

Environment North Minutes
Tuesday, January 11th, 2016

Location: Lucy's house 5:15 pm

Board Members:

Karen Peterson - chair Julee Boan Lucy Laframboise Susan Grinstead
Scott Harris Lea Matyuska Kirsten Odber Roopa Rakshit Graham Saunders

Members at Large:

Kerstin Muth

Board Business

The agenda was approved.

Moved by: Graham 2nd by: Susan carried

The December minutes were deferred.

The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Moved by: Lea 2nd by: Susan carried

There was a motion to create an EN archive at the new Ontario Nature office to centralize past receipts and other paperwork.

Moved by: Julee 2nd by: Roopa carried

There was an email motion to include EN to sign onto the joint letter from Canadian Environmental Law Association, Ecojustice and David Suzuki Foundation to the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change, Honourable Glen Murray, regarding the Ontario Bill of Rights – Public Review.

Moved by: Julee 2nd by: Kirsten In Favour: Graham, Roopa, Karen, Susan

Opposed: no one carried

New Canadian Liberal Government

The National Day of Action is on January 15th, 2016. It is an awareness campaign that wants the new Liberal Government to keep their election promises, specifically: to fix the energy board review process, fix environment laws, keep to their GHG emission targets for climate change reduction, stop the pipeline proposals and invest in renewable technologies. Locally, a rally is planned outside the new MP Patti Hadju office on Red River Road. Graham has drafted a letter from EN to the Canadian Government expressing these concerns. More action is planned for May.

UN Climate Change Conference 2015 in Paris

Julee reported that many grassroots workshops were held in lots of different locations. There were all age groups and all workshops were free and full. Although there was a police presence due to the bombings the month before the CCC2015, 20,000 people had a peaceful sit-in at the Eiffel Tower in a show of common concern. There was a universal acknowledgement of a climate crisis; there were no naysayers in attendance. People worldwide were demanding political action from their governments. This was the 1st time that oceans were included in the conferences. Efficient disaster plans were being developed. Implementation of the disaster programs could be through the media, the military and international care groups, such as Red Cross, World Vision, churches and environmental groups. CUSP will have a post Paris meeting at the new ON office on Cumberland St. on Jan. 27th, 2016.

CJ Article

Future articles will be on climate refugees, the Kinder Morgan and TransCanada pipelines and the importance of clean water.

EN Website

www.environmentnorth.ca has some problems and is in need of updates. A group lesson on posting to the site might be helpful.

There was a motion to spend up to \$500 for website improvements.

Moved by: Lea 2nd by: Graham carried

AGM and other Board Business

Signing authority was explained as the protocol is different since Apple Credit Union amalgamated with BCU and both outlets are now known as Bay Credit Union.

Several dates were looked at for our AGM. Possible speakers were also discussed. Other active groups with similar goals will be invited to the meeting.

First Nation Energy Management

Roopa has been visiting many of the reserves in NWO to look at the socio-economic and cultural impacts on First Nations as they are making the transition from imposed or lack of services to managing their own natural resources. Community forests are beginning. Importing fossil fuels is changing to creating their own energy. It costs \$100 million for diesel fuel to service a remote reserve with 1,000 people. This is very expensive and has political and social impacts.

Many of these communities are beginning to manage their own electrical generation – Deer Hill has wind turbines, Poplar Hill and Pic River have run of river transmission and more reserves are getting transmission lines. Some are planning to use the grid to consume electricity or to supply energy to it. Other remote reserves are looking at self-sufficient systems. Natural resource management involves land use plans, environmental reviews, budgeting and politics.

There is a tri-council involved to help with these transitions: Natural Science and Energy Council (NSERC), Social Science and Human Research Council (SSHRC) and Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR).