- Monitoring of how we use the data sets that are produced from this project, this will need to be accessed further.
- Who owns the data?
- Does the CURA/SRSF act as a gatekeeper of the information?
- Must carefully approach how research is conducted, particularly interviews and surveys.

Discussion regarding research protocol:

1. A need for a procedure that will serve as a checklist (pattern) that each association/partner will use to determine what is public and what is not.
2. Initiate a starting place for research, a procedure needs to be developed. Components of this will need to ensure partner autonomy and allow partners to provide feedback on how this is working.
3. Using the Memorandums of Understanding approved at the Steering Committee meeting in Halifax, February 4, 2000, it was discussed as a means of addressing research protocol and intellectual property rights up front.

### **3. Workshops and Seminars**

- Prior to May 9, 2000 workshop all partners should go in with prioritized research issues. This will then allow social researchers to respond to these stated issues.
- If there is a greater call for participation then the SRSF will have workshops that

travel through out the province. If the workshops will be targeted to CRCs and Interns only then they should come to St. Francis Xavier University.

- A goal should be to have social researchers come out of this workshop able and willing to lead later sessions.
- Expecting 10-15 social researchers at the May 9, 2000 workshop.
- Send a copy of the letter of invitation that was sent to social researchers to Steering Committee members.
- The workshop should be seen as an opportunity to gauge the interest of the social researchers.
- Discussion of the approach social researchers should/will take as they assist and partner with organizations in conducting research. General consensus that the social researchers understand the goals and procedure of the SRSF.

#### **4. Research Issues/Agendas**

##### CRC and Intern Status

##### Mi'Kmaq Fish and Wildlife Commission (MFWC)

- Small pool of CRCs, due to this they are extending deadline.
- Waiting to see if they receive additional funding that was applied for.
- Intern: have a list of students, but they need to sit down and go through the list.

##### Gulf Nova Scotia Bonafide Fishermen's Association (GNSBFA)

- Intern is hired, Jana Purdy.
- Should have the CRC by the weekend (May 6-7).
- Sandy Benoit will pass on CRC applications that they do not hire if Mi'Kmaq to MFWC.

##### Guysborough County Inshore Fishermen's Association (GCIFA)

- Pat Rhynold has submitted their hiring process but the other partners need to submit theirs to SRSF office.
- Interns have two main activities
  - Job with their partner organization, which will be directed by the partner.
  - A credit course requirement, which will come from their work with the partner.
- E-mail - Staffing Thoughts, April 25, 2000

Please respond to the three issues addressed in Tony Davis' e-mail (Staffing thoughts) of April 25, 2000.

*By now you will know that we've had to reschedule the 1st workshop to May 9....allows us to maximize researchers participation. Between May 1st and 9th we could/might direct the CRCs and interns to begin work on developing a background document that would profile...*

*1/ the history, development, membership, organization (executive, decision-making processes, policies etc.) of the partner orgs.*

*2/ an overview of the settlement and development of the coastal communities (census info, local histories etc., demographic information) and fisheries associated with SRSF's partner organizations. We will need to put together information on the general socio-economic profile of fisheries, fishing activities etc.....through time as the information available allows (e.g., DFO statistical district landings data, license registrants by type, fleet characteristics, harbours by numbers of boats and persons fishing from, and so on). This sort of endeavour would contribute greatly to producing the sorts of background and 'context' documents/evidence that we'll need to do.*

*3/ Contact with org. membership with a view to learning of concerns and key issues.*

*Several of you are already working on some of this. I think it would be a very good idea to focus the CRCs and interns on producing these sorts of documents through the early stages of SRSF.....*

*Let me know what you think about these proposals.*

*Regards,  
Tony*

##### Agreements and discussion arising from e-mail:

##### Agreements:

- Agreement that partners organizations will prepare a draft document on the areas/issues that have been picked out by the organizations.
- Agreement that partner organizations (CRCs and interns) will start compiling a background report on their particular association.
- Agreement on three general themes that can be brought into the May 9 workshop:
  1. Integrated Studies - Interdisciplinary Approaches
  2. Fisheries Socio-Economic Impacts, Profiles and Livelihoods
  3. Documenting Ecological Knowledge for Specific Fisheries (e.g. American Eel

and Lobster)

- These issues that will be brought forward at the workshop will be:
  - MFWC- relationship between American Eel fisheries and land use patterns and practices (e.g. urbanization, forestry, and fisheries).
  - Tony Davis will send Chris Milley information on the American Eel.
  - GNSBFA- continuation of the St. Georges Bay project, focus will be on ecological-knowledge.
  - MRC- Business market: overall economic look at the ground fishery
  - FFGC- Ecological-knowledge
  - GCIFA- Steering Committee members are asked to refer to Pat Rhynold's e-mail from May 1, 2000 which lists the associations work plan and documents found in today's meeting package.

#### Discussion:

- There is a need for concrete deliverables.
  - Important that partners have common points, while establishing their own diversity.
  - The background work that the CRCs and intern will compile will serve as a guide for the research project, as it needs to reflect the history of the organizations, as well it provide training and background for the CRCs and interns
  - There is a need for a work plan that will guide and produce deliverables for the partners and the project.
  - It would be ideal to have a common overall theme, and build a process, which can be continued.
  - Important also not to restrict ourselves, by focusing too much on commonalities.
  - The project has the capacity to allow partners to benefit and learn from the other partners research issues.
  - If at a later date a research issue does not have any application to other partners then the SRSF should consider restricting issues.
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- Ecological Knowledge Conference, St. Francis Xavier University, June 17-21, 2000
    - This conference is being held in St. FX with the focus being on lobster and eel.
    - There may be a possibility that by the end of June to work on methodology with the group of social researchers attending this conference.

#### **5. Brochure and Newsletter**

- Brochure is going through some language changes but will be ready from the printers by the end of next week (May 12, 2000).
- SRSF is going to start a newsletter. The first issue would include the history of the partners that will have been compiled by the CRCs and interns. The first issue will begin before the end of June.

#### **6. Listserv**

- Everyone is asked to sign onto the list server.

**Adjourned**