

Planning for Action in the Minas Basin Watershed



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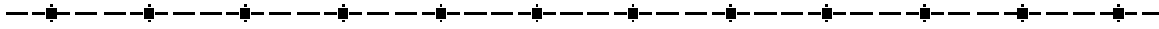
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***“Planning for Action in the
Minas Basin Watershed”***



**A Summary of the
Minas Basin Community Forums
*Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro***



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Integrated Management Project for the Minas Basin Watershed was initiated by the Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) with the goal of working towards sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin and its Watershed. The Integrated Management Project is more aptly describe as a process, one which is meant to be fluid and evolve as it moves forward. It is also important the process be community driven, so the community see themselves involved in the process and have a sense of ownership over it. Therefore, the MBWG chose to have several Community Forums throughout the Minas Basin Watershed to get community involvement and support for the Integrated Management Project.

The goal of the Community Forums were to build on past initiatives by communities and government organizations which focused on identifying issues of concern, and to initiate real actions towards sustainable management of the Minas Basin and its Watershed. Due to budget and time constraints, three initial Forums where planned for Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro. Local co-hosts were identified to help in the Forum planning process and they were extremely valuable in providing local knowledge about appropriated dates, locations, structure etc. The structure of the Forums were worked out with the local co-hosts and consisted of two distinct parts: an open house with displays from local groups, and small group discussions on priority issues. Four or five focus groups were created during each Forum; they were established based on a basic prioritizing exercise. Local facilitators led each focus group with the goal of identifying issues and problems and working towards developing actions to address them. Attendance was highest in Parrsboro and Wolfville, but a similar number of displays at the open house were found at all three forums.

The results of the Forums indicated the issues of most concern in the Minas Basin Watershed were Agricultural Practices, Development, Fisheries Management, Forestry Practices, Sewage Treatment and Water Quality, Tourism and Recreation. Sewage Treatment and Water Quality was the one issue of concern raised throughout the watershed, but geographic variations occurred with many of the other issues. Many actions were discussed in the Focus Groups and several common actions emerged. They were: creating coalitions or networks within the community, inventory the state of resources and current activities, research effects of practices, increase education for public and resource users, research and promote use of incentives for resource users, increase communication and cooperation amongst stakeholders, review relevant legislation and create strategies and plans.

The Community Forums held to this date have been successful in achieving several of their objectives. They have also provided the MBWG with a good base that will be used during the next phase of the project; gathering community members interested in participating in moving the actions forward. With the aid of the MBWG, they will be encouraged to develop specific work plans to undertake in the future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This report is a summary of the Community Forum process undertaken by the Minas Basin Working Group of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) during the winter of 2002. Pat Hinch, member and past Chair of the Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP, has been pivotal in driving the Integrated Management process and the Community Forums.

Thank you to Environment Canada and Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Oceans and Environment Branch for sponsoring The Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP and in particular, this project.

Special thanks to all the local co-hosts who helped to organize and run the Community Forums and to all the residents of the Minas Basin watershed for attending and participating.

A final thank you to Dr. Graham Daborn and Dr. Peter Wells for Chairing the Forums and to Maxine Westhead, Mike Brylinsky, Jon Percy and Justin Huston for their help in editing this document.

Additional information of BoFEP and its working groups can be obtained from:

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The BoFEP website
<http://www.auracom.com/~bofep>

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INTRODUCTION

The Integrated Management Project for the Minas Basin watershed was initiated by the Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) of The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) with the goal of working towards the sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin and its watershed. Initial concerns were primarily with the marine environmental quality of the Minas Basin but since it is often land-based activities that affect marine quality, it was recognized the entire watershed needed to be included in the integrated management process. The study area therefore became the watershed of the Minas Basin. See Appendix H for a map of the Minas Basin watershed, Appendix L for the MBWG Strategic Plan, and Appendix M for the MBWG 2002/2002 Work plan.

The Integrated Management Project is more aptly described as a “process” rather than a project. It is meant to be fluid and evolve as the process moves forward. The only requirement is the communities and individuals throughout the watershed drive the process, as it is especially important that people see themselves involved in the process with a sense of ownership over it. Community involvement is therefore an important first step and a requirement for the success of the project.

Community Involvement

The Minas Basin Working Group chose to have several Community Forums throughout the watershed as a method of getting community involvement and support for the Integrated Management Project. Initially it was decided the Forums would focus on gaining a better understanding of issues of concern with an attempt to prioritize these issues. After talking with many community members, the MBWG became aware that many other public consultations had taken place over the years. A brief inventory of projects/workshops held in Minas Basin Watershed was undertaken to ensure that the Community Forums would not repeat previous work. A compilation of public consultations and workshops held in the Minas Basin Watershed (past and present) are listed in Appendix B. The inventory found many workshops had been undertaken to identify issues of concern and there was a sense that the public was frustrated from repeatedly talking about issues with little action being taken. The MBWG decided not to repeat previous efforts, but rather build on them. Therefore, the goal of the Community Forums was not only issue identification and prioritization, but more importantly, development of action plans with the communities to address the issues of concern.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

Forum Goal

The primary goal of the Community Forums was to initiate actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin and its watershed. They were designed to build on past initiatives by government and non-government organizations, which focussed on identifying issues of concern to residents living in the Minas Basin watershed.

Forum Objectives

1. Introduce the MBWG of BoFEP and the Integrated Management Process and foster community involvement in the Integrated Management Process
2. Obtain more input on issues of concern from watershed residents
3. Increase awareness in the community of existing interest groups and their activities
4. Enhance cooperation and networking among interest groups, government, etc.
5. Identify “actions” to address issues of concern

Community Forum Planning

Planning of the Community Forums began in the fall of 2001 with the intent that the Community Forums in late fall, or early winter of 2002. Forum locations and local co-hosts needed to be decided first.

Table 1

Community Forum Planning Timeline

Fall 2001	Winter/ Spring 2002	Summer/ Fall 2002
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review past and present public consultation projects – decide to move beyond issue identification and focus on ACTIONS! • Community Forum planning begins: contact local co- hosts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forums held in Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro • 4th Forum added for Noel shore area (Fall 2002) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go back to focus groups and work on developing actions/specific projects identified through forums

Forum Locations

Because of budget and time limitations, three initial Community Forums were planned for Wolfville, Truro, and Parrsboro. If more were needed or desired by communities, they could occur at a later date. The three initial Community Forums were chosen primarily because of their geographic location in the Minas Basin Watershed.

Local Co-Hosts

From the database of groups/individuals working in the resource area, environmental management, or sustainable development around the Minas Basin watershed, several potential local co-hosts for each of the Community Forums were identified. Local co-hosts helped primarily in the Forum planning process and with logistics. It was felt local co-hosts would be extremely valuable in providing local knowledge about appropriate dates, locations, structure, etc. Appendix G lists the local co-hosts for each Community Forum.

Forum Structure

The structure of each individual Forum was worked out with the aid of local co-hosts. In order to achieve all the objectives it was decided that the Community Forums should consist of two distinct parts; an open house with displays from local groups, and small group discussions on priority issues.

- **The Open House** portion would provide a chance for participants to network and to increase public awareness of community groups and activities in the watershed. All groups, organizations, and even individuals were encouraged to have displays at the Open House. This event was typically 1.5 – 2.0 hours in length.
- **The Focus Group Discussions** would allow detailed discussion and action planning. By having several small discussion groups, this would also not allow for one issue to take over the meeting. Discussions were allotted 2.5 – 3 hours.

Focus Group Discussions

Focus groups were decided by using coloured dots to prioritize issues. Each coloured dot represented a priority - 1, 2 or 3. Participants were asked to place their dots on issues sheets, which were developed from information gathered in the preliminary issue gathering study (See Appendix A). Participants were also encouraged to add other issues of concern to the sheets.

This exercise allowed the MBWG to establish four or five focus group discussions at each Forum. Total number of dots and quantity of priority 1 dots were the strongest determinants for the development of focus groups. Appendix C shows the results of priority setting for each forum and Figures 1-3 further illustrate these results. It is

important to note that these results are reflective only of the people present at the forum and they may not be indicative of the concerns of the community as a whole.

A member of the MBWG and a local facilitator led each focus group discussion. The structure of the discussion groups were developed in conjunction with the local co-hosts with the intention of identifying issues and problems and working towards developing actions for each group. After each Community Forum, the Minas Basin Working Group reviewed and adjusted the structure accordingly. For example, in Wolfville participant feedback indicated the discussions stalled at identifying issues and discussing what others needed to do, not what the group could do. At the Truro Forum, emphasis was therefore placed on having the groups focus on one or two issues that the group would like to deal with. Emphasis was put on developing specific actions they could do as a group, not what others needed to do. Unfortunately the Truro community forum was not as successful in this regard because there were so few stakeholders from the area in attendance, and discussion groups felt they could not make decisions for the stakeholders who were not in attendance. Feedback from this forum indicated there is a need to go back to the area and repeat this process in smaller meetings with interested stakeholders in specific areas of interest (i.e. agriculture, forestry etc.). In Parrsboro, the focus group discussions were less structured and consisted of comments, concerns and then actions. This was the most successful forum for developing specific actions. Table 2 outlines the focus group structures for each Community Forums.

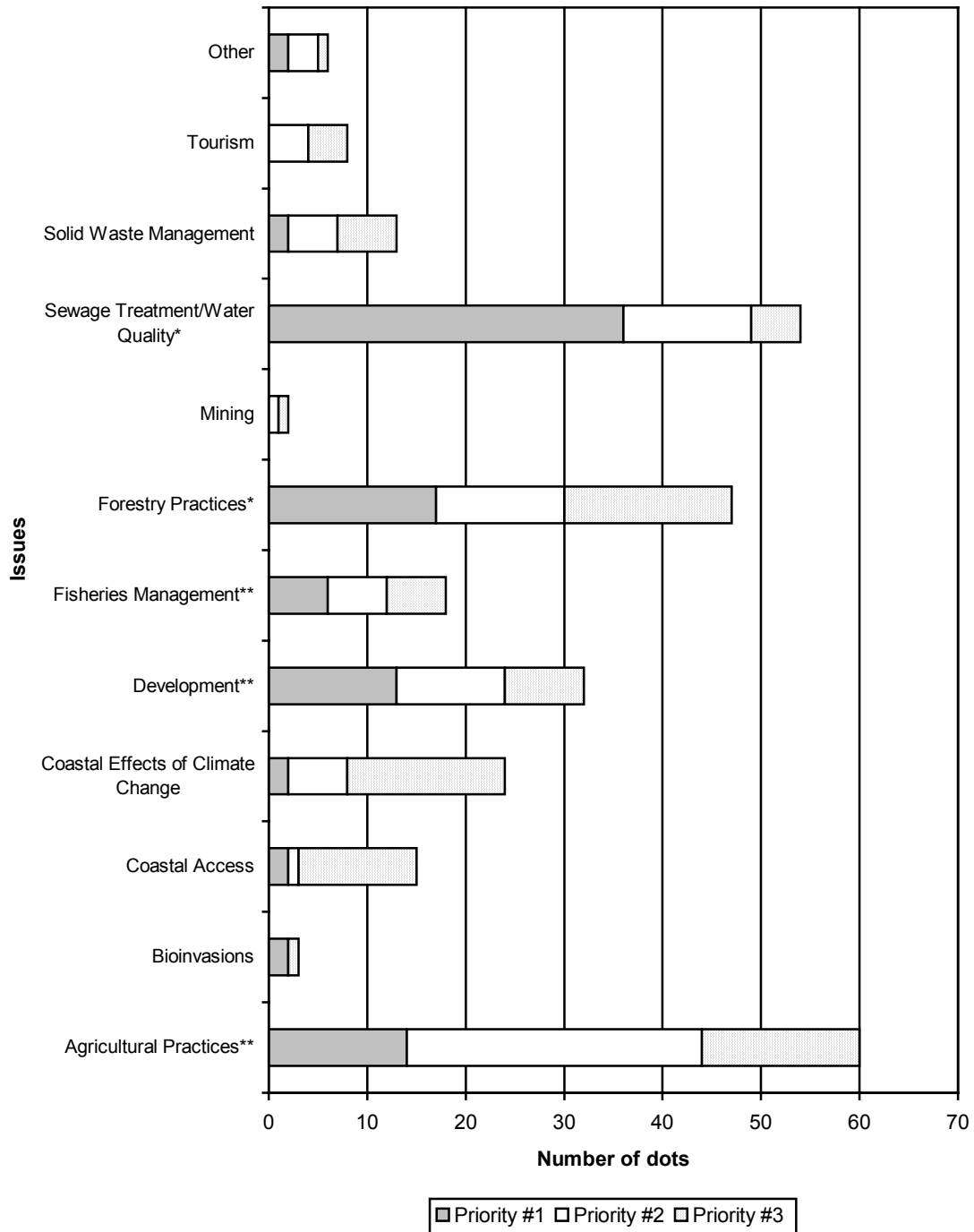
Table 2

Focus Group Discussion Structure for Each Community Forum

Wolfville	Truro	Parrsboro
<p>Discuss/Answer the Following Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the issue of concern? • How do we address this issue? • Who wants to be involved? (Check box on sign up sheet) • Identify lead for group? (Put name on sign up sheet) • Identify who else needs to be involved? • What are the next steps to be taken? • What do we need? (Resources etc.) 	<p>Turn discussion over to Facilitator to follow the next steps:</p> <p>BRAINSTORM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific issues of concern in this broader issue - what are your concerns and why? <p>FOCUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus the group by trying to pull together issues into “major issues” and identify the one(s) this group wants to address. <p>SOLUTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How could we attempt to solve the problem? <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific actions we can undertake? <p>WHO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who do we need to help us? <p>RESOURCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What resources do we need? (Funding, maps, reports, technical data, access to government etc.... 	<p>Turn discussion over to Facilitator to follow the next steps:</p> <p>COMMENTS AND CONCERNS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your concerns and why? <p>FOCUS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the major issue(s) from the brainstorming session above or those this group would like to focus on <p>ACTIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the specific actions we can undertake?

Figure 1

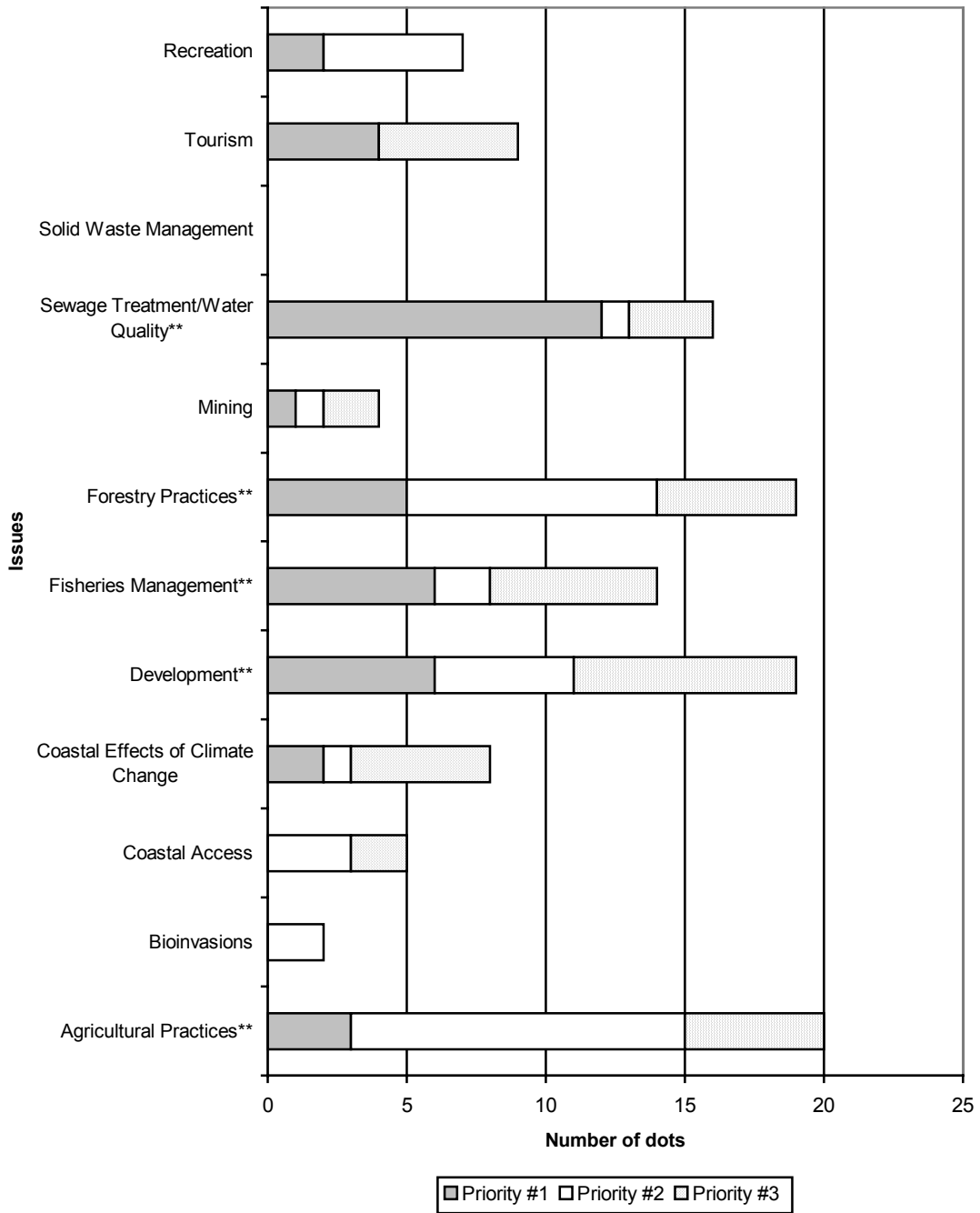
Summary of Wolfville Community Forum – Prioritizing Issues



** Indicates the issues that became focus group discussions

Figure 2

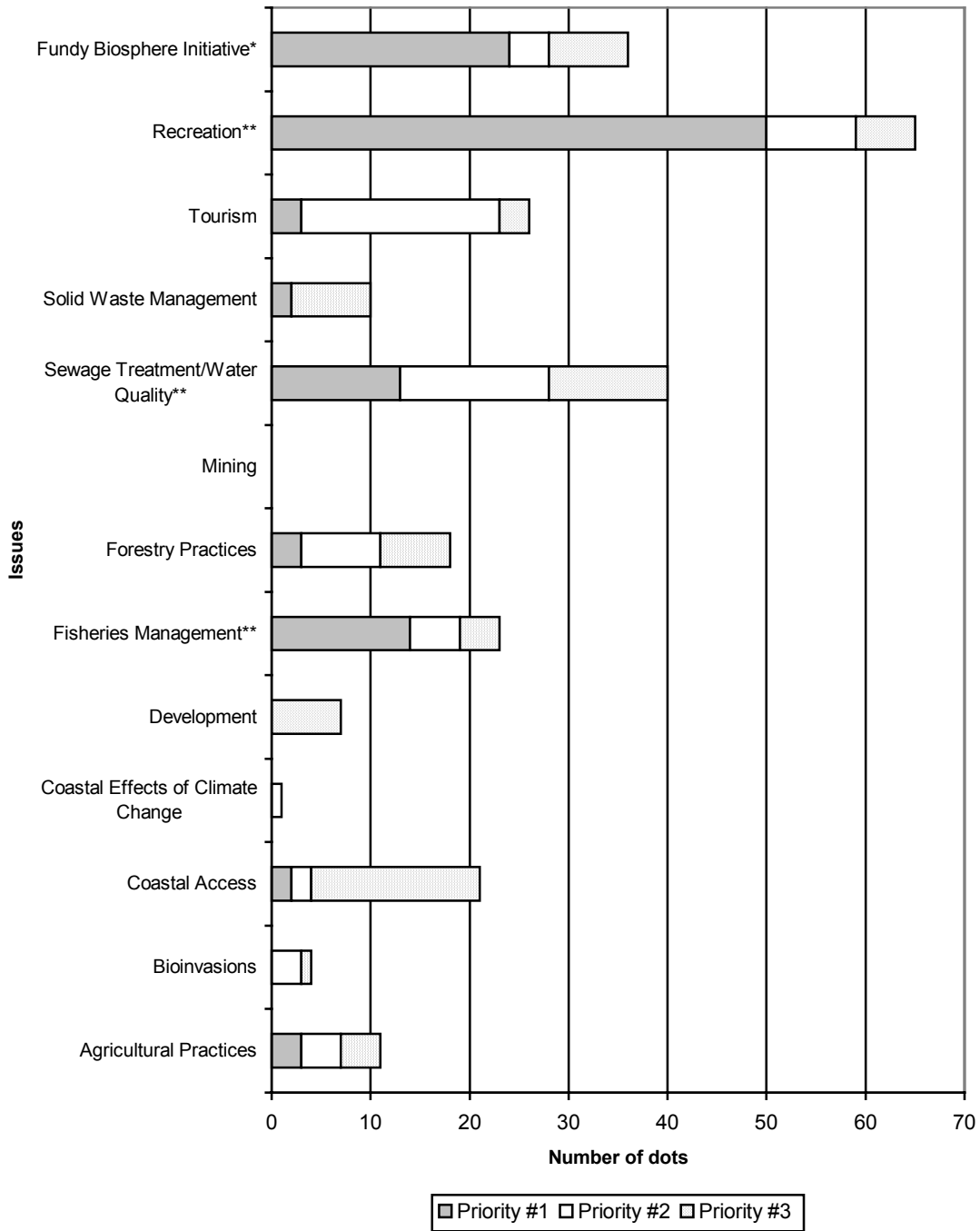
Summary of Truro Community Forum – Prioritizing Issues



** Indicates the issues that became focus group discussions

Figure 3

Summary of Parrsboro Community Forum – Prioritizing Issues



** Indicates the issues that became focus group discussions

Note: Recreation and Fundy Biosphere Initiative results may be misleading since the issue “Fundy Biosphere Initiative” was not added to the list until part way through the prioritizing exercise. Until that point some people concerned about the Biosphere Initiative may have put their dots on the Recreation category.

COMMUNITY FORUM RESULTS

Several of the main characteristics of each Community Forum are summarized in Table 3. Attendance was highest in Parrsboro and Wolfville but a similar number of displays were found at all three forums. Attendance in Parrsboro was greatly affected by many participants thinking the forum was meant to only discuss the Fundy Biosphere Initiative. In all 3 community Forums, however, Fisheries Management and Water Quality/Sewage were priority concerns and hence became discussion groups. In Wolfville and Truro, Development, Forestry Practices, and Agricultural Practices were also priority concerns. The Community Forum in Parrsboro differed somewhat with focus group discussions being held on Recreation/Tourism and The Fundy Biosphere Initiative.

Table 3

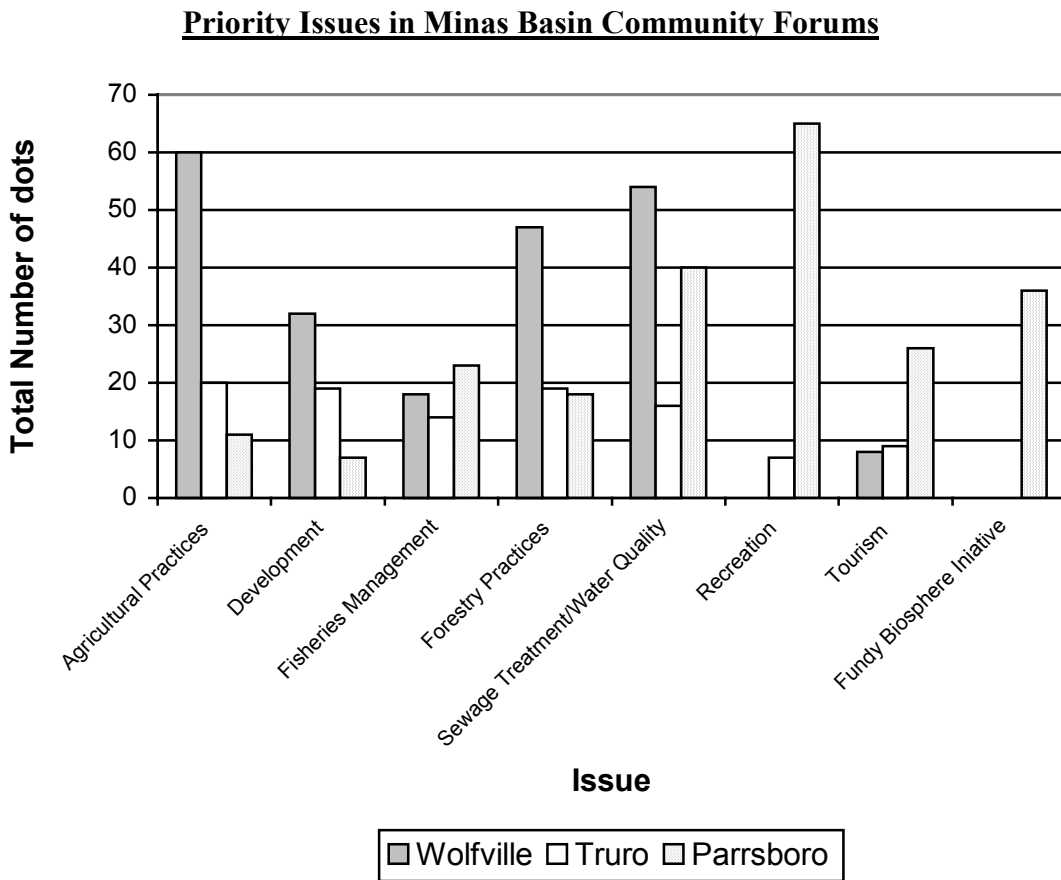
Community Forum Characteristics

	Wolfville (January 24th)	Truro (February 27th)	Parrsboro (April 18th)
Number in attendance	112	58	161
Number of Open House displays	23	24	20
Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Management • Water quality/Sewage • Agricultural Practices • Development • Forestry Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Management • Water quality/Sewage • Agricultural Practices • Development • Forestry Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries Management • Water quality/Sewage • Recreation/Tourism • Fundy Biosphere Initiative

From these results the issues of most concern around the Minas Basin watershed are: Agricultural Practices, Development, Fisheries Management, Forestry Practices, Sewage Treatment/Water Quality, Tourism, and Recreation. Consistently, Sewage

Treatment/Water Quality and Fisheries Management were of concern throughout the watershed, but geographic variations occurred with many of the other issues. For example, Agricultural Practices and Development seem to be of greater concern in Colchester, Hants and Kings Counties, where Tourism and Recreation are of more interest in Cumberland and Colchester Counties. Specific to the north shore of the Minas Basin, was concern over The Fundy Biosphere Initiative. Figure 4 compares the priority issues for each of the community forums and illustrates their intensity of concern at each Community Forum.

Figure 4



Actions Developed

In the focus group discussions at each of the Community Forums, several actions were recorded. Tables 4 through 6 summarize these actions for each focus group discussion. A summary and comparison of the actions developed at each Community Forum is displayed in Table 7. Table 8 outlines some of the common actions raised in all three Community Forums.

Table 4

Actions Identified at Wolfville Community Forum

<p>Agricultural Practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unite like-minded groups/individuals and strengthen networking to provide leadership role • Research effects of practices on the environment and then review best management practices • Educate farmers and public on effects of practices, land ethics, best management practices, etc. • Work with government to create incentives and enforcement of best management practices • Create a strategy to collect information, clarify problems, and identify steps to make things happen! (Involve community, farmers, government, etc.)
<p>Development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devote more effort to assessment and measurement of the impacts of development • Educate selves and public on the scope of the problem – need a communications and education strategy to do this (pamphlets, fact sheets, newsletters, web page, etc.) • Create a development plan for Annapolis Valley area (identify areas of value in community; areas to be protected (non-development) to ensure conservation of biodiversity/ecological integrity and function of critical ecosystem process; low impact recreation use (especially ensure coastal access maintained), etc.)
<p>Fisheries Management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory historical and present status of fishery resources in Minas Basin (so appropriate targets can be developed) • Inventory status of fish habitat (data could then be used to prioritize habitat for conservation/protection/restoration) • Identify all stakeholders (fishers, government, community groups, NGO's, and non-fishing industries that affect fish, fish habitat, and water quality) • Identify an organization or group to take the lead role as well as specific leaders • Explore links between fisheries and communities and include this information when assessing importance of fisheries • Identify sources of funding • Facilitate information exchange between DFO and user groups (stock status, water and habitat quality, etc.) • Develop integrated management for fisheries in Minas Basin (build on BoFEP Integrated Fisheries Management Proposal)

Forestry Practices:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inventory current forestry groups and activities• Identify and create incentive programs for foresters (money, publicity, taxes, etc.)• Review and recommend improvements to legislation• Have conference/meeting with all key players identified
Water Quality/Sewage:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create State of Water Report for surface and groundwater (including quality/quantity; sources of contamination and other threats; effects threats could/do have on aquatic resources, etc.)• Have more in-depth discussion and some priority given to issues and the ensuing actions• Work towards utilizing legislation more effectively, and developing standards rather than relying on CCME guidelines• Establish a coalition with community water boards (include representative stakeholders and citizens)• Enhance communication between government and communities on water issues (ensure public has access to water information and government is aware of public concerns)• Educate and raise awareness about water issues with the wider public• Lobby government for more funding for water issues• Work toward jurisdictions clarifying their authority and responsibilities (federal-provincial-municipal)• Work on having formal environmental assessments of all projects affecting water resources (including some already established projects)• Investigate local capacity (our capability) for water management• Develop a Water Strategy for the region (review existing models from elsewhere in Canada that could be applied to area; use of report cards to see how well we are doing, etc.)

Common Themes Identified at Wolfville Community Forum:

1. More information about current conditions is needed. The “state of resources and quality of environment” in Minas Basin Watershed.
2. Better communication between stakeholders and easier access to information for public is needed.
3. Coalitions or “united fronts” need to be created to tackle issues and take leadership roles.
4. Strategic/management plans need to be developed for issues.
5. The lack of resources (funding, volunteers etc.) needs to be addressed.
6. Education of resource users and the public on the impacts of practices and sustainable practices needs to be undertaken and or increased.

Table 5

Actions Identified at Truro Community Forum

<p>Agricultural Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote more research on the effects of pesticides • Educate farmers on their potential impacts to the environment, and on best management practices • Work with government to guide and create incentives for farmers to act responsibly (i.e. demonstration projects) • Improve communication between farmers and recreation users (ATV, trail groups, snowmobiles, etc.) – bring them together to discuss the recreational use of farmland to help reduce conflicts • Increase education and licensing for ATV riders
<p>Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and amend Municipal Act and Provincial EIA process by lobbying interest groups at all levels • Review and amend current legislation for stronger environmental protection • Educate and increase awareness on the issues and the need for change • Bring together stakeholders in this area again
<p>Fisheries Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase research on why stocks have declined (what is causing the problems?) • Educate community and corporations on effects of their practices on waterways and on best management practices • Create a fisheries management plan • Establish a coalition to take a lead in education of community groups and getting their support • Find technical and scientific assistance (research, funding, education etc.) • Improve enforcement of existing legislations
<p>Forestry Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on helping small wood lot owners; educate them on the effects of their practices and help them develop sustainable management plans • Promote government requiring best management practices on crown land • Investigate providing incentives to small wood lot owners with good forestry practices
<p>Water Quality/Sewage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an education program for the public (alternatives, hazards, conservation, renewable resources, water cycle, etc.) • Determine the “state of water” (including sources of contamination/impacts of practices on watershed, state of groundwater, riparian condition?) – create a State of Water Report.

Common Themes Identified from the Truro Community Forum:

1. There needs to be more cooperation and communication between those impacting the environment and those being impacted.
2. Education and awareness raising campaigns need to be undertaken for the public and resource users (on sources of problems, impacts of practices, best management practices, training mechanisms etc.).
3. More research (before education) is needed on the impacts of practices. Community groups are willing to do this, but they need assistance be it financial, logistical, expertise etc.
4. There needs to be changes to policies and legislation, and the introduction of positive incentives for resource users
5. Local groups need guidance and assistance rather than larger management approaches.

Table 6

Actions Identified at Parrsboro Community Forum

Fisheries Management:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote better communication between all fishermen (locally and all around Minas Basin) and between fishermen and DFO (i.e. newsletters or columns in local papers, one DFO contact person, fisheries officers more involved, etc.) • Promote recognition of the Upper Bay of Fundy as a unique region which should be managed separately from the entire Bay of Fundy • Become involved in BoFEP Fisheries Management proposal for the Upper Bay of Fundy
Fundy Biosphere Initiative:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote better communication between proponents of biosphere and residents to address concerns regarding what a Biosphere actually entails, and to provide more community input into the decision making process
Recreation/Tourism:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help ATV trail organizations to develop a trail pass system and implement trail wardens and trail maintenance activities • Create a well developed trail system to encourage more ATV tourism in the area (similar to snowmobile focus in NB) • Organize a meeting between ATV user groups, relevant government departments and environmental groups to discuss guidelines for ATV use (i.e. discuss sensitive areas to be off limits, potential amendments of Wilderness Areas to allow motorized vehicle access to some areas, etc.) • Improve education on how ATV users can patrol and educate themselves on better practices (perhaps a conference?)

Water Quality/Sewage:

- Create a united front on water issues – create an action group to coordinate activities and link with BoFEP
- Obtain information on the use/regulations/effects of chemicals used on blueberries
- Create a communication network (i.e. internet) to circulate information
- Conduct a survey of groundwater quality and quantity (including predictions for the future)
- Review examples of existing groups and the issues they are working on (CARP, ACAP, etc.)

Common Themes Identified from the Parrsboro Community Forum:

1. There needs to be more cooperation, communication and networking amongst various stakeholders.
2. Coalitions or “united fronts” need to be created to tackle issues and take leadership roles.
3. The community wants to gather more information and educate themselves on the issues, more sustainable practices and how other communities are dealing with these issues.
4. More research (before education) is needed on the impacts of practices.

Table 7

Summary of Actions Raised at Community Forums

Focus Group Discussion	Forum Location		
	Wolfville	Truro	Parrsboro
Agricultural Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a <u>coalition</u> • <u>Research</u> effects of practices • <u>Educate</u> the public & farmers • Create <u>incentive</u> programs • Create a <u>strategy!</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Research</u> effects of pesticides • <u>Educate</u> farmers • Create <u>incentives</u> for BMP's • <u>Increase communication</u> between farmers & recreation users • <u>Hold discussions</u> between farmers and recreation users • Increase <u>education</u> for ATV users 	
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a <u>development plan</u> • Assess & measure impacts of development • <u>Educate</u> on the scope of problem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review legislation • <u>Educate & increase awareness of public</u> • Bring stakeholders from that area together 	
Fisheries Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Inventory</u> status of resources and habitats • ID stakeholders & funding • ID organization to take lead • <u>Increase communication</u> between DFO and fishermen • Create <u>management plan</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>More research</u> (why stocks in decline?) • <u>Increase education, communication, and cooperation</u> • Create a <u>coalition</u> • Find technical and scientific assistance • Better enforcement of legislation • Create a <u>management plan</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase <u>communication</u> amongst selves and with DFO • Increase recognition of the Upper Bay as distinct area • Get involved in –BoFEP Fisheries Management proposal
Forestry Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Inventory</u> current activities • Create <u>incentives</u> • Review legislation • Bring stakeholders together for <u>discussions</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Educate</u> and help small woodlot owners develop <u>management plans</u> • Create <u>incentives</u> • Lobby for best management practices on Crown land 	

Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro Forums

Focus Group Discussion	Forum Location		
	Wolfville	Truro	Parrsboro
Water Quality/ Sewage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Develop State of Water Report</u> • <u>Increase communication</u> between government and communities • Create a <u>coalition</u> • Have more discussion on issues • Develop standards • <u>Educate</u> the public • Investigate local capacity for water management • Clarify jurisdictions • Require an EIA for all projects affecting water resources • Create a water <u>strategy</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Develop a State of Water Report</u> • <u>Educate the public</u> (alternatives, conservation, resources etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Develop a State of Water Report</u> • <u>Educate</u> selves and form a <u>coalition</u> • Create a <u>communication</u> network • Review existing groups and process
Recreation/ Tourism			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a trail system for ATV Tourism • <u>Increase communication</u> between users & environmentalists • <u>Educate</u> ATV users • Help ATV groups organize and monitor themselves
Fundy Biosphere Initiative			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Increase communication</u> between proponents of biosphere reserve and residents

Table 8

Common Actions Raised at Community Forums

1. Create a “united front” or coalition within the communities/ create networks
2. Inventory state of resources/current activities
3. Research effects of practices
4. Increase education for public and resource users (effects of practices/best management practices etc.)
5. Research and promote use of incentives for resource users
6. Increase communication and cooperation between various stakeholders
7. Review relevant legislation
8. Create strategies and plans

NEXT STEPS

As previously mentioned, the MBWG is approaching the Integrated Management Project as a fluid process, and this approach will also apply to the next phase of the project. The intention of the MBWG is to revisit the focus groups from each of the Community Forums and bring together individuals who identified themselves as potential leaders or expressed interest in participating in action groups. From the fourteen focus groups six individuals identified themselves as potential leaders and many more expressed interest in being involved in action groups (See Appendix D for information on action group Leaders and Appendix E for individuals interested in participating in action groups). With the aid of the MBWG, these action groups will be encouraged to develop detailed action plans that will establish goals, objectives, priorities, and specific work plan actions to undertake over the next year. Members of the MBWG and others will serve as resources to assist in the development of work plans. It is the desire of the MBWG to eventually have a network of action groups around the Minas Basin watershed networked in a manner that they can easily support and communicate each other.

POTENTIAL ROLE AND PROJECTS FOR THE MINAS BASIN WORKING GROUP

The specific role of the MBWG continues to evolve as the Integrated Management Process moves forward. The MBWG's role will depend largely on the needs of the action groups, however, the MBWG may also choose to follow up on some of the specific actions identified and help to develop them. Table 9 identifies two possible primary roles the MBWG could assume, and Table 10 summarizes some potential projects the MBWG could undertake as identified in the Community Forums focus group discussions.

Table 9

Potential Roles for Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP

1. Networking and communication link
 - Connecting groups with each other (creating coalitions/partners/networks)
 - Connecting communities with expertise needed
 - Connecting students with groups to work on projects

2. Guidance and assistance to local groups on:
 - Development of Management Plans and Strategies
 - Finding information
 - Developing "State of Resource" reports
 - Holding stakeholder meetings/conferences
 - Creating Education Programs
 - Finding funding sources
 - Approaching government to re-examine policies/legislation and develop standards

Table 10

Potential Projects for Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP

1. Bring ATV/Hikers/Naturalists/Government together to discuss guidelines for use and access around Minas Basin
2. Help communities develop educational programs for public and resource users on the effects their practices have on water supplies
3. Pair student research projects with community groups to work on some of the research needs in the watershed: state of resources, effects of practices, decline of fish resources, links between fisheries and communities
4. Pair student projects with community groups to work on projects such as appropriate best management practices, possible incentives, creation of a development plan in the Annapolis Valley, funding sources, review legislation and develop standards, develop public education programs, etc.
5. Hold another meeting specifically to further discuss water quality issues in the Annapolis Valley area, and develop priorities to ensure actions
6. Bring stakeholders together to flesh out development issues and potential actions in Truro area
7. Find technical and scientific assistance for the fisheries management action group in the Truro area
8. Promote the Upper Bay of Fundy as a unique region which should be managed separately from the entire Bay of Fundy
9. Help citizens concerned about the Fundy Biosphere Initiative organize themselves and the questions they have about the initiative to present to the proponents and find the answers they are looking for
10. Help ATV trail organizations with a strategy to develop, maintain, and self regulate trail systems in the Parrsboro area.

SUMMARY

The Community Forums that have taken place to this date have been successful in achieving several of their objectives. They have also provided the MBWG with an initial step towards Integrated Management of the Minas Basin watershed.

Accomplishments of the Community Forums:

- The MBWG has become more aware of groups, organizations, and key individuals in the communities working in resource areas or interested in sustainable management of the Minas Basin watershed.
- Groups throughout the Minas Basin watershed were able to begin networking with each other, and the public has become more aware of the groups and their activities in the watershed.
- The public and many community organizations were introduced to the Minas Basin Integrated Management Project.
- The MBWG was able to obtain a better understanding of the major issues of concern within communities and a sense of their relative priority. As well, other issues that were previously unknown were identified.
- Several leaders and interested individuals were identified to form action groups throughout the watershed.
- Many activities were identified that the MBWG can work with action groups to implement.
- The MBWG has a clearer idea of the potential roles they can play in the Integrated Management Process.

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Issue Identification in Minas Basin Watershed

(completed February/March 2001)

NOTE: The following list of issues raised by the groups is by no means comprehensive. Although they do not represent the only concerns in the Minas Basin Watershed, from the brief time spent of the project, an emphasis on a few key issues emerged. Those concerns repeated most often, and with the most urgency have been indicated with *.

- * Water Quality and water resources; availability and health
- * Tourism potential – Focus for all development agencies and many local community groups
- * Lack of fishery left in the Minas Basin, and fierce competition for stocks
- * Delicacy of Minas Basin environment; increased vulnerability to stresses – oil or fuel spills, over fishing, pollution etc.
- * Forest management practices; no requirements for buffers in riparian zones, clear-cutting practices – affect water quality and habitat
- * Agricultural practices; pollution of rivers, causing sedimentation in rivers, allowing no buffers around rivers
- * Smaller community groups lack resources; financial, technical and manpower, resources get stretched thin and people overworked (most volunteers have full time jobs too), often find funding applications complicated, time consuming and restrictive
- * Lack of concern/awareness; about historical and cultural resources of area and about the way resources are exploited (live for today mentality)
- Lack of Government support; in fishery, agriculture
- Lack of Government, industry and community vision; concerned about job creation and growth (live for the present mentality) – not aware of the impacts of their actions
- Many key significant areas are not acknowledged or protected (i.e. Shubie river is largest un-dammed tidal river on BOF, Burntcoat Head has recorded the World's highest tides or even the tidal flats – no representation in the provincial Protected areas strategy)
- Fisheries management policies - allow commercial fleets into upper BOF – no consideration of conservation issues or for locals who are custodians of the resource.
- Identification of “hot spots” and their interaction with tourism and coastal development (i.e. Grand Pre at migratory bird time is high density of people). Many places don't have the resources to establish where people should go, or about educating them about what impact they have there.
- Lack of protected areas and representational landscapes; especially in Hants and Kings Counties were most land is privately owned
- State of roads and lack of infrastructure for tourism
- Lack of public access to coasts/lack of wharves for fishers; much of coastline in privately owned
- Coastal Erosion; primarily along the Noel shore (concern is high in villages and towns where residential properties are affected, but low in some areas where farms or woodlots are (less noticeable))

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- Lack of information on how things are changing in the Minas Basin (for better or worse) and why? (i.e.; increased number of sandbars, decrease in number of shorebirds..)
- Local governments feel they have limited powers but lots of responsibility
- Some want more transfer of power to community; community based management; in fishery
- Governments reducing their involvement in activities but not offering the community much support (resources) to take over responsibilities (lighthouses, harbours, fishery etc.)
- Potential conflicts with the Native Fishery; local fishers indicate willing to negotiate as long as “fair”
- Flooding in flood plain zones – caused by culmination of things: dykes, ice jamming, urban runoff, tides, storm water runoff etc.
- Storm water management of urban community (get a lot of pollution this way!), and storm water runoff at headwaters (i.e. Bad forestry practices – Are they clear cutting too close to the rivers? Are they maintaining riparian zones? What is causing??)
- Bioinvasions – on ship hulls, ballast water and aquaculture
- Climate change and its implications; affect on coastlines, flooding, loss of habitat, change in species patterns, agriculture contribution to and the effects on it (drought)

Appendix B

Workshops and Public Consultation Projects of the Minas Basin Watershed

Workshops and Public Consultations Held in Minas Basin Watershed
<p>Coastal 2000 [1994] Contact: Pat Hinch, NSDOE - Developed under the Nova Scotia Land Use Planning Committee to provide framework for the strategic planning which is required across NS. - Held community workshops to understand community priorities for sustainable economic development - Initiated by provincial government but designed to be community based and community lead</p>
<p>Round Table for Environment and Economy 97/98</p>
<p>Volunteer Planning (access to shoreline)</p>
<p>KARDS (Kings Annapolis Rural Development Society) Contact: Mary DesRoches or Glanville Travis (not operating currently) - Have held several workshops on local issues throughout Kings County</p>
<p>Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Process on provincial Crown Lands, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources [Public Consultations held 1996 and 2000] Contacts: Gary Westoll (Central Region) and Gordon Adams (Western Region) - Held series of public consultations around NS to get public input on the IRM Process (issues of concern and what they want to see happen with provincial crown lands) - Now starting to develop long-range management plans for each parcel of crown land</p>
<p>Kings Community Economic Development Agency, “Sustainable Development Fair” [Summer 1998] Contact: Robin Marshall, Director KCED - Held in Greenwich - Held Sustainable Development Fair and had workshops throughout the day</p>
<p>Coastal Communities Network - “Building Common Ground Workshops” [1999] Contact: Mary DesRoches, CCN - Held workshops in Upper Bay region on Community Based Management</p>
<p>Coastal Communities Network – Cultural Workshops - Held series of workshops around the province, each held by different cultural group (Acadians, Blacks, Fisheries, Mi’kmaq, etc.)</p>
<p>Ecology Action Centre – “Getting Dirty: the Why and How of Salt Marsh Restoration” Workshop [November 2000] - Contact: Tony Bowron, Ecology Action Centre - Held public workshop on salt marsh restoration at Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville - Currently working with Noel Shore Game Protection Association to identify and restore degraded salt marshes (they have a short list of potential sites based on social interest and ecological importance)</p>
<p>Canadian Coast Guard, DFO – “Community Action Partnership Program” (CAPP) [Began 2001-Current] (CARP is involved in this process) - Contact: Garnet Spicer, DFO - Goal is to get community involvement in oil spill planning and response - To acquire local knowledge and to supplement the clean-up workforce</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed process in North Shore of Bay of Fundy and now holding community workshops in Minas Basin and South Shore of Bay of Fundy during Spring 2001 - Participants include community groups, environmental organizations, local businesses, industry and individuals - Addressing potential spills from gypsum boats (bunker fuel), lobster boats (diesel), super tankers in an out of St. Johns)
<p>Marine Protected Areas Workshop, DFO [March 2001] Contact: Maria Buzeta (DFO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Held at Acadia University in Wolfville - To get public comment on the governments process of developing Marine Protected Areas

<p>Current and On-going Projects in the Minas Basin Watershed Involving Public Consultation</p>
<p>Nova Forest Alliance [Began 1998 - Current] Contact: Brian Sykes, General Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on one area of Minas Basin watershed, 458,000 hectares of land in Central Nova Scotia (Truro to Halifax, Windsor to Caribou Mines) - Vision is to achieve sustainable forest management through the co-operative partnership within the unique context of NS's Acadian forest ecosystems - Is partnership of 42+/- groups and organizations including government, industry, private landowners, first nations, and environmental groups, Universities
<p>Sustainable Communities Initiative [Began 1999 - Current] Contact: Co-chairs for Annapolis/Fundy region are Colleen McNeil and Louise Watson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal and Provincial government initiative - Bras D'Or region and Annapolis/Fundy (A/F) region (Westport to Scots Bay) have been selected as pilot projects - A/F region have been finding hard to figure out process and how to engage community
<p>Community Asset Mapping project, Acadia Centre for Small Business and Entrepreneurship [Began 1999 - Current] (working with East Hants Tourism Association) Contact: Gordon Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The purpose of community asset mapping is to increase the knowledge and awareness of a community's attributes and resources by finding out the capabilities and interests in the community and making connections between them and what businesses, organizations, resources exist. - Doing pilot project in East Hants; Completed first phase that tried to find the capabilities and interests in the community (primarily through interviews) and currently doing second phase to identify businesses, organizations and resources. - They hoped to hold a conference at end of summer trying to link people
<p>Fundy Biosphere Reserve Proposal [Began 2000 – Current] Contact: Tom Young,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spearheaded by BoFEP Tourism Sub-Committee - Considering Minas Basin and Chignecto Bay areas for Biosphere Reserve - Have held many public information sessions with RDA's and Industry throughout Minas Basin Watershed since 2000.
<p>Integrated Coastal Planning Project, Daltech [Current] Contact: Alison Evans, Daltech</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Doing pilot project around Bay of Fundy on interaction between Municipal planners and their knowledge and interaction of marine/coastal environment

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Already had meetings with all planners around Bay of Fundy- Hope to hold more workshops in future
<p>Cobequid Watershed Group [Current] Contact: Crawford MacPherson, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Pilot project encompassing the rivers and salt-water environment around the Truro area (Upper Cobequid Bay, Salmon River, North River, Chignois River watersheds), to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan- They identified stakeholders and issues through an initial workshop- The group is made up of wide representation of community groups from the watershed area- Will be holding public workshops in Fall 2001-Winter 2002
<p>Valley Watershed Stewardship Association [Began Spring 2001 – Current] Contact: Larry Honey, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Have held several “open to the public” meetings in Kings County- Focus is on water resources (quantity and quality) of water in Annapolis Valley
<p>Coastal Communities Network – Rural Policy [Began Spring 2001 - Current] Contact: Steven Dukeshire, Project Coordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Helping rural communities develop tools to impact policy- No workshops yet

Appendix C

Issues Sheets Summary – Wolfville

Issue	Number of Dots			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	14	30	16	60
Bioinvasions	2	0	1	3
Coastal Access	2	1	12	15
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	2	6	16	24
Development	13	11	8	32
Fisheries Management	6	6	6	18
Forestry Practices	17	13	17	47
Mining	0	1	1	2
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	36	13	5	54
Solid Waste Management	2	5	6	13
Tourism	0	4	4	8
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Biodiversity and Health</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Detrimental Soil Changes (from Agricultural Sprays and Fertilizers)</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Toxins from Anti-fouling Paint Products</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Ship/Watercraft Sewage and Waste</i>	0	0	1	1

Issues Sheets Summary – Truro

Issue	Number of Dots			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	3	12	5	20
Bioinvasions	0	2	0	2
Coastal Access	0	3	2	5
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	2	1	5	8
Development	6	5	8	19
Fisheries Management	6	2	6	14
Forestry Practices	5	9	5	19
Mining	1	1	2	4
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	12	1	3	16
Solid Waste Management	0	0	0	0
Tourism	4	0	5	9
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Recreation</i>	2	5	0	7

Issues Sheets Summary – Parrsboro

Issue	Number of Dots Posted			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	3	4	4	11
Bioinvasions	0	3	1	4
Coastal Access	2	2	17	21
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	0	1	0	1
Development	0	0	7	7
Fisheries Management	14	5	4	23
Forestry Practices	3	8	7	18
Mining	0	0	0	0
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	13	15	12	40
Solid Waste Management	2	0	8	10
Tourism	3	20	3	26
Recreation	50	9	6	65
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Fundy Biosphere Initiative</i>	24	4	8	36

Appendix D

Leads Identified in Minas Basin Community Forums

Wolfville Community Forum	
Focus Group	Lead(s) Identified
Agricultural Practices	Richard Henniger (possibly)
Development	Tony Bowron (possibly)
Fisheries Management	Jamie Gibson
Forestry Practices	None
Water Quality/Sewage	None
Truro Community Forum	
Focus Group	Lead(s) Identified
Agricultural Practices	Dick Huggard and/or Brian MacCulloch
Development	None
Fisheries Management	Denise Kennell
Forestry Practices	None
Water Quality/Sewage	None
Parrsboro Community Forum	
Focus Group	Lead(s) Identified
Fisheries Management	None
Fundy Biosphere Initiative	None
Recreation/Tourism	Craig Greene and/or David Yorke
Water Quality/Sewage	None

Appendix E

Individuals Interested in being Part of Action Groups

Wolfville Community Forum	
Focus Group	Interested Individuals
Agricultural Practices	Alex DeNicola? Brian Newcombe? James Ferguson Peggy Hope-Simpson? Graham Fisher? Robin Whidden?
Development	Brogan Anderson? Dan Kustudich John MacLachlan Louise Watson Karen Beazley Scott Brown Gordon Haliburton Robin Marshall Glyn Bissix Munju Ravindra Tom Herman
Fisheries Management	Reginald Walsh Pam Comeau Paul MacKay D. Scott Cook Bill Whitman
Forestry Practices	Scott Burbidge? Lorraine McQueen Cameron McQueen Susan Gore? Joan Bromled John Abati Keiko Lui Delancy Bishop S. Hauer? Lorna Gillis? Brenda Davidson?
Water Quality/Sewage	Arnold Forsythe Delmar Jordan Gary Cochrane Donald Hendricks Peter Bagnell Karen Maclellan Greg Maclellan Garfield Whitman Ralph Burt

Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro Forums

	Elaine Hendricks Graham Fisher?
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Truro Community Forum	
Focus Group	Interested Individuals
Agricultural Practices	Desiree Stockermans JoAnn Fewer Darrell Hingley? Vincent Deadder
Development	Angela Bond Anna Parks Ross Hall?
Fisheries Management	Paul MacIsaac Ivan Polley Naomi Shalit Andrew Magloire Mike Parker
Forestry Practices	Tom Rudolph Steve Harder Ron Taylor Darria Langill Garnet McLaughlin
Water Quality/Sewage	Christopher Greene Tom Rudolph Alexia McLaughlin Stacie Carroll

Parrsboro Community Forum	
Focus Group	Interested Individuals
Fisheries Management	Denise Kennell Craig Hominick Gerry Taylor Mike Lewis
Fundy Biosphere Initiative	None
Recreation/Tourism	Tim Brown Mac Davis Rob Fancy Ed Doucette Wendall Sabean Brian Blakney David Heffernan ...Matthews Keith Bowman Garnet Irving

Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro Forums

	Sherman Carter Cheryl Hiltz George Pugsley Mike Smith Layton McDermot Carl Canning Blaine Perry Claude Soley Tom Hunter Dave Duguay Eldon Ackels Ken Adams Paul Gauthier Gerald Mercer
Water Quality/Sewage	Irene Taylor Garry Maclean Ruth Maclean Jaques Lemay Terri McCulloch

? means participant said they might be interested in participating

Appendix F

Forum Participants

Wolfville Community Forum

John Abati	Chris Greene	Kathleen Martin
Brogan Anderson	Ross Griffin	William Mckay
Peter Bagnell	Doris Hagmann	John McLachlan
Karen Beazley	Gordon Haliburton	Greg McLellan
John Belvin	Edith Haliburton	Karen McLellan
Greg Bezanson	Heather Hamilton	Shayne McQuaid
Lance Bishop	Suzan Hauer	Cameron McQueen
Glyn Bissix	Eric Hebb	Lorraine McQueen
Sue Bissix	Lynn Hebb	Gregg Morrison
Kevin Blair	Don Hendricks	Doug Morse
Roger Blatt	Elaine Hendricks	Brian Newcombe
Suzie Blatt	Terry Hennigar	Reg Newell
James Borden	Richard Hennigar	Jerry Pleasant
Tony Bowron	Doug Hergett	Rosalie Prest
Joan Bromley	Tom Herman	Gary Randall
Scott Brown	David Simpson	Munju Ravindra
Scott Burbidge	Peggy Hope Simpson	Linda Redmond
Ralph Burt	Leslie Hunter	Britt Roscoe
Bill Butler	Oscar Huntley	Denise Roy
Bruce Carter	Earle Illsley	Gloria Shanks
Keith Casey	John Janmaat	Richard Skinner
Claude Cochrane	Delmar Jordan	Madonna Spinazola
Gary Cochrane	Larry Kemp	Betty States
Pamela Comeau	Patty Kendrick	Joseph States
Sue Conebearer	Dr. Klassen	David Stiles
Scott Cook	Mrs. Klassen	Ted Stoddart
Gail Corkum	Tom Krausse	Bill Swetam
Brenda Davidson	Dan Kustudich	Peter Swetam
Dave Duggan	Michele Kustudich	John Swetnam
James Ferguson	Ruth Lapp	Peter Terauds
Graham Fisher	Alex Levy	Neil von Nostrand
Arnold Fosythe	Keiko Lui	Louise Watson
Keith Fuller	Clinton MacInnes	Max Westhead
Alice Galley	Paul MacKay	Robin Whidden
Harry Galley	Anita MacLellan	Garfield Whitman
Jamie Gibson	Dawn MacNeill	Bill Whitman
Andrew Gillis	Ronald MacNeill	Jim Wolford
Lorna Gillis	Crawford MacPherson	Lori Wrye
Sue Gore	Robin Marshall	

Truro Community Forum

Keith Baas
Dorina Basurto
Bob Baxter
Angela Bond
Jennet Bowdridge
Kevin Caines
Stacie Carroll
John Charles
Pam Comeau
Cameron Deacoff
Vince Deadder
Weidong Deng
Cathy Enright
Hestor Escara
Jo Ann Fewer
Elena Garcia
Filiphina Gojar
Shannon Googoo
Christopher Greene
Thomas Hall
Ross Hall
Steve Harder

Darrell Hingley
Pat Hogan
Dick Huggard
Stephanie Hui
Oscar Huntley
Elaine Jeffery's
Denise Kennell
Leslie Kieley
Hank Kolstee
David Langill
Colleen Lemmon
Michael Logan
Tricia Lovell
Brian MacCulloch
Greg MacDonald
Paul MacIsaac
Don MacLean
Anita MacLellan
Rod MacLennan
Andrew Magloire
Andrew McCurdy
Alexia McLaughlin

Garnet McLaughlin
Katherine Mott
Heather Paquet
Amanda Park
Mike Parker
Anna Parks
Ivan Polley
Rosalie Prest
Linda Redmond
Tom Rudolph
Adrian Samson
Naomi Shalit
Desiree Stockermans
Randy Tattrie
Ron Taylor
Bob Taylor
Devin Trefry
David Webb
David Yorke
Vangie Yorke

Parrsboro Community Forum

Eldon Ackles
Kenneth Adams
Ruth Allen
Fred Arsenault
Jim Atkinson
Charles Atkinson
Betty Atkinson
Keith Baas
Rosemary Baas
Dennis Babineau
Diane Barre
Toby Beal
Susan Belliveau
Gordon Berry
Brian Blakney
Douglas Boddy
Heather Boddy
Beth Boon
Keith Bowman
Emily Boyd
Richie Boyd
Rick Brodie
Tim Brown
Gordon Brown

Joan Brown
Conrad Byers
Gleneida Canning
Morris Canning
Rod Canning
Carl Canning
Stacie Carroll
Sherman Carter
Carey Chambers
Gary Copeland
Norman Copeland
Randy Corcoran
Ron Cormier
Joan Czapalay
Robert Davis
Mac Davis
Evelyn Davis
Beulah Davis
Kevin Davison
Ed Doucette
Dianne Dowe
Graham Duff
Dave Duguay
John Dunbar

Morton Eagles
Brian Ells
Harry Embree
Robert Fancey
Mike Farrow
Art Fillmore
Edith Fillmore
Debbie Fillmore
David Fillmore
Arden Fletcher
Hilda Fletcher
Mark Fraser
David Gagnon
Paul Gauthier
Bill Gill
Ellie Gill
John and Virginia Graham
Craig Greene
Anita Hamilton
Dave Harris
Bertha Harrison
Gary Harrison
David Heffernan
Bill Heffernan

Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro Forums

Giselle Henwood
Cheryl Hiltz
Craig Hominick
Tom Hunter
Lois Hyslop
Garnet Irving
Grant Jackson
Stephen Jennings
Denise Kennell
Glen Knowlton
Clemment Larson
John Layton
Steve LeBlanc
Raymond Lees
Eric Leighton
Jacques LeMay
Gloria Lewis
Anthony Lewis
Mike Lewis
Ruth MacLean
Gary MacLean
Anita MacLellan
Audrey MacLellan
Max MacLellan
Mary Dee MacPherson
Mrs. Martin
Ralph Martin
George Matthews
Chester McBurnie
Marilyn McBurnie
Tom McCogg
Terri McCulloch
Layton McDermitt

Sylvia McKay
Brad McLaughlin
Bob McLaughlin
James McNutt
Jim McNutt
Bryan Megeney
Bonita Mercer
Gerald Mercer
Ratchford Merriam
Gregory Morris
Reg Myatt
Raylene Nash
Harold Nicholson
Dean Nuttall
Terry Nuttall
Audrey Peck
John Perry
Robert Perry
Blaine Perry
Darell Pettis
Ivan Polley
Dick Porter
Terry Porter
Shane Porter
George Pugsley
Larry Rafuse
Linda Redmond
Mary Reid
Beth Reid
Ben Ripley
David Roberts
Ron Robinson

Doug Robinson
Dorothy Ross
Maxwell Ross
Mackie Ross
Sandra Ross
Wendall Sabean
Terry Shaw
Malcolm Smart
Lloyd Smith
Clayton Smith
Mike Smith
Darcy Snell
Claude Soley
Kathleen Spicer
Brenda Lewis
Stephen Forbes
Bill Swindell
Randy Tattrie
Gerry Taylor
Irene Taylor
Mel Taylor
Larry Tower
Andrew Wagstaff
Barry Walker
C. J. Wells
Ken Welton
Brian Wheaton
Aileen Wiita
Mitchell Yorke
David Yorke

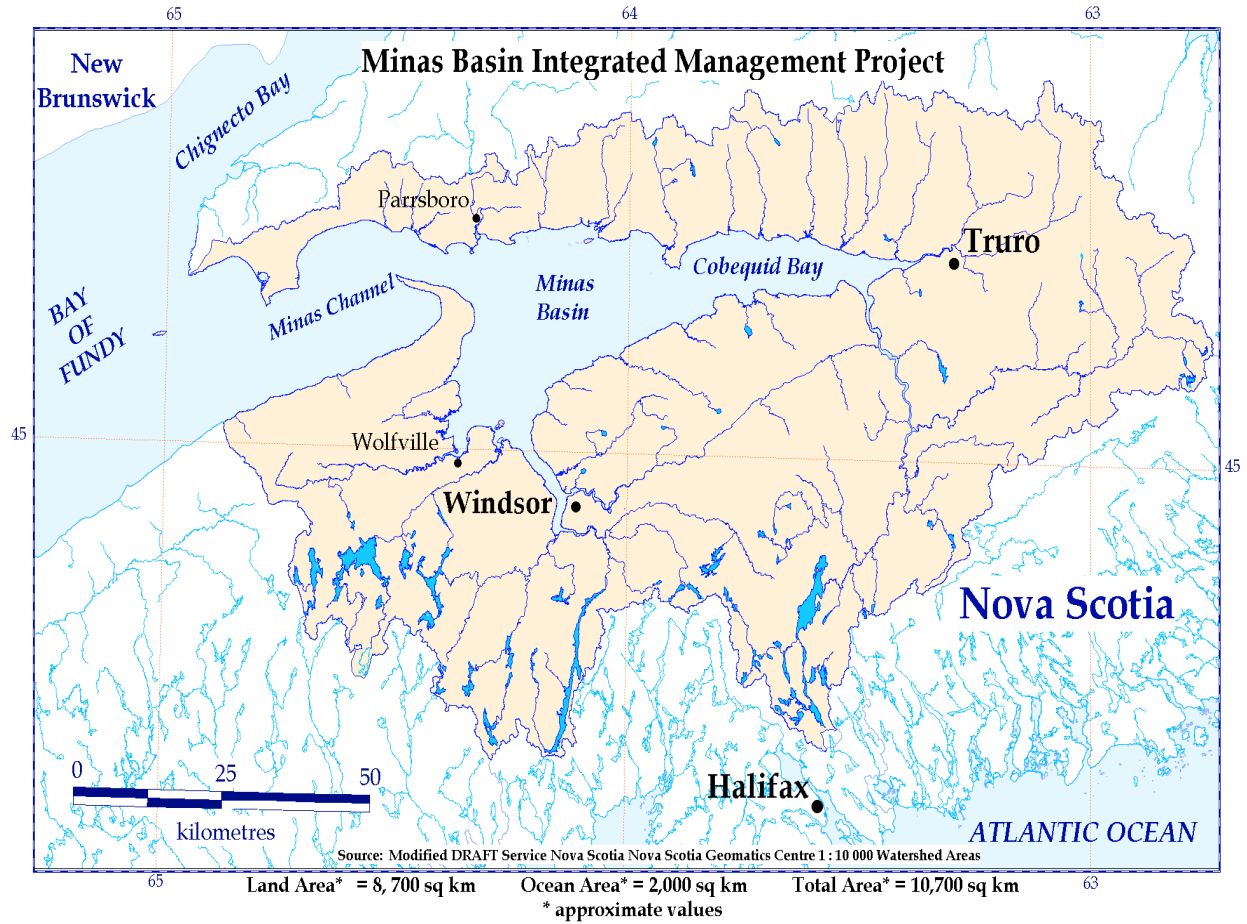
Appendix G

Participating Organizations (Local Co-hosts)

Wolfville Community Forum
Kings County Economic Development Association The Valley Watershed Stewardship Association
Truro Community Forum
The Colchester Regional Development Agency The Cobequid Salmon Association
Parrsboro Community Forum
Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association Parrsboro and District Board of Trade Shore Drive Community Development Association

Appendix H

Map of Minas Basin Watershed



Appendix I

Wolfville Community Forum Summary

Minas Basin Community Forum, Wolfville NS - January 24th, 2002

On Thursday January 24th, 2002, over 100 people gathered to participate in a Community Forum designed to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forum was meant to build on current and past initiatives by government and non-government organizations aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the watershed. The structure of the Forum included an Open House with displays, followed by a discussion period where issues were identified and discussed in small groups.

The Open House was a success with 23 displays that exhibited a wide range of information from government programs to local initiatives. The purpose of the Open House was to let people know what activities were being carried out by other groups, and to network and enhance communication between groups. The discussion period began with Dr. Graham Daborn, Chair of BoFEP, giving a brief introduction to BoFEP, the Minas Basin Working Group and the goals of the Community Forum. Participants were then asked to prioritize the issues they wished to discuss that evening. The full results of this exercise are displayed in the Figure below:

Issues Summary – Minas Basin Community Forum, Wolfville

Issue	Number of Dots Posted			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	14	30	16	60
Bioinvasions	2	0	1	3
Coastal Access	2	1	12	15
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	2	6	16	24
Development	13	11	8	32
Fisheries Management	6	6	6	18
Forestry Practices	17	13	17	47
Mining	0	1	1	2
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	36	13	5	54
Solid Waste Management	2	5	6	13
Tourism	0	4	4	8
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Biodiversity and Health</i>	1	2	0	3
<i>Detrimental Soil Changes (from Agricultural Sprays and fertilizers)</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Toxins from Anti-fouling Paint Products</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Ship/Watercraft Sewage and Waste</i>	0	0	1	1

Based on these results five Focus Groups were formed: Agriculture, Development, Fisheries Management, Forestry Practices and Sewage/Water quality. A summary of discussions held by each Focus Group follows.

Agriculture Practices:

The Agriculture Practices working group identified a large number of issues ranging from genetically modified organisms to protection of groundwater recharge areas. The most general theme, and the one which most of the issues could be related to, is the *sustainability* of agriculture, not only in terms of how it is presently practiced, but also in terms of how it will be impacted by large scale global changes, such as globalization of economic markets and climate change. A major, more local, issue identified was the quality and quantity of water available for agriculture use, which has become a major concern as a result of the unusually dry summers that have occurred in the Annapolis Valley over the last several years.

Development:

Eastern Kings County is one of the fastest growing regions of the province, outside of Metro Halifax. Understandably there is considerable concern about the direction and pace of this growth. It was generally agreed that growth/development is probably inevitable and that this is not necessarily a bad thing in itself if it takes place with careful planning and care for the quality of life of residents. We have to move away from the current overemphasis on tax generating growth towards a planning process that emphasizes sustainable development. We need to look at ways of evolving as a complete community, not just as an economic entity. Local governments should be doing an honest assessment of development that considers the value of all ecosystem components, not just the tax-based components. The negative impacts of development have to be identified and evaluated and where possible eliminated or reduced. There needs to be a systematic plan to protect ecological integrity and the functioning of critical ecosystem processes. We have to consider the value of “ecosystem services” in our long-term planning. Provision also has to be made for continued and expanded access to coastal areas and undeveloped areas for low-impact recreational use. More areas need to be “set aside” and protected from development. We need to define more precisely what elements in the natural landscape we particularly value and then work to shield those elements from the adverse impacts of development in the region. The role of the “working landscape” of the region also has to be considered. We need to investigate ways to more efficiently use the available land to meet social, ecological and economic needs. Public education, communication and consultation should be an integral part of the planning process. We also need better planning of land management and more effort needs to be devoted to assessment and measurement of the impacts of development.

Fisheries Management:

Most of the discussion in this group focused around the issues of fisheries management, defining the relationship between DFO and the user groups, information exchange and who should assume the responsibility for funding fisheries management and conservation. Issues that were identified included the need to review historical and present status of fish and fishery resources, to consider ecosystem-level impacts and objectives, to inventory the status of fisheries resources and habitat, to have more input from community and fishers, the need of more funding for resource management and to better understand the importance of a fishery to its community. The group agreed the issues identified should be addressed through an integrated resource management strategy involving government, stakeholders and community groups, and also that a working group be developed to identify stakeholders, an organization or group to take a leadership role, to identify sources of funding and to help facilitate information exchange from government organizations. The BoFEP Minas Basin Working Group has put together a proposal to examine the feasibility of integrated fisheries management in the Minas Basin. If approved, this could be a starting point for the above actions.

Forestry Practices:

The forestry session identified eight key issues of concern: forest sustainability (ecologically, socially and economically), deforestation, land ownership, understanding of provincial forestry policy, and the human and non-human value of forests, reforestation, stewardship and education. All people should be involved to help to resolve the issues. Participants identified a variety of resources that are needed including: current inventories, knowledge, and information on forest management practices/guidelines, legislation, and existing structures and networks; education; stewardship; paradigm shifts; and funding. In terms of next steps, participants recommended a conference/meeting of all key players, consensus and action, and the need for inventories of current forestry groups/activities, incentive programs (in funding, publicity and taxes), and improved legislation.

Sewage/Water Quality:

The water quality issue in its full breadth was discussed, sewage being considered one part only. Four issues were identified – surface water quality and quantity, groundwater, legal questions and information and education. A Minas Basin Water Report covering the watershed is needed; it should include a description of sources of threats to water, a listing of water quality parameters as a guide to monitoring, and a review of the location and condition of groundwater sources. More effective use of current legislation, water standards rather than guidelines, and a resolution of ownership issues are needed. Public access to water information should be improved, including periodic State of Water reports aimed at the public. The region requires a Water Strategy, leadership on the issue (perhaps through a community board), improved communication, and more action and funding by all levels of government to protect and conserve water resources.

Summary

Each Focus Group was able to identify specific actions that could be taken to address the issues identified. In late spring when all the initial Community Forums have been completed, the Minas Basin Working Group will be holding discussions with those people who identified themselves as the leads for each Focus Group. The purpose of these discussions will be to developing strategies to implement these actions. If you wish to take part in these discussions, please contact Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113.

Detailed notes of each Focus Group and a full report on Community Forum are available on the BoFEP web page - www.auracom.com/~bofep/. Or contact the BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113 to ask for hard copies of these items.

Appendix J

Truro Community Forum Summary

Minas Basin Community Forum, Truro NS – February 27th, 2002

On Wednesday February 27th, 2002, over 50 people gathered to participate in a Community Forum designed to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forum was meant to build on current and past initiatives by government and non-government organizations aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the watershed. The structure of the Forum included an Open House with displays, followed by a discussion period where issues were identified and discussed in small groups. The Forum co-hosts were the Colchester Regional Development Agency and the Cobequid Salmon Association.

The Open House was a success with 24 displays that exhibited a wide range of information from government programs to local initiatives. The purpose of the Open House was to let people know what activities were being carried out by other groups, and to network and enhance communication between groups. The discussion period began with Jo Ann Fewer from CoRDA giving a brief introduction on activities going on in the area. Then Dr. Graham Daborn, Chair of BoFEP, gave a short presentation on BoFEP, the Minas Basin Working Group and the goals of the Community Forum. Participants were then asked to prioritize the issues they wished to discuss that evening. The full results of this exercise are displayed in the Figure below:

Issues Summary – Minas Basin Community Forum, Truro

Issue	Number of Dots Posted			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	3	12	5	20
Bioinvasions	0	2	0	2
Coastal Access	0	3	2	5
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	2	1	5	8
Development	6	5	8	19
Fisheries Management	6	2	6	14
Forestry Practices	5	9	5	19
Mining	1	1	2	4
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	12	1	3	16
Solid Waste Management	0	0	0	0
Tourism	4	0	5	9
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Recreation</i>	2	5	0	7

Based on the results from the above Figure, five Focus Groups were formed to discuss these issues. The Focus Groups were: Agricultural Practices, Development, Fisheries Management, Forestry Practices and Sewage Treatment/Water quality. A summary of discussions held by each Focus Group follows.

Agricultural Practices:

During the discussion a number of problem areas pertaining to agriculture were identified. Some of these were problems confronting farms and farmers, while others were problems being caused by them. The major issues identified were availability of water (for irrigation and livestock); water quality (for all users); excessive or inappropriate use of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides); development on farmland (especially on dykeland); and the increased use of nature tourists and ATV's on farmland (coastal and barrens). It was felt solutions to most of these problems require a combination of effective legislation, clear guidelines, worthwhile incentives to encourage good practices, education awareness raising about the issues. It also requires the promotion of effective dialogue and cooperation between those causing the different problems and those being affected.

Development:

Specific issues raised in the brainstorming session ranged in scope - e.g. erosion, flooding, wetland infilling, urban sprawl, mining, agriculture, jurisdiction issues, physical alteration of the coast, etc. Given that only 3 out of the 15 or so people in this session were from the local area, there was some hesitancy in the group to really delve into the topic. To focus on actions and solutions, we walked through the two broader issues of Zoning and Insufficient Provincial Legislation, which we felt captured most of the points raised during brainstorming. In general it was felt that existing legislation (in particular provincial environmental legislation and the Municipal Act) was inadequate. Change in development patterns and activities may require changes in legislation, which is quite a long process. It was recognized that change would need lobbying coupled with good education and awareness raising campaigns. The issue was tackled at a broad level, and it was recommended that a local group of all the people that have a 'piece of the pie' flesh out each of the specific points raised during brainstorming.

Fisheries Management:

Several key issues were identified as subjects of concern: namely, species decline (especially salmon as the indicator species and the absence of any research being done to find out what is causing the rapid decline), habitat degradation (including obstructions to fish passage), water quality, economic development in relation to the value of the recreational fishery, over harvesting, and aquaculture (with concerns as to the impacts this fishery has on natural stocks). Community involvement with an integrated resource management approach in partnership with "expert agencies" was seen as the correct approach to take. Solutions included education, community buy-in, funding, research, co-management in the implementation or changes in policy and legislation, corporate involvement, better enforcement, and Best Management practises

Forestry Practices:

In this focus group several issues were brought up during the brainstorming session but the group concluded the general area of concern could be termed "forestry practices". This would include clear-cutting; best management practices; education and stewardship. In talking about solutions to the problem of forestry practices, the group decided to focus on the small wood lot owners, since they own 53% of forested land in Nova Scotia. Strong emphasis was placed on educating small woodlot owners through the Nova Scotia Foresters Program and other training mechanisms. Other actions discussed were to develop management plans for wood lot owners; better management practices and regulations on crown lands; provide incentives for wood lot owners; and implement a tax incentive for leaving canopies re: the carbon tax. Responsibility for these

actions were thought to be best pursued by development associations and established alliances in Nova Scotia (such as model forests, coastal communities etc.).

Sewage Treatment /Water Quality:

After a brainstorming session on water quality and sewage concerns his session was able to group the issues raised into four categories; 1) Education; 2) Compliance and Monitoring; 3) Science and Technology; and 4) Contamination Sources and Impacts of Practice. They proceeded to focus on discussing solutions and actions for two areas they thought were a priority: Education and Sources of Contamination/Impacts of Practices. Education should focus on educating on: alternatives, hazards, water conservation, cost as a disincentive, knowledge of water flows and groundwater tables, development, dug versus drilled wells and the water cycle. Solutions raised when talking about sources of contamination was to find out the affects on the watershed from development (agriculture, forestry, sewage, wastewater, road runoff, and diversion practices (irrigation and dams). They also discussed the need to know the impacts of development on groundwater and riparian zone conditions.

Summary

Each Focus Group was able to identify specific actions that could to be taken to address the issues identified. In late spring when all the initial Community Forums have been completed, the Minas Basin Working Group will be holding discussions with those people who identified themselves as the leads for each Focus Group as well as other interested individuals. The purpose of these discussions will be to developing strategies to advance and implement these actions. If you wish to take part in these discussions, please contact Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113.

Detailed notes of each Focus Group and a full report on Community Forum are available on the BoFEP web page - www.auracom.com/~bofep/. Or contact the BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113 to ask for hard copies of these items.

Appendix K

Parrsboro Community Forum Summary

Minas Basin Community Forum, Parrsboro NS – April 18th 2002

On Thursday April 18th, 2002, over 160 people gathered to participate in a Community Forum designed to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forum was meant to build on current and past initiatives by government and non-government organizations aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the watershed. The structure of the Forum included an Open House with displays, followed by a discussion period where issues were identified and discussed in small groups. The Forum co-hosts were the Cumberland Regional Economic Development Association, the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists, the Parrsboro and District Board of Trade and the Shore Drive Community Development Association.

The Open House was a success with 20 displays that exhibited a wide range of information from government programs to local initiatives. The purpose of the Open House was to let people know what activities were being carried out by other groups, and to network and enhance communication between groups. The discussion period began with Peter Wells, Vice Chair of BoFEP giving a short presentation on BoFEP, the Minas Basin Working Group and the goals of the Community Forum. Participants were then asked to prioritize the issues they wished to discuss that evening. The full results of this exercise are displayed in the Figure below:

Issues Summary – Minas Basin Community Forum, Parrsboro

Issue	Number of Dots Posted			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	3	4	4	11
Bioinvasions	0	3	1	4
Coastal Access	2	2	17	21
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	0	1	0	1
Development	0	0	7	7
Fisheries Management	14	5	4	23
Forestry Practices	3	8	7	18
Mining	0	0	0	0
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	13	15	12	40
Solid Waste Management	2	0	8	10
Tourism	3	20	3	26
Recreation	50	9	6	65
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Fundy Biosphere Initiative</i>	24	4	8	36

Based on the results of the issue prioritizing exercise, four Focus Groups were formed. The Focus Groups were: Fisheries Management, The Fundy Biosphere Initiative, Recreation/Tourism, and Sewage Treatment/Water quality. A summary of discussions held by each Focus Group follows.

Fisheries Management:

A wide variety of issues were raised, including habitat destruction by fishing gear, limited knowledge of gear impacts, lack of communication, the acknowledgement of the Bay of Fundy as unique, and clam bed closures due to poor water quality. There were two main issues discussed:

1. Lack of communication: One level of this issue lies between fishermen and DFO. There has been a large reduction in the interaction between DFO Fisheries Officers and the fishermen – information that needs to flow between the 2 groups is blocked as a result. The other level lies between fishermen themselves. For example, there is no organized network for the weir fishermen in the area. The clammers have a successful network, and it was suggested that the formation of a more formal fishermen's network would be both useful and valuable, using the clamming network as a model. This would lead to better communications between fishermen as well as between fishermen and DFO. BoFEP's Fisheries Management Working Group was suggested as a place to start.
2. The recognition of the Bay of Fundy as unique: It was felt that current management is too broad based and doesn't take the uniqueness of the Bay into account. Due to the extreme tides, species and ecosystems found in the bay are different than any other area in the Maritimes. Therefore, a limitation imposed in the Yarmouth area may certainly be appropriate for that area, but not for the Bay of Fundy. Perhaps activities in the Bay of Fundy should be managed separately, with more area-specific plans.

Fundy Biosphere Initiative:

The Biosphere Reserve focus group was attended by more than 50 individuals and was one of the largest focus groups at the Parrsboro meeting. The initial discussion focused mainly on attempts to clarify the purpose of the meeting and the relationship between BoFEP and those promoting the Biosphere Reserve concept. The discussion then moved on to concerns regarding the difficulty of obtaining accurate information on exactly what a Biosphere Reserve is and the process being used to decide if this is what the community wants. The major action items identified dealt mainly with developing means of providing more information on what having a Biosphere Reserve actually entails, and how to provide more opportunity for community input into the process of deciding if this is something worth having. It should be noted that the following list of concerns and actions is based on the comments of individuals and may not represent the opinions of all members of the focus group. The large number of people present, and the large number of concerns and actions identified, did not allow time to attempt to produce a set of concerns and actions that could be considered as those agreed upon by everyone in the group.

Recreation/Tourism:

The principal concerns raised about tourism were the poor state of the roads in the area and the lack of advertising for attractions in the region. The overwhelming interest of most members of the Focus Group however, was outdoor recreation. The use of ATV's as recreational vehicles has increased dramatically in many rural areas in recent years and the Chignecto Peninsula is no exception. Due to the recent establishment of parks and wilderness areas ATV users feel they have been suddenly barred from using many long established trails arbitrarily and without proper consultation. An amendment to the Wilderness Protected Areas Act to allow some motorized access in certain areas was suggested. There was also recognition that irresponsible riders damage trails and habitats and greatly harm the public image of the sport. However, there are many

responsible riders who want to practice their sport in a manner that does not harm the environment. Many of these belong to ATV associations that work to establish and properly maintain a specific network of trails. It was felt these associations could play an important role in training and deploying "Trail Wardens" to monitor the trails and promote responsible use. A well-developed trail system might also encourage more ATV tourism in the area such as has happened with snowmobiles in New Brunswick. It was recognized that some natural areas might be too sensitive for ATV traffic. It was suggested that ATV organizations meet with representatives of the Federation of Nova Scotia Naturalists to discuss their differing interests and work together so that the sport can develop in a manner that does the least harm to the environment.

Sewage Treatment /Water Quality:

The Water Quality breakout session identified a wide variety of concerns then organized them into three key issues: 1) water contaminants (chemicals/pharmaceuticals/effluents) in groundwater, ocean, streams and it's connection to food; 2) forestry /fish/ farm impacts; and 3) communication/connections between government and people. In terms of action, the group recommended that those who have an interest in water make a connection with BOFEP. They recommended that a survey be conducted of groundwater quality and quantity, including predictions for the future. They identified the need to take initiative, be creative, to form local groups to coordinate activities and/or to connect with existing groups, to obtain information on the use/regulations/effects of blueberry chemicals, to use the internet to communicate, obtain copies of relevant information reports, to develop a network for information, and to review examples of existing groups and the issues they are working on. They also emphasized the importance of taking action now and recommended that BOFEP form an action group on water involving existing organizations currently engaged in this issue and a coordinator.

Summary

Each Focus Group was able to identify specific actions that could be taken to address the issues identified. In late spring when all the initial Community Forums have been completed, the Minas Basin Working Group will be holding discussions with those people who identified themselves as the leads for each Focus Group as well as other interested individuals. The purpose of these discussions will be to developing strategies to advance and implement these actions. If you wish to take part in these discussions, please contact Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113.

Detailed notes of each Focus Group and a full report on Community Forum are available on the BoFEP web page - www.auracom.com/~bofep/. Or contact the BoFEP Secretariat at 902-585-1113 to ask for hard copies of these items.

Appendix L

Minas Basin Working Group Strategic Plan

Background

The Minas Basin is the southern branch of the upper Bay of Fundy and a highly productive and dynamic ecosystem blessed with many natural resources that have for generations been used for the benefit of its surrounding communities. Some species, habitats and ecological processes are now threatened by current and anticipated activities in the Basin and its watershed. Concerned about the ecological integrity of the Minas Basin and the communities that depend upon it, the Minas Basin Working Group was established in 1998 as a committee affiliated with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. In 2000, the Minas Basin Committee became a Working Group of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership and began to establish its own identity, mission, purpose and objectives.

Mission

The Minas Basin Working Group has adopted the principles of the mission statement for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

To maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Minas Basin and its watershed, and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

General Principles

This mission is predicated on the following general principles:

- Conservation, protection and management of Minas Basin resources and their habitats should be ecosystem-based and reflect a holistic understanding of ecosystem structure, processes and interactions.
- Resource development and other coastal zone activities should be based on ecologically sound integrated coastal planning and management.
- Coastal planning and management should be transparent and open to participation by resource users, coastal communities, industries, scientists, governments, managers and all other individuals and groups with interests in the Minas Basin ecosystem.
- Effective communication and active co-operation among all citizens with an interest in the Minas Basin, and linkages with groups and programs that share similar objectives are vital to this enterprise.

Operating Principles

In advancing the objectives of the Minas Basin Working Group, the primary role/function of the Group is to establish links between interest groups, and facilitate access to scientific and community knowledge pertaining to the Minas Basin and its watershed.

More specifically, the group will:

- always be objective and open to all opinions and positions;
- ensure open and transparent consensus-based decision making;
- incorporate flexibility in planning approaches;
- facilitate information exchange and access to expertise regarding the Minas Basin;
- provide contacts for information, advice and guidance on issues of concern;
- distribute information in a clear, concise and understandable form;
- provide assistance in identifying priority issues of concern, developing community oriented workplans, writing proposals and preparing applications for funding;
- identify opportunities for public involvement and community partnerships to address issues of concern;
- provide in-kind support for projects consistent with the mission and objectives of the Minas Basin Working Group and BOFEP.

To Advance this Mission

The Minas Basin Working Group will actively pursue the following objectives:

Identify Community Issues — Engage the public in identifying issues and actions pertaining to the sustainability of the Basin's resources and its coastal communities (i.e. encourage active community participation in all aspects of the Working Group's activities).

Facilitate Partnerships and Collaboration — Facilitate partnerships, collaboration and new funding opportunities among researchers, policy makers, resource managers and community groups pertaining to any aspect of the sustainable use and management of the Minas Basin.

Develop and Facilitate Implementation of Integrated Management Plans — To work towards a multistakeholder-supported, integrated management plan for the Minas Basin, taking into account its natural resources (living and non-living), the needs for conservation and protection, and Canada's long-term commitment to sustainable development.

Enhance Communication and Information Exchange — Enhance access to and interpretation of information on Minas Basin and its natural resources.

Identify Research Priorities — Identify emerging environmental issues and trends of importance to the Minas Basin watershed and its communities. To address research priorities, the Working Group will establish sub-committees, such as the existing Habitat Sub-Committee.

Identify Habitat Issues — Facilitate coordination of efforts to identify critical habitats and living resources of the Minas Basin (i.e. encourage conservation of the Basin's biodiversity).

Appendix M

Minas Basin Working Group 2002/2003 Work plan

OBJECTIVE	WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES
1. Identify community issues	a) Organize community workshops on an as needed basis, and prepare workshop summaries/reports b) Maintain contact with key groups and individuals to ensure that emerging issues are identified
2. Facilitate partnerships and collaboration	a) Network with existing groups b) Maintain and update a database of relevant individuals and organizations in the watershed c) Connect groups with similar interests and objectives to one another d) Obtain representation on the Working Group from relevant government agencies/departments, community groups and academic institutions
3. Develop and facilitate the implementation of integrated management plans	a) Hold monthly Minas Basin Working Group meetings b) Support the Integrated Fisheries Management Subcommittee c) Assist focus groups in developing management plans d) Employ a coordinator to help the focus groups get started and secure funding e) Connect focus groups with expertise f) Provide data and information as needed (e.g., maps) g) Provide in-kind support where possible (photocopying, mailings, etc.) h) Act as a general resource for focus group needs
4. Enhance communication and information exchange	a) Develop "Ecosystem Overviews" and/or "State of the Environment" reports b) Maintain the Minas Basin Working Group web pages which include agendas, minutes and Working Group publications c) Produce educational materials such as brochures, web pages and discussion papers
5. Identify research priorities	a) From community forums, identify emerging environmental issues and trends of importance to the Minas Basin and its communities b) Identify and initiate new projects based on local interests and needs

OBJECTIVE	WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES
6. Identify habitat issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Hold regular meetings of the Habitat Sub-committeeb) Establish a multi-stakeholder working group to identify species and habitats of concern in the Salmon River and its watershedc) Consolidate habitat/species information from various sources into one map series, and update current informationd) Work with communities to identify values in habitat protection/management and identify gaps in knowledgee) Create a priority species/habitat inventory for the Salmon river watershed including identification of habitats that can/should be conserved, restored and enhancedf) Develop maps of significant species and habitats based on available informationg) Develop action plans for species and habitat maintenance, restoration and/or enhancement where required

TABLE OF CONTENTS

This document is a summary of five meetings that were held in and around the Minas Basin Watershed in 2002. From those five meetings, three summary reports have been produced. Although it was originally planned to publish each of these reports separately, they can all be found in the following pages.

SECTION A

Title: A Summary of the Minas Basin Community Forums: Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro
Author: Robin Willcocks-Musselman
Date: July 2002

Description: This document is a summary of the first three community forums planned in the watershed. These were held in Wolfville (January), Truro (February) and Parrsboro (April). 51 pp.

SECTION B

Title: Community Forum Summary: Summerville
Author: Robin Willcocks-Musselman
Date: November 2002

Description: This document is a summary of the fourth community forum that was held in October in Summerville. Focus groups include Agricultural Practices, Avon River Causeway, Fisheries Management, and Forestry Practices. 42 pp.

SECTION C

Title: Report of the Minas Basin Action Planning Workshop: Truro
Author: Jaime Orser and Michael Brylinksy
Date: January 2003

Description: This document is a summary of the Action Workshop held in Truro, NS on November 16-17. The participant list was drawn from the four previous community forums. Focus groups include Marine Life, Agriculture, and Sewage. 23 pp.

***“Planning for Action in the
Minas Basin Watershed!”***

Community Forum Summary
Summerville

Prepared for: Minas Basin Working Group, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
By: Robin Willcocks-Musselman

OCTOBER 2002

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On October 22nd, over people gathered to participate in a Community Forum designed to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forum was meant to build on current and past initiatives by government and non-government organizations aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the watershed. The structure of the Forum included an Open House with displays, followed by a discussion period where issues were identified and discussed in small groups. The Forum co-hosts along with the Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP were the Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group, Citizens Action to Protect the Environment, Hants Shore Community Health Centre, and the Hants Regional Development Authority.

The Open House was a success with 9 displays that exhibited a wide range of information from government programs to local initiatives. The purpose of the Open House was to let people know what activities were being carried out by other groups, and to network and enhance communication between groups. The discussion period began with a short presentation by Mike Brylinsky, Chair of The Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) of BoFEP, explaining the Minas Basin Working Group and the goals of the Community Forum. Participants were then asked to prioritize the issues they wished to discuss that evening. Based on these results four Focus Groups were formed: Agricultural Practices, Avon River Causeway, Fisheries Management, and Forestry Practices. A summary of the discussions held by each Focus Group follows:

Agricultural Practices

The Agricultural breakout session identified a wide variety of issues of concern associated with agricultural practices which were summarized under seven key issues: agricultural runoff, pollution, lack of global management practices, herbicide/pesticide use, lack of legislation, loss of farmland, and lack of consumer education. Discussion focused on actions needed to address three of these issues: agricultural runoff, pesticide/herbicide use, and loss of farmland. With respect to agricultural runoff, the group recommended the need for: acknowledgement/delineation of the runoff problem in the Summerville area; public understanding of the downstream effects of agricultural runoff; information on water quality from health clinics and government and for education in schools; an accessible inexpensive testing service for well water quality; development of a central database to record well water testing results; development of nutrient management and environmental farm plans (EFP) to identify risks and ways to minimize risk of contamination; establishment of a buffer zone around the edge of fields; implementation of a mandatory testing program for farm water at no cost to the farmer in order to address the clean water issue; and, the establishment of a funding program to help the farmer prevent contamination and deal with cleanup. In terms of loss of farmland to urban sprawl, participants recommended that communities: hold festivals to promote awareness of the pride of local produce and the importance of buying locally; support local farm markets and co-ops and encourage Valley stores and grocery chains to stock

local produce; hold a market day in the summer; encourage the NS Government to implement a buy in Nova Scotia policy; and establish a weekend farm visit program to educate the public on how a farm operates. With respect to herbicide and pesticide use; the recommended that: information on the impacts of application should be readily available to the public in understandable form; and produce should be labelled to identify which herbicides /pesticides have been applied.

Avon River Causeway

This discussion group came up with more questions than an answer regarding the decision to remove or expand the existing causeway in Windsor when the new divided highway is developed. The first issue discussed was the need for more information about the environment of the Avon River and the past and future effects of the causeway. It was suggested that a full study be done of pre-causeway, current, and prediction of future conditions if it is modified. Another issue brought up was how to get the information needed. It was discussed that government departments and private companies need to be involved so that a broad enough study could be undertaken. Beyond information needs, it was thought concern about the causeway need to be addressed by the various levels of government responsible. A public forum was suggested to allow people to voice their concerns but also to disseminate information to the public about the plans and options the Department of Transportation have regarding the causeway expansion.

Fisheries Management

Two issues arose in this focus group - bloodworm harvesting (digging) and the causeway's effects on local fish stocks, with digging being the most prominent. This was a lively group, as many of the participants have been fighting against commercial digging in the area for a year now. The local residents saw their clam-flats over harvested and pretty much 'left for dead' in the 1980's. To this day the clam population has still not recovered and there is serious concern that the bloodworm digging is on the exact same path. Concerns can be broken down into the following categories - regulations, enforcement, ecological effects of digging, and communication. Many realistic, doable actions were put forward ranging from banning all commercial digging to civil disobedience to securing funds to conduct studies. There was a hint of desperation in the conversation, as the local people have tried almost everything they can think of to stop the digging and have, in their eyes, been relatively unsuccessful to date. One participant was very impressed, though, with what the group has accomplished in terms of making contacts, establishing a group, and being consistently persistent with their fight. She left us with encouraging words and hope for change in the near future.

Forestry Practices

Many issues related to forestry practices were raised, almost all of which were directly or indirectly a consequence of clear cutting. For example, chemical spraying of forests and the effects of this on air quality and human health are a major concern. The spraying is being done to eliminate hardwood and promote softwood regeneration in clear-cut areas.

Sustainable selective harvesting of the forest would eliminate the need for spraying herbicides. Clear cutting also triggers other adverse impacts including loss of wildlife habitat, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, river siltation, topsoil and forest floor litter destruction, landscape gouging, and water table lowering and flooding. Woodlot owners in the focus group were concerned that while they want to conserve their woods and harvest them sustainably they might be forced to clear-cut by the government to yield to the growing demands of forestry companies for more fibre. Much forest is privately owned, so there need to be educational and tax incentive programs to encourage landowners to use their holdings sustainably. An accounting must be made of all the many economic and recreational values of forests, other than their cheap pulpwood potential (GPI approach). Communities also need to have a voice in the decision-making that affects the natural landscape around them. This may involve establishing province-wide standards and guidelines to facilitate community participation in the management process. There are many groups all over the province concerned about the devastating impacts of clear cutting. These groups need to pool their efforts and work together to develop an action plan to pressure the government to reform forestry practices. There needs to be more communication with, and public support for, individuals within government who are concerned about forestry practices and are sympathetic to reform. Efforts should be made to get more intensive media focus on the issue as part of a public awareness campaign.

Summary

Each Focus Group was able to identify specific actions that could to be taken to address the issues identified. The Minas Basin Working Group will be holding discussions with those people who identified themselves as the leads for each Focus Group as well as interested community groups in November. The purpose of these discussions will be to developing strategies to implement these actions identified at this and other forums.

I. FORUM PLANNING PROCESS

A. Objectives

The goal of the Community Forums is to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forums will build on past initiatives by government and non-government organizations that have been aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the Watershed.

B. Forum Co-hosts

Four local co-hosts were invited by the Minas Basin Working Group to aid in the logistical planning of the workshops. Local groups were chosen to provide valuable information about the community, and how to engage local citizens and groups to attend. In the end, the five co-hosts of the Forum were:

- Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP
- Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group
- Citizens Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE)
- Hants Shore Community Health Centre
- Hants Regional Development Authority

C. Organizing Committee

The organizing committee consisted of Hazel Dill from Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group, Douglas Drudel from the Citizens Action to Protect the Environment, Kathy Aldous from the Hants Shore Community Health Centre, Patricia Gould-Thorpe from Hants Regional Development Authority and Robin Musselman, the Forum Coordinator from the MBWG of BoFEP.

D. The Forum Structure/Schedule

Given the experience from the previous Community Forums, it was decided that a weeknight would still be best to hold the Forum on rather than a weekend. The Forum was therefore set for a Tuesday evening and the Minas Basin Working Group developed the following schedule:

Time	Event
5:30pm – 6:30pm	Open House
6:30pm – 7:00pm	Introductory Remarks
7:00pm – 9:00pm	Focus Group Sessions
9:00pm – 9:30pm	Wrap Up

E. Advertising and Invitations

Local businesses and organizations were sent invitations via email through the Hants Regional Development Authority to participate in the Forum. Other groups and organizations in the Minas Basin Working Group database were mailed invitations as well as many individuals in the community who were recommended by the local co-hosts. All invitees were encouraged to have a display at the Open house portion of the Forum.

Ministers of Environment and Labour and Natural Resources were sent individual letters inviting them, as were the Mayor of Windsor and the Councillors from Hants West. The MLA (Ronald Russell) and MP (Scott Brison) representing the region were also personally invited. No invited government representatives attended the Forum.

Advertising was done through papers, newsletters, radio stations, web Sites and list serves. Below is a list of where media releases and public service announcements were sent.

Newspapers:

- *The Hants Journal*

Newsletters and Publications:

- What's going on
- Hants Community Health Centre
- Dr. Arthur Hines School Newsletter

Web Sites:

- Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
- East Hants.com

List Serves:

- Fundy Forum
- ACZISC

***See also Appendices for copies of:*

- *Flyer/Invitations*
- *Media Release*
- *Public Service Announcement*
- *Letters to ministers and mayors*

II. RESULTS OF FORUM

A. Registration

Everyone whom attended was asked to register so we could have a record of who attended and also be able to mail him or her the executive summary from the workshop. There were 59 people registered. These included those who had displays at the Open House. ***See Appendices for a list of participants.*

Registration Package contained:

All registrants received a registration package containing:

- Brochure of the MBWG
- Comment/Feedback Form
- Focus Group Discussion Summary
- Issues List (with 3 coloured dots)
- Thank you and Follow up notice
- Map of Minas Basin Watershed

***See Appendices for copies of these forms.*

B. Open House

Nine organizations/individuals had displays at the Open House portion of the Forum. They ranged from posters, brochures to large panelled displays. Below is a list of the groups that participated in the Open House.

Displays at Summerville Community Forum

Group/Organization	Contact
Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research	Nancy Roscoe-Huntley
Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)	Jon Percy
Citizens Action to Protect the Environment	Douglas Drudel
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture	Reg Newell
Ecology Action Centre	Tony Bowron and Jennifer Graham
Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group	Hazel Dill
Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP	Maxine Westhead/Robin Musselman
Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Hank Kolstee
Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources – Integrated Management Project	Randy Tattrie

C. Introductory Remarks

Mike Brylinsky, Chair of the MBWG, introduced the co-hosts and then made a half-hour introductory presentation on BoFEP, the MBWG and the goals and objectives of the Forum.

***See Appendices for copy of presentation*

D. Issue Identification Process

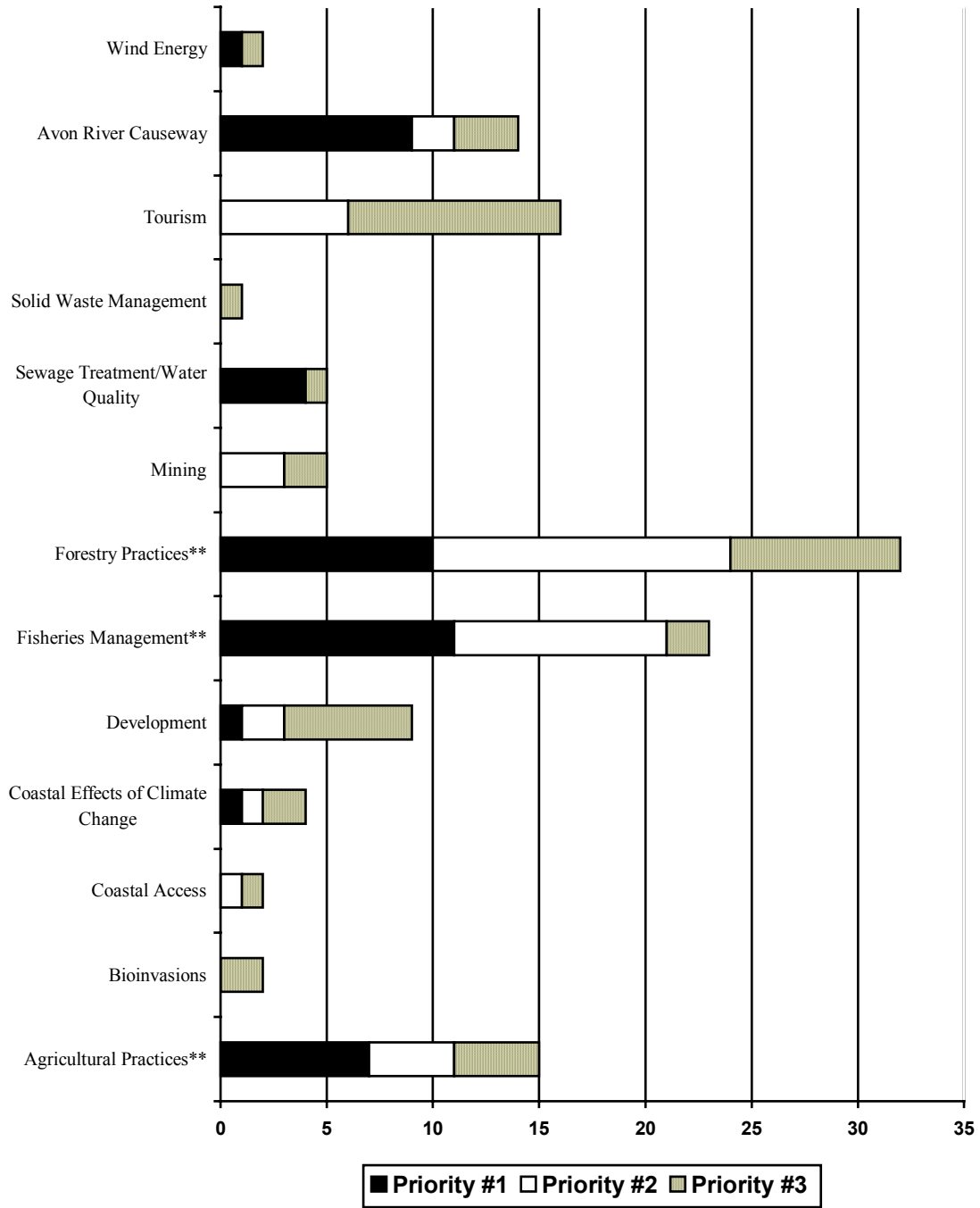
In their registration package, registrants were given three dots (red, green and blue). Red was for their issues of greatest priority, green for second and blue for third. Participants were asked to place their coloured dots on the issues sheets under the issues they were most concerned about. They could also write down in the extra spaces the issues they were concerned about that were not identified already. The results of this exercise are summarized in the following table.

Issue Sheets Summary – Summerville Community Forum

Issue	Number of Dots Posted			
	Priority #1	Priority #2	Priority #3	Total
Agricultural Practices	7	4	4	15
Bioinvasions	0	0	2	2
Coastal Access	0	1	1	2
Coastal Effects of Climate Change	1	1	2	4
Development	1	2	6	9
Fisheries Management	11	10	2	23
Forestry Practices	10	14	8	32
Mining	0	3	2	5
Sewage Treatment/Water Quality	4	0	1	5
Solid Waste Management	0	0	1	1
Tourism	0	6	10	16
Issues Added by Participants:				
<i>Avon River Causeway</i>	9	2	3	14
<i>Wind Energy</i>	1	0	1	2

From the Issue identification sheet, four Focus groups were established. They were Avon River Causeway, Agricultural Practices, Fisheries Management, and Forestry Practices.

Prioritizing Issues - Summary of Summerville Community Forum



E. Focus Groups

1. Process:

Each Focus Group had a member of the Minas Basin Working Group as a Group Coordinator and an experienced Facilitator from the community. The coordinators responsibilities were to make sure the Focus Group ran smoothly. They were given a task sheet to help with the process.

Focus Group Coordinator Task Sheet

Focus Group time allotted is 2 hours

Tasks:

- 1. Introductions – Introduce yourself and Facilitator**
- 2. Pass Around Sign up Sheet** (*enclosed*)
- 3. Briefly discuss goal of Focus Group**
The objective of the Focus Group discussions are to examine the scope of a specific issue from the perspective of those present, to assess current activities and information weaknesses, to brain-storm upon and evaluate potential remedial measures that those present can undertake and finally to identify individuals to lead and/or work on this issue within their communities in conjunction with the broader Minas Basin Working Group and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem partnership.
- 4. Identify:**
 - a. Recorder for Flip Charts**
 - b. Presenter** (*if no one volunteers assume role yourself*)
- 5. Turn discussion over to Facilitator to follow the next steps:**
 - a. Comments and Concerns**
 - What are your concerns and why?
 - b. Focus**
 - Identify the major issue(s) from the brainstorming session above or the issues this group would like to focus on
 - c. Actions**
 - What needs to be done about these issues and what are the specific actions WE can undertake? (actions and timelines)
- 6. Wrap up and prepare for presentation**

The role of the facilitator was to lead the group through the above steps and questions with and emphasis on finding solutions and actions. We encouraged the facilitators to let people voice their concerns but then to emphasis what the people gathered there could do to encourage change.

2. Summary of Focus Group Discussions:

Listed below is the information gathered from each Focus Group including participants and a summary of the discussions.

Focus Group: Agricultural Practices

Coordinator: Pat Hinch

Facilitator: Linda Redmond

Reporter: Linda Redmond

Lead Identified: None

Participants:

Sean Bennett

Linda Redmond

Keith Casey

Herb Ripley

Doris Hagmann*

Kendra Smith

Pat Hinch

Art Weaver*

Bill MacLeod

Sandra Winter*

indicated they would be interested in participating in action group on this topic

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

(notes compiled by: Pat Hinch)

The Agricultural breakout session identified a wide variety of issues of concern associated with agricultural practices including: agricultural runoff to rivers, pollution from crop spraying, contamination of wells from drilling, lack of an accessible central database for water well test results, inefficient use of information/technology in making wise management decisions; lack of focus in management practice (globally and locally) for the best use of resources; herbicide and pesticide overuse, lack of public knowledge and consumer education on impacts of herbicide/pesticide application to human health and the environment; lack of government will to legislate to protect both the environment and human health from contamination; loss of farmland to residential development, and to larger farm and outside competition; lack of protection of local industries; lack of consumer education (e.g. best use of resources, the value of water, what can contaminate a well, and consequences of actions taken).

Participants then organized these concerns under seven key issues: agricultural runoff, pollution, lack of global management practices, herbicide/pesticide use, lack of legislation, loss of farmland, and lack of consumer education. Discussion focused on actions needed to address three of these issues: agricultural runoff, pesticide/herbicide use, and loss of farmland.

With respect to agricultural runoff, the group recommended the need for: acknowledgement/delineation of the runoff problem in the Summerville area; public understanding of the downstream effects of agricultural runoff; information on water quality from health clinics and government, and for education in schools; an accessible

inexpensive testing service for well water quality; development of a central database to record well water testing results; development of nutrient management and environmental farm plans (EFP) to identify risks and ways to minimize risk of contamination; establishment of a buffer zone around the edge of fields; implementation of a mandatory testing program for farm water at no cost to the farmer in order to address the clean water issue; and the establishment of a funding program to help the farmer prevent contamination and deal with cleanup.

In terms of loss of farmland to urban sprawl, participants recommended that communities: hold festivals to promote awareness of the pride of local produce and the importance of buying locally; support local farm markets and co-ops and encourage Valley stores and grocery chains to stock local produce; hold a market day in the summer; encourage the NS Government to implement a buy in Nova Scotia policy; and establish a weekend farm visit program to educate the public on how a farm operates.

With respect to herbicide and pesticide use; the recommended that: information on the impacts of application should be readily available to the public in understandable form; and produce should be labelled to identify which herbicides /pesticides have been applied.

CONCERNS AND ISSUES:

Agricultural runoff

- Farms are close to rivers and concern for agricultural runoff into water.

Pollution

- Smoke from burning - Is there regulation?
- Pollution from Valley spraying drifts to the Summerville area.
- Need to realize the value and understand how much we are polluting. Allergies seem to be on the rise.
- We need to have less focus on materialistic and emphasize 'more for less'. We need to have respect for the land resources on which we depend for food.
- Potential is high for contamination of wells from drilling.
- Test data for water well results does not go into a central database.

Lack of global management practices

- Global farming - There is a general lack of global management practice - Information is not applied appropriately in making wise management decisions and a lack of focus for the best use of resources.
- There is a lack of control over the loss of farmland to residential property. What will be said in 100 years? We will lose the best farmland and will no longer be able to support ourselves.
- We are not self sufficient enough as a country in producing our own food but not

everyone wants to farm.

- We are only stewards of the land. No one owns it. We are merely farmers.

Herbicide/pesticide use

- Herbicide/pesticide over use - we can live on a small amount of land if we use it properly.
- We need a change in consumer perspective with regard to the use of pesticides.
- Too much is unknown about the impacts of pesticide and herbicide use on the environment and to human health.
- There is a lack of consumer education. People should know what herbicides and pesticides are being applied and the impacts.

Lack of legislation

- Government doesn't seem to want to legislate to protect the environment and human health.

Loss of farmland

- The concept of the family farm is going by the wayside.
- Zoning practices - It is easy to change zoning from agricultural to residential.
- We don't protect local industries enough (local produce = produce able to be shipped within 24 hours).
- There is a tendency for land planning to encroach on farmland.
- What does one do to poor land to make it productive? If the best land is lost to residential area, we are left with the marginal land, which is expensive to improve the level of use/productivity.
- Small farms need to sustain themselves financially but have difficulty competing with large farms and with outside competition. It is difficult to keep the land especially if neighbors aren't buying local products. How do we encourage people to start/stay in farming or to keep the family farm?

Lack of consumer education

- We need to change consumer attitude/perspective on what constitutes good food and be more accepting of imperfections in produce, e.g. be more accepting of blemishes on apples.
- Information sources are un-utilized.
- There is a lack of focus for best use of resources.
- People need to know the value of water.
- People need to know what can contaminate a well.
- People need to understand the consequences of their actions.
- People have no idea of where food comes from and don't realize how difficult it is to run a farm.
- Does government know where there is potential for contamination of land and

water? Can they share this information?

ACTIONS:

Agricultural runoff

- Agricultural runoff is a problem that has not been acknowledged/proven in this area. (There is not much agriculture in the immediate area but there is in the Avon area)
- People are not aware of the downstream effects of agricultural runoff.
- We need clean drinking water and clean water for agricultural practices and we are running out of clean water.
- Agricultural runoff is a huge issue.
- If people do not have clean water, they buy it.
- Cows may have walked in the water people consume.
- People tend to deny there is a problem with water they have been drinking
- Information on water quality should come from health clinics and government, and be available in schools.
- There is a need to develop a system to monitor well water quality in an area. If some wells are found contaminated, test all wells in the area.
- Testing well water is expensive for testing that is done on a regular basis. Everyone should have the opportunity to have testing done. A testing service should be made available, as it was in the past for free, that is better organized (i.e. for sample transport/access to a testing facility). There are however a lesser number of government people involved now in testing. Government resources are stretched. If we want better/more service we will need to pay more taxes. Have students collect samples in the summer.
- Make people aware of how they pollute; where food comes from; how it gets from the farm to the market.
- Government Extension Services should let people know the potential sources of pollution. If outreach is not available, there is a need to let people know.
- Use media advertising (television) to promote awareness.
- Develop a central database to record well water testing results.
- Sewage management - construct central sewers or use constructed wetlands. The spread of bio-solids on fields is not recommended.
- Computer test fields annually to determine how much fertilizer is needed in order to avoid over fertilization. Follow times recommended for application. What regulations apply and who is enforcing the regulations?
- Enlarge storage facilities for manure. We have enough land available and storage capacity to store manure.
- Develop nutrient management and environmental farm plans (EFP) - how do we enforce them? EFP's identify the risks and how to minimize the risks.
- Encourage development of a neighborhood pollution watch program.
- Establish a buffer zone around the edge of fields. Regulations need to be flexible to deal with varying land contours and weather conditions. Nature oftentimes determines how buffer zones will respond especially in times of heavy rain.

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- Implement a mandatory testing program for farm water at no cost to the farmer in order to address the clean water issue.
- If water is contaminated we need to take steps to involve government and to take action if the act of pollution is on purpose.
- Implement a water-testing program to identify the contaminant(s) and remediate.
- Establish a funding program to help the farmer deal with contamination.
- Prevention of contamination should be a priority. Funding should be made available for both prevention and cleanup programs.
- Education, knowledge and understanding are key. Apply technological knowledge in making management decisions.

Loss of Farmland to Urban Sprawl

- Need to get money to sustain farming is based on economics
- Hold festivals to promote awareness of the pride of local produce; support local farm markets, encourage Valley stores to stock local produce.
- Support local farm markets and co-ops and get Valley produce into grocery chain.
- Promote consumer awareness of the importance of buying locally to local farmers and the local economy.
- Hold a market day in the summer.
- Petition local grocery stores to carry local (within 25 km) products.
- Can the NS Government implement a buy Nova Scotia policy? Is a tax break possible if people buy locally?
- Establish a weekend farm visit program to show how a farm operates (a form of education).

Pesticide/herbicide use

- Information on the impacts (human health and environmental) should be made readily available to the public in understandable form.
- Produce should be labeled to identify which herbicides /pesticides have been applied.

Focus Group: Avon River Causeway

Coordinator: Peter Wells

Facilitator: Don Aldous

Reporter: Peter Wells

Lead Identified: None

Participants: Richard Armstrong *

Karen Beazley*

Malory Beazley

Paul Beazley

Tony Bowron*

James Card

Ken Carroll

Tony Duke

Patricia Helliwell

Hank Kolstee

Joan Lawrence*

Dennie Macumlrer*

Hugh MacNeil

Keith Pierce*

Paul Saunders

Susie Smith

Randy Tattrie

Peter Wells

**indicated they would be interested in participating in action group on this topic*

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

(notes compiled by: Peter Wells)

CONCERNS AND ISSUES:

- Need strategic planning re the issue.
- Changes in sediments - build-up, grasses appearing, and river flow impeded.
- Widening of the highway (effects on fish, climate change question).
- What is the issue?
- State of knowledge of the issue?
- Build-up of sediments below dam, and changes above the causeway. Future of river over time.
- Build-up of silt/destruction of river.
- Removal of causeway should occur. Effects of causeway.
- Effects of the causeway - "it should be removed". "It should never have been built".
- Extent of impact of the causeway.
- Causeway "is an asset to the county". We have a lake, we have a reservoir. Concerns - cost of removal of causeway. Effects on dykes.
- Interested in the debate. There is lots of anecdotal information; where is "real information"?
- The "gate keeper".
- System if causeway is not there? Options re the highway. Lack of information on these points.
- Interested in people's opinions. Effects of causeway removal/modification - upstream and downstream.

- Long-term survival/health of Avon River. There has been “ a dramatic change to the river”.
- Interest - we don't know “all the answers”, but the quality of life is tied up with quality of the river.”
- Pre-causeway condition of the river. Learning from removal of smaller barriers.
- Make sure information is available to everyone. Decisions have tradeoffs.

Summary:

More information is needed on the issue: factual, anecdotal? Pre-causeway information - what kind of information is needed?

FOCUS AND ACTIONS:

Information Needs (also an action)

- What kind?
- Time taken to get it?
- How to reconcile “competing views”?
- Situation before, now, and predictions re modification. “Need a full study”.
- “Pre-causeway conditions need to be known”. How far back in time?
- How do you determine “pre-causeway conditions”? E.g. quantities of silt.
- Future needs for agricultural land in the Avon R. watershed?
- Need to preserve agricultural lands - justify needs.
- What has the effect been on fish? How has barrier affected fish life cycles?
- What are the options for causeway modification re planned highway?
- Put bridge in before studies on current causeway are modified (this was meant to read “ put bridge in, as studies will still be on-going on the effects of the current causeway and options for its modification).
- Costs of the options? Environmental costs?
- A need to assign “values” to the issue, incl. social values.

How do we address these concerns, beyond “information needs”? (also an action)

- The various levels of government. Need to have “all the information” to address the issue.
- Need a “big public forum”.
- There is information on “keeping causeway” and “not keeping causeway”. Use available information. Use available information from Agriculture Depots.
- Effects of causeway modification on dykelines is available (above causeway) (take a business approach”: least cost approach).
- Choices have to be made. What are the alternatives (economically)?
- Try to ID "best economic trade-off”.
- Use what we do know!
- Other barriers (e.g. PEI, Petitcodiac and New England).
- Dykelands

- Bring the information (we do know) together.
- Fund/conduct a full study regarding causeway modification/removal. The various government departments should be involved. Make information available.
- How do we get politicians attention?
- “Take it to the top”.
- Bring to DFO attention. They have fisheries responsibilities regarding migratory fish.
- We do need to use “existing information”.
- Get the fisheries dept(s) involved re fish movement.
- “We know enough to know “the causeway” is an issue”. It ought to be studied “in a big way”.

How to get the information/Who should we approach? (Also an action)

- Use companies such as GPI Atlantic to examine the problem.
- Would government departments do a broad enough study (e.g. property values)? (We need a broad, multi-disciplinary study; we need an objective study; we need the involvement of ‘experts’.)
- We should involve the appropriate government departments.
- We should evaluate status of available/used “dyked agricultural lands”. We need help of government departments.
- Have documentaries been made on the issue? We need visual documentary tools to make the issue available to the public, i.e. films.
- Better define “the problem”.
- We have differing opinions on the “issue/problem”. We need to communicate the problem, as citizens. We need “time out”.
- What specific actions should we take now?
 1. The problem is the potential highway. There are options. There will be an EIA.
 2. “A study is being done at Acadia”.
 3. There is time to do a full study/review of the options.
 4. Immediately - Town Council of Windsor wants more information, and more information on plans for the highway expansion.
 5. Parts of present plans do call for bridges. Specific action: contact other levels of municipal government and request information on options/plans for the highway.
 6. Ask DOT where in the procedure the plans for EIA are?
 7. Have a forum to talk to the issue. What do we know? “A day-long symposium” (with experts, background papers).
 8. Consider “implication for re-routing” the current railway/road causeway.
 9. Focus the various responsible government’ bodies. Get the town/municipal council “on board”.
 10. Consider the whole river system, above and below “the causeway”.
 11. This group, and FAR (Friends of the Avon River), should stress bridging.

How do we move on these actions?

e.g. the Forum to discuss the issue. WHO moves this ahead (to the municipalities, to the other government departments)?

- FPI to council(s).
- BoFEP for starting the Forum process.

Focus Group: Fisheries Management

Coordinator: Max Westhead

Facilitator: Patricia Gould-Thorpe

Reporter: Max Westhead

Lead identified: none

Participants:

Paula Crawford*

Vernon Dill*

Justin Huston

Paula Lake*

Blair McLellan

Chris Mosher*

David Rohde

Leann Rohde

Denise Rudolph*

Stephen Rudolph

Bettie States

Maxine Westhead

Bill Whitman*

**indicated they would be interested in participating in action group on this topic*

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

(notes compiled by Max Westhead)

Two issues arose in this focus group - bloodworm harvesting (digging) and the causeway's effects on local fish stocks, with digging being the most prominent. This was a lively group, as many of the participants have been fighting against commercial digging in the area for a year now. The local residents saw their clam-flats over harvested and pretty much 'left for dead' in the 1980's. To this day the clam population has still not recovered. There is serious concern that the bloodworm digging is on the exact same path. Concerns can be broken down into the following categories - regulations, enforcement, ecological effects of digging, and communication. Many realistic, doable actions were put forward ranging from banning all commercial digging to civil disobedience to securing funds to conduct studies.

There was a hint of desperation in the conversation, as the local people have tried almost everything they can think of to stop the digging and have, in their eyes, been relatively unsuccessful to date. One participant was very impressed, though, with what the group has accomplished in terms of making contacts, establishing a group, and being consistently persistent with their fight. She left us with encouraging words and hope for change in the near future.

CONCERNS AND ISSUES:

Bloodworm Harvesting:

Regulations

- Not enough regulations for commercial fishermen and too many for locals
- Disagreement with licensing - locals shouldn't have to pay \$12

- Rumours of an impending salt water license (\$15) that one will need for any shoreline activity
- DFO's focus is 'clients', and clients are commercial harvesters - is that appropriate?
- When digging licenses established only those who could provide a record of selling baitworms could get a commercial license
- Why can't regulatory authorities be proactive instead of reactive?
- More laws are not the answer, especially if there is not enough enforcement

Enforcement

- Lack of regulatory enforcement
- Need more fisheries offices, and need officers to be reactive to phone calls and tips of illegal activity
- Lack of integrity or favouritism from current officers? Need consistent rules that apply equally to everyone
- Are harvesters abiding by the rules and harvesting responsibly?

Ecological Effects of Digging

- Lack of clam flat recovery to date implies long term impacts of sediment disturbance
 - From +200 diggers back in the 1980's (some from Parrsboro and Five Islands)
 - Gravel flats where mud flats used to be
 - Concerned that bloodworms will follow the same path that the clams did
 - Clams are still much smaller than they used to be
- Turning over of mud from bloodworm harvesting - what are the effects?
- One digger can harvest >1 acre per tide
- Do fisheries management and harvesters consider the link between mud flat disturbance and other marine life?

Communication

- Local knowledge ignored
- Government doesn't inform people of rules and regulations
- Frustration by having to speak with several people to get to the appropriate person when calling DFO

ACTIONS:

- Hazel Dill sits on the bloodworm advisory committee
- Can we find communities in other places that have had any success with this issue, such as Maine?
- Improve enforcement, hire more fisheries officers
- Get DFO to cooperate when it comes to investigating illegal digging
- Hire people to conduct studies
 - Effects of bloodworm harvesting on other marine life
 - Erosion

Summerville Forum

- Impacts of the causeway
- Raise the issue of "What can we do next?" at the BoFEP Steering Committee (Oct 29th)
- Partner with HRDC and others to get funding for studies
- Civil disobedience
- Ban all commercial worm harvesting
- Reevaluation of harvesting rules and get rid of the ones that harm the local traditions and way of life
- Keep the rules consistent
- Get the draggers out of the area and allow locals back in
- Improve accountability - there will be follow-up within the NS DAF and DFO to see if improvements can be made
- Better communication about regulations - those involved have to be able to access the rules of the day. Can they be posted on the web?
- Persistency is the key to success!

OTHER ISSUES RAISED:

- Too many commercial fishing boats in Bay, many from other areas
- Causeway blocking fish (striped bass, sturgeon, gaspereau, others) since it was built, as no fish way was ever installed. Better monitoring is needed.
- Dragger equipment breaking up the dulse in the area
- Titanium mining in Shubenacadie - how will this affect fish and wildlife?

Focus Group: Forestry Practices

Coordinator: Jon Percy

Facilitator: Mauritz Erhard

Reporter: Jon Percy

Lead Identified: None

Participants:

Kathy Aldous

Darrell Brown*

Christine Buechele*

Douglas Drudel

Maruitz Erhard*

Nanice Erhard*

Arnold Gallagher*

Barbara Gallagher*

Tracey Kettley*

George Mason*

Jack McLellan*

Jon Percy

Clyde Smith*

**indicated they would be interested in participating in action group on this topic*

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION

(notes compiled by Jon Percy)

Many issues related to forestry practices were raised. However, when these were closely examined it was clear that almost all of them were a direct or indirect consequence of clear cutting. For example, chemical spraying of forests and the effects of this on air quality and human health are a major concern. The spraying is being done to eliminate hardwood and promote softwood regeneration in clear-cut areas. Forestry companies are spraying to artificially force the forests to become pulpwood "fibre farms" rather than normal diverse "forests". Sustainable selective harvesting of the forest would eliminate the need for spraying herbicides. Clear cutting also triggers other adverse impacts including loss of wildlife habitat, loss of biodiversity, soil erosion, river siltation, topsoil and forest floor litter destruction, landscape gouging, water table lowering and flooding.

Woodlot owners in the focus group were concerned that while they want to conserve their woods and harvest them sustainably they might be forced to clear-cut. They fear, once the massive clear cutting now occurring on crown land and on some private land is completed, that they will be forced by the government to yield to the growing demands of forestry companies for more fibre. This pressure could come in the form of prohibitive increases in taxes on their holdings unless they agree to clear-cut them.

Dramatic changes are needed in the way that forests are managed by DNR. Sustainable, management practices must be introduced. Much forest is privately owned, so there need to be educational and tax incentive programs to encourage landowners to use their holdings sustainably. An accounting must be made of all the many economic and recreational values of forests, other than their cheap pulpwood potential (GPI approach). Forests should be used in ways that provide long-term benefits to the local community. Communities also need to have a voice in the decision-making that affects the natural landscape around them. This may involve establishing province-wide standards and

guidelines to facilitate community participation in the management process. Municipalities may have powers that would enable them to act on particular aspects of the issue (e.g. the health implications of spraying).

There are many groups all over the province concerned about the devastating impacts of clear cutting. These groups need to pool their efforts and work together. Ones that have been successful need to share their tactics with other groups confronting similar problems. Together they should develop an action plan to pressure the government to reform forestry practices. There should be a gradual shift way from clear cutting towards a more sustainable approach. There needs to be more communication with, and public support for, individuals within government who are concerned about forestry practices and are sympathetic to reform. Efforts should be made to get more intensive media focus on the issue as part of a public awareness campaign. A resource person could be hired to visit affected communities to discuss forestry issues with people in small groups. Forestry companies are paying a pittance for exclusive access to a public natural resource. The leasing arrangements between governments and forestry companies should be closely studied and subjected to public scrutiny and discussion.

CONCERNS AND ISSUES:

Clear cutting

- Spraying
- Destruction of topsoil- forest floor habitat
- Disruption of water systems
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Economic consequences; long term loss for short term gain; company leaves community
- Air quality
- Loss of biodiversity
- Taxed into practices against our wishes and better judgement

RESOURCES:

1. Sustainable forest management practices
2. Incentives - economic
3. Accurate information
4. Alternative economic models
 - access
 - research
 - education
5. Voice in decision making
6. Community management board
 - reasonable standards across the province
7. Speakers - knowledgeable

ACTIONS:

1. Province wide action committee for forestry practices
2. Better communication between various groups involved - network
3. Contact groups with successes
4. Identify sympathetic contacts within government
5. Media attention
6. Terms of agreement between government and business involved
7. Dialogue with corporations
8. Involve different levels of government
9. Different angles i.e. health
10. Pursuit of alternative economic models
11. Easy to achieve goals (start small and move slowly)
12. Public relations campaign
13. Clarify language
14. DO NOT GIVE UP!

ISSUES:

- Clear cutting
- Lack of sustainable management
- Air quality - chemical spraying and purification of air by trees.
- Side effects of spraying - accidental spraying of private lands; group mainly concerned with spraying with Vision and similar chemicals to control hardwood growth in pulpwood stands.
- Clear cutting - taxation issue; woodlands that owners don't want to clear cut; selective harvesting; fear that they are going to be punished (by increased taxation) by government for not clear cutting; Once clear cutting is finished on crown and willing private land in area will they (companies and government) go after remaining woodlot owners with healthy stands.
- Concern about clear-cut size and shape of areas cut.
- Forestry practices in general - also loss of habitat for wildlife and plants.
- All forestry issues raised are really interrelated, poisoning, erosion etc.
- Water table impacts.
- Destruction of topsoil and forest floor litter, gouging of landscape by heavy machinery.
- Economic consequences.
- Loss of biodiversity

RESOURCES:

- Forest management - sustainable
- Most of land privately owned
- How to change attitudes of private landowners - tax incentives and other incentives to encourage people to look after their woodlots sustainably
- Prefer incentives not to clear-cut rather than laws to prevent it.

Summerville Forum

- Silviculture program to thin out woodlands
- Importance of education of landowners
- Economic incentives
- Accurate information - comparison of various forestry uses - tourism etc. vs. forestry; GPI report on forestry,
- Need alternate economic models - how do we live with forests so that we have more local benefits.
- Communities need a voice in decision making
- Need standards and guidelines to ensure across the board practices in community involvement/management.
- Landowners - after most areas used will be presented with "cut it or lose it" by taxation and other disincentives.

ACTIONS

- Connecting of all concerned groups together - networking of all concerned groups.
- Contact groups that have had success on related issues (how did they tackle issues)
- Identifying sympathetic views/contacts in government
- Media involvement to highlight issues
- Research and make available terms of agreement between governments and major forestry companies - terms of contracts.
- Need to instil in people a sense of hope of change - that there is some hope that progress can be made.
- Get information on small contracts to learn process and work out details before moving on to bigger contracts ("grow it").
- Is leasing a public tender process?
- Action plan to get crown to change practices and guidelines.
- Gradual movement away from clear cutting towards something that we consider sustainable.
- Number of woodlot owners in focus group concerned about present clear cutting practices.
- Stop clear cutting on crown land as an educational tool
- Create a dialogue with big forestry corporations.
- Involvement of municipality- they can have a say in respect to spraying - might be a health issue that could be raised. Get involved in issue at local government level - what jurisdiction do local governments have in relation to issue?
- Use of term fibre-farm instead of forest - importance of terminology.
- Small incremental actions towards goal - gain momentum and find a direction that seems to be working.
- More community involvement in issue.
- Funding for a resource person to go visit and meet people in communities in small groups to discuss issues. Eye to eye meetings to get opinions and gauge awareness of issues.
- Public relations campaign to raise awareness.

Common Themes from Focus Groups

1. More cooperation, communication and networking amongst stakeholders were raised several times, often in reference to creating coalitions and trying to help each other out.
2. Similarly, better communication with government was also a frequent request, from the perspective of government being more open, and accessible with information. At the same time, a need for government to keep the local communities better informed was raised. There were also thoughts that government does not typically listen or react to local information or concerns appropriately.
3. Many participants saw the need to have more information on the effects of practices and then to pass this information onto the public through education programs. They were also interested in educating themselves on the issues and about more sustainable practices and what other communities may be doing to deal with the issues.
4. Lastly, the mantra – “don’t give up” was echoed in several groups. It was thought that this community had been very active in addressing many of the issues raised, and has had many accomplishments. There were feelings of frustration but also the need to not give up working on the issues.

G. Follow up:

As mentioned above, each Focus Group was able to identify begin to identify some specific actions that could to be taken to address the issues identified. The Minas Basin Working Group will be holding discussions with those people who identified themselves as the leads for each Focus Group as well as other interested individuals from community groups. The purpose of these discussions will be to review the recommendations and develop specific actions and plans to undertake.

III. APPENDICES

A. List of Participants

Don Aldous	Christina Mosher
Kathy Aldous	Tom Neily
Richard Armstrong	Jaimie Orser
Karen Beazley	Keith Pierce
Malory Beazley	Herb Ripley
Paul Beazley	David Rohde
Sean Bennett	Leann Rohde
Darrell Brown	Denise Rudolph
Christine Buechele	Stephen Rudolph
Jim Card	Paul Saunders
Keith Casey	Clyde Smith
Ted Cavanagh	Susie Smith
Catlyn Collins	Betty States
Megan Collins	Randy Tattrie
Paul Crawford	Art Weaver
Vernon Dill	Bill Whitman
Hazel Dill	Sandra winter
Douglas Drudel	
Tony Duke	
Brian Eccles	
Quincy Eccles	
Mauritz Erhard	
Nancie Erhard	
Alison Evans	
Arnold Gallagher	
Beverly Gallagher	
Pat Gould-Thorpe	
Jennifer Graham	
Doris Hagman	
Patricia Helliwell	
Tracey Kettley	
Andy Kirk	
Paula Lake	
Joan Lawrence	
Alan Lines	
Blair MacLellan	
Jack MacLellan	
Bill MacLeod	
Hugh MacNeil	
Dennie Macumber	
George Mason	
Madelene McLellan	

B. Participant Feedback

Response from: Kathy Aldous

Issues of Concern:

Comments: Thank you for bringing this forum to our community. Great organization, great presentation. You effectively focussed our concerns. I look forward to the action stage.

Response from: Christine Beudel

Issues of Concern: Forestry and clear cutting

Comments:

Response from: Dave and Leann Rohde

Issues of Concern: Fisheries (baitworms and commercial over fishing)

Comments: Interesting, will be anxious to see if any actions come about because of forum.

Response from: Betty-Anne States

Issues of Concern: Fisheries

Comments: Hopelessness from group.

Response from: Susie Smith

Issues of Concern: Damage done by Windsor Causeway to ecosystem both up-river and on bay side. Federal/provincial study needs to be a priority concerning the effects of damage done (and if removed) before twinning of the road takes place. Not sure how to make it happen.

Comments: Too long for evening sessions. Should be on weekend or started earlier. Should just summarize presentations (be more precise).

Response from: Doris Hagmann

Issues of Concern: Water, forest, fish, and agriculture. Awareness, personal engagement of everyone.

Comments: Great workshop and forum, thank you.

Response from: Paul Crawford

Issues of Concern: Avon Causeway (fish can't get up river).

Comments: Very informative (displays, literature, explanation of BoFEP).

Response from: Barbara Gallagher

Issues of Concern: Forestry. Concerns about clear cutting, loss of long term economic benefits, concerns about use of spray (pesticides) to kill or stunt growth of hardwoods (and other vegetation), loss of biodiversity, concern about air quality with decrease in acreage of forests (especially old forests) need to purify air. Tourism will suffer and has already started to suffer with increase in clear cutting in this area.

Comments: Generally well organized (perhaps times in specific groups could have been shortened a little). Hopefully that if forestry is a concern of other areas around the Minas Basin, then a coordinated approach may be tried to address the issue(s).

Response from: Denise Rudolph

Issues of Concern: Commercial blood worming on the Hants Shore, Causeway in Windsor pertaining to fish rules and regulations. Disturbance of mud, effects of removal of food from the mud-shore birds, flounder, bass.

Comments: Excellent information night. Very interesting. Nice to be able to have discussion with a group, to let others know what has been going on and what has been done.

Response from: Mr. Mauritz and Dr. Nancie Erhard

Issues of Concern: Sustainable rural communities (intersection of ecology, economics, and social dynamics). Our resource-based economies are being dealt with in an extractive economy leading to the destruction of communities. Forestry, agriculture, air pollution/climate, alternative economics and energy.

Comments: Well organizes. I move question to the interest groups (or a next step) is to survey the assets present in the community – structural, expertise, and community strengths. I'd be interested in attending the Truro meeting (Nancie).

Response from: Paula Lake

Issues of Concern: Commercial bloodworm harvesting on the Hants Shore. Windsor Causeway re: fish spawning. Rules and regulations put on recreational fishermen - recreational licenses to dig bloodworms for bait to fish. "What depletes a resource the quickest? Commercial fishing or recreational fishing?"

Comments: Good way to let others know of concerns pertaining to the Minas Basin. Also a good way to get ideas.

Response from: Dennie Macumber

Issues of Concern: More workshops on the local concerns as well as the Minas Basin on the whole

Comments: Good informative – need more

Response from: Joan Lawrence

Issues of Concern: Avon River Causeway and the health of the Avon River above and below the dam. Many issues to be resolved. Should request that the transportation department consider bridging the twining portion of 101 across the Avon River.

Comments: A very productive forum, a lot of issues were addressed.

C. Introductory Presentation

**Fourth Minas Basin Community
Forum**

**Dr Arthur Hines Elementary School
Summerville, Hants County
22 October 2002**

Hosted by:

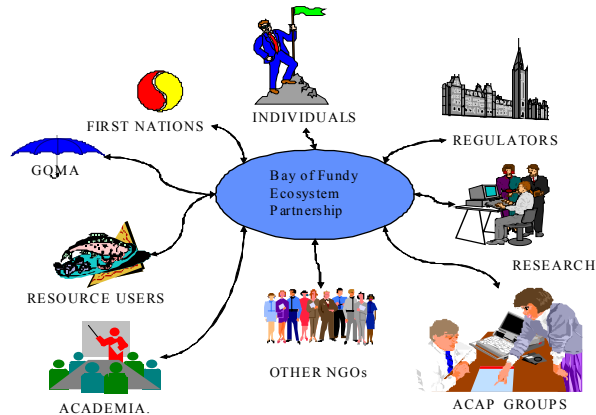
- ▶ Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP)
- ▶ Citizens Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE)
- ▶ Hants Regional Development Authority
- ▶ Hants Shore Community Health Centre
- ▶ Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group

**Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
(BoFEP)**

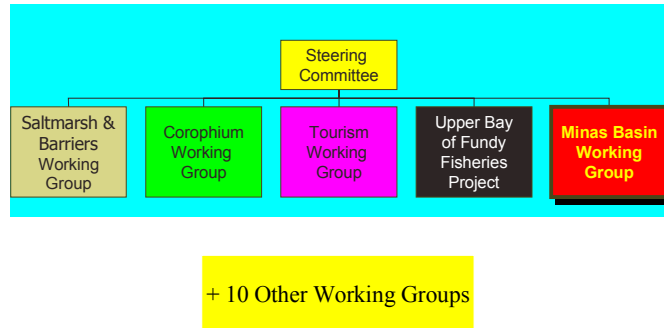
- Established in 1997
- Outgrowth of a science based forum to assess our knowledge of the natural resources of the Bay of Fundy
 - A major outcome was identification of the need and desire to form an organization that represented the interests of all stakeholders concerned with the Bay's resources
- BoFEP's primary mission is to enhance communication and coordination of activity among all groups interested in the sustainability of the resources of the Bay of Fundy



BoFEP Membership



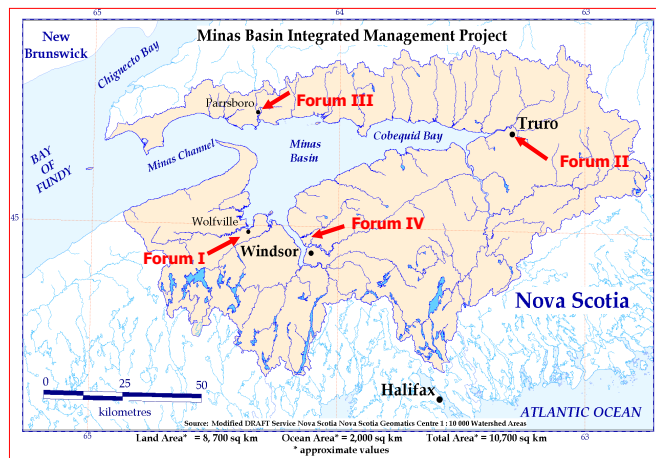
BoFEP Organization



Minas Basin Working Group

- **Long-term Objective:**
 - Development of community-based management plans for the sustainable future of Minas Basin resources and watershed communities
- **First Step:**
 - Community meetings to
 - identify the issues and priorities
 - determine what is required to resolve the issues

The Minas Basin Watershed



Community Forum Objectives

- Develop basics of an action plan for the Minas Basin Watershed
- Increase awareness in the community of existing interest groups
- Enhance cooperation & networking

Workshop Format

- Identify Major Issues
- Prioritize Issues and Form Focus Groups
- Within Each Focus Group:
 - Define the issue
 - Identify the resources required to address the issue
 - Determine what actions are required to begin resolving the issue

Identifying the Issues

Using Dots to
Prioritize the
Issues



1st Priority

**If an issue you feel
is important is not
listed, add it to the
issues board**



2nd Priority



3rd Priority

Next Steps

- **Executive summary of Forum** will be mailed to all attendees (but only if you signed up)
- **Full Report on previous Forums** – on BoFEP web site or available from BoFEP office
- An **Action Oriented Workshop** is planned for 16-17 November 2002 in Truro
 - focus will be on how to best move forward on actions identified at each forum

How do I stay involved?

- **Become a member of BoFEP**
- **Join Minas Basin Working Group**
- **Join other groups working towards sustainability of our community and environment**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- **Members of Minas Basin Working Group**
- **Local Co-hosts:**
 - Doug Drudel - Citizens Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE)
 - Pat Gould-Thorpe - Hants Regional Development Authority
 - Kathy Aldous - Hants Shore Community Health Centre
 - Hazel Dill - Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group

Thanks for coming and have a safe drive home

D. Budget

Forum Budget – Summerville

Item	Approximate Cost	Actual Cost	Responsibility for Costs
Venue	\$50.00 - \$200.00	Gymnasium and 5 classrooms – in kind contribution by Dr. Arthur Hines School	Dr. Arthur Hines School
Food/refreshments	\$250.00 - \$300.00	Total \$200.00	Dr. Arthur Hines School Parent Group
Printing - Printing of Flyers	in kind? or \$200	- in kind by DFO	DFO
Mail outs - Address Labels and envelopes - Postage	in kind? or \$100.00 - \$150.00	- Emailing done by Hants Regional Development Authority - Invitations mailed by MBWG - \$42.69 Total \$42.69	Co-hosts Minas Group
Advertising - Community News Ads (newspapers and TV) - Public Service Announcements (Radio)	in kind? or Free?	- No cost	
Misc (supplies)		Supplies - \$67.22 Travel - \$78.00 Total \$145.22	Minas Group
Total Budget	\$600.00-\$850.00	\$387.91	

E. Registration Material

- **Minas Basin Working Group Brochure**
- **Comment/Feedback Form**
- **Focus Group Discussion Summaries**
- **Preliminary Issues List**
- **Map of Minas Basin Watershed**

Comment/Feedback Form

(Minas Basin Community Forum, Summerville NS – Oct 22nd 2002)

Please return Comment Form to drop off box or fax back to BoFEP at 902-585-1054

Name: (optional)	
Address: (optional)	
Email or Phone: (optional)	
Would you like to participate in the Minas Basin Initiative of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership? <i>(if you answer yes, please make sure to your include name and address or email above so we can contact you)</i>	YES/NO

Issue(s) of Concern:

Comments/Feedback on Community Forum:
--

Focus Group Discussions

The goal of the Focus Group Discussions is to examine the scope of a specific issue from the perspective of those present, to assess current activities and information weaknesses, to brain-storm upon and evaluate potential remedial measures that those present can undertake and finally to identify individuals to lead and/or work on this issue within their communities in conjunction with the broader Minas Basin Working Group and the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership.

The Facilitator will lead the Focus Group through the following steps/questions:

a. COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

i. What are your concerns?

b. FOCUS

i. Identify the major issue(s) from the brainstorming session above or those this group would like to focus on

c. ACTIONS

i. What needs to be done about these issues and what are the specific actions WE can undertake? (Actions and timelines)

PRELIMINARY ISSUES LIST

Agricultural Practices

- Effects of runoff on rivers; pollution, sedimentation, destruction of fish habitat
- Limited buffer areas along waterways
- Drought, insufficient water for irrigation, low water levels

Bioinvasions

- Introduced marine species from ship hulls (hull fouling), ballast water and aquaculture
- May also include land species (e.g. purple loosestrife)

Coastal Access

- Decreasing public access to coastline

Coastal Effects of Climate Change

- Sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, ecological changes

Development

- Urban sprawl, development spreading to agricultural lands
- Urban storm water runoff and resulting pollution
- Direct and indirect effects on wildlife habitat
- Too few protected areas including representational landscapes, wilderness areas, wetlands, salt marshes etc.

Fisheries Management

- Low stocks and resulting competition
- Fisheries management policies currently ineffective, there is a desire for more community-based management (transfer of power to communities)
- Potential conflicts as a result of the Marshall Decision
- Current lack of regulations and management plan for baitworms, effects of harvesting techniques unclear

Forestry Practices

- Clear-cutting directly affects water quality and habitat, lack of buffer zones along waterways

Mining

- Effects from mining of peat, sand, gravel and gypsum

Sewage Treatment/Water Quality

- Poor drinking water quality, boil water orders, etc.
- Insufficient sewage treatment

Solid Waste Management

- Inefficient management practices (e.g. solid waste being transported long distances)

Tourism

- Potential conflicts between conservation and increased human uses (e.g. shorebird protection)
- Poor state of roads and lack of infrastructure for tourism development

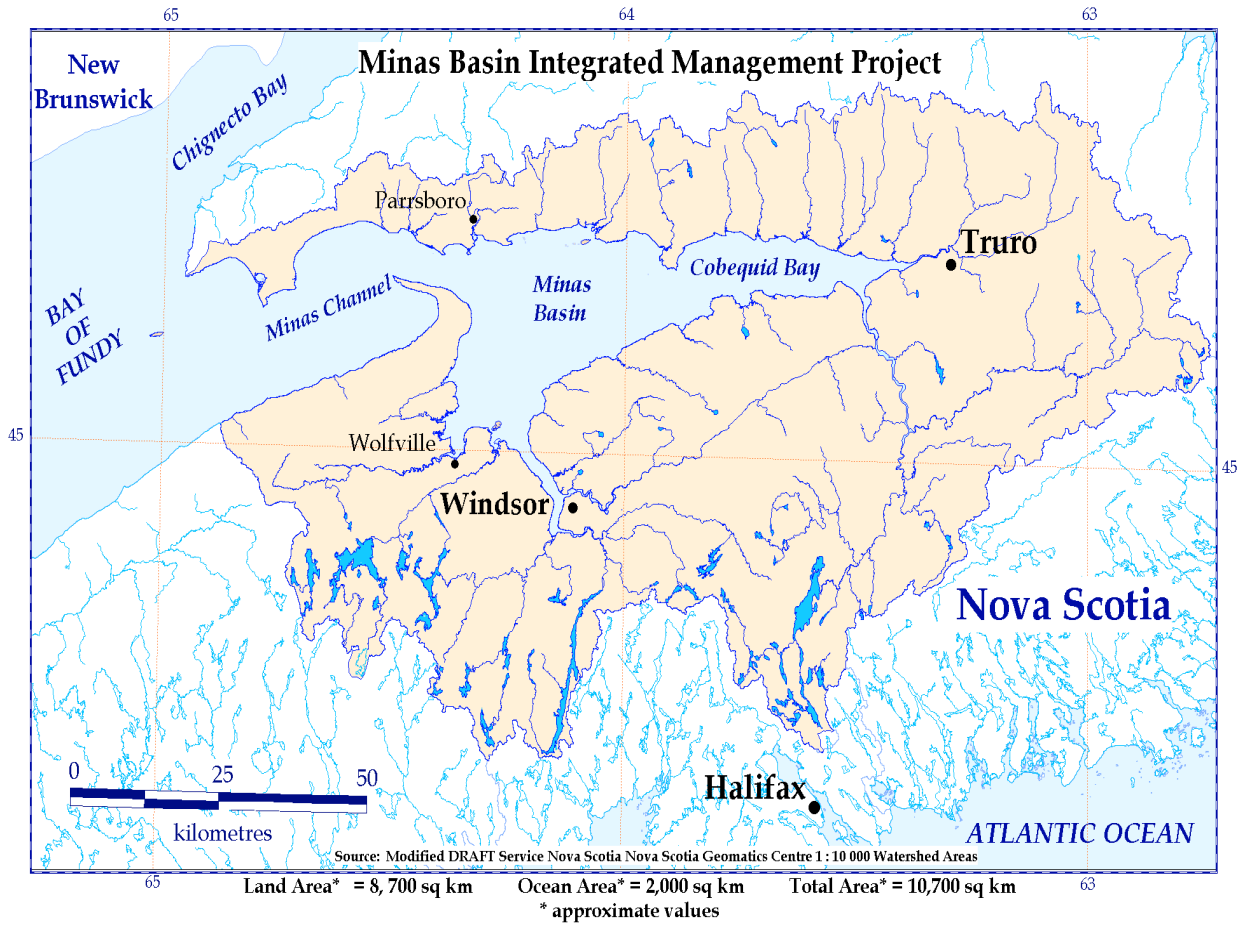
WHAT THE DOTS MEAN:

Red 1st Priority

Green 2nd Priority

Blue 3rd Priority

Map of Minas Basin Watershed



F. Forum Promotional Materials

- **Flyer**
- **Media Release**
- **Public Service Announcement**

Planning for Action in the Minas Basin Watershed!

Minas Basin Community Forum

Tuesday October 22nd, 2002

Dr. Arthur Hines School

Summerville, Hants County, Nova Scotia

The goal of this Community Forum is to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. This Community Forum will build on past initiatives by government and non-government organizations that have been aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the Watershed

If you live in the Minas Basin Watershed and/or have concerns about the present and future use of its resources, this Community Forum will provide an exceptional opportunity for you to help determine the future of our communities and their environments.

Find out how you can get involved in finding solutions!

Schedule

Open House – 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm

(Food and Refreshments available)

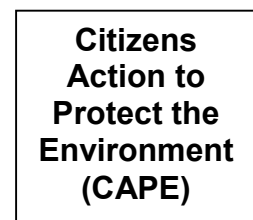
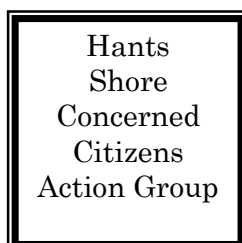
Discussion – 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm

- Introductory Remarks
- Focus Groups
- Wrap Up

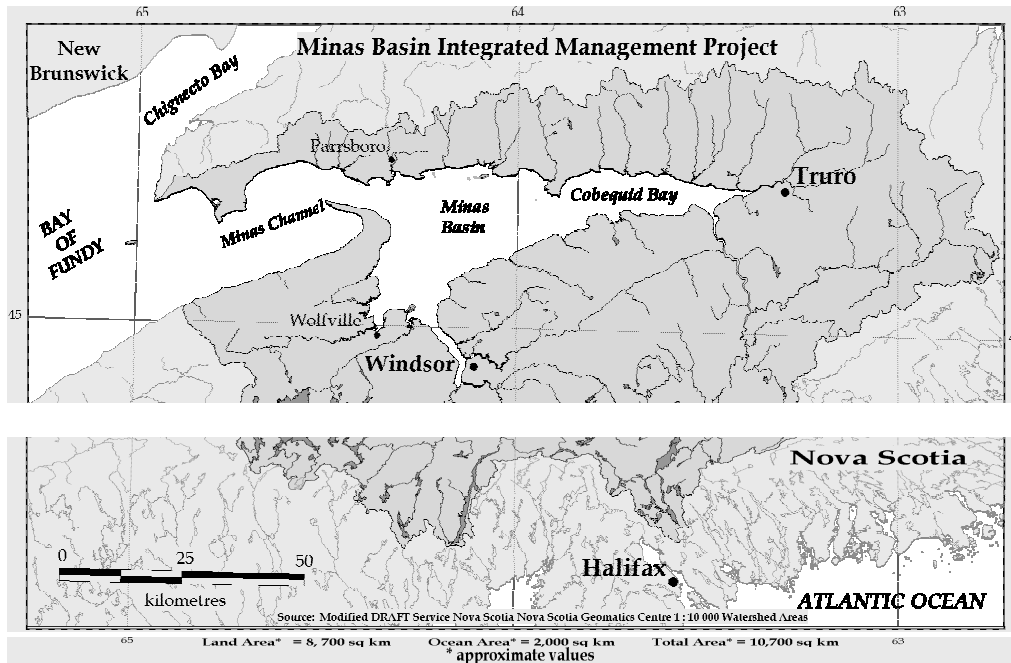
If you are planning on attending, or would like to have a display at the open house, please RSVP to:

Robin Musselman, Forum Coordinator @ 902-455-2202 r.musselman@ns.sympatico.ca or
Nancy Roscoe-Huntley, BoFEP Secretariat @902-585-1113 nancy.huntley@acadiiau.ca

This Forum is Co-hosted by:



The highlighted area of the Map of the Minas Basin Watershed below indicates the watersheds of the Minas Basin. Any activity that occurs within the watershed has potential effect to the entire Minas Basin.



The Minas Basin Watershed

Background

The Bay of Fundy has long been of great economic, social, ecological and scientific significance. It is recognized around the world, largely because of its renowned tides. However, in recent years there have been disturbing signs that all may not be well with the Bay. Declines in fish stocks, falling numbers in other wildlife, drought, and declining water quality are some of the issues currently being addressed. An increasing number of resource users with competing interests have placed an incredible amount of stress on this ecosystem. A comprehensive management plan, created with your input, can address and plan for these competing interests.

The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) was initiated in 1997 with the vision of promoting the ecological integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem, in support of the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities. One of its major goals is to facilitate and enhance communication and co-operation among all citizens interested in understanding, sustainably using and conserving the resources, habitats, and ecological processes of the Bay of Fundy. The Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP is focusing specifically on the Minas Basin portion of the Bay of Fundy to develop a sustainable management plan for the region. This Minas Basin project will be based on the issues and efforts of local residents and groups.

This will be the fourth Community Forum held this year by local co-hosts and the Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP. Previous Forums held in Wolfville, Truro and Parrsboro have been successful in discussing issues and identifying actions that need to be taken. Together with local communities and organizations, The Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP aims to develop 'work plans' to address these issues of concern.

The time is right to work together to ensure the Upper Bay of Fundy and the Minas Basin remain truly incredible places for all of their citizens!

For more information please contact:

Robin Musselman, Forum Coordinator @ 902-455-2202 r.musselman@ns.sympatico.ca

Graham Daborn, Chair of BoFEP @ 902-585-1113 graham.daborn@acadiu.ca

Mike Brylinsky, Chair of The Minas Basin Working Group @ 902-585-1509 mike.brylinsky@acadiu.ca

Media Release

For immediate release:

People living around the Minas Basin are being invited to take part in the fourth in a series of community forums designed to initiate real actions toward sustainable management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forum will build on past initiatives by government and non-government organizations that have been aimed at identifying issues of concern to the residents of the watershed.

"If we don't step in to protect the environment and resources, the long-term well-being of the Minas Basin and its watershed may be at risk," explains Dr. Graham Daborn, Chair of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership. "There are more than 30 rivers flowing into the Minas Basin. These serve as an important link between the watershed and the marine environment and also play a vital role in the region's economy."

Dr. Daborn explains "that there is growing recognition of the need for communities to develop a long-term plan to manage and preserve the basin, its watershed and natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations."

The Minas Basin Working Group of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP), along with local co-hosts have thus been sponsoring a series of Community Forums at various locations around the Minas Basin in the past few months. The fourth in a series of community forums will be held Tuesday October 22nd and will be co-hosted with the Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group, Citizens Action to Protect the Environment, the Hants Shore Community Health Centre and the Hants Regional Development Authority. It will be held at Dr. Arthur Hines School in Summerville from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. The Community Forum is free of charge and will consist of an Open House from 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Food and Refreshments provided) and a Discussion Period from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

"We invite all community members and organizations to participate as this Community Forum will provide an exceptional opportunity for people to help determine the future of our communities and their environments," says Dr. Daborn

Interested individuals and organizations are encouraged to have a display/booth at the Open House portion of one or all of the Community Forums. For more information contact Robin Musselman, Forum Coordinator.

For more information:

Robin Musselman,
Forum Coordinator
902-455-2202
r.musselman@ns.sympatico.ca

Dr. Graham Daborn,
Chair of BoFEP
902-585-1113
graham.daborn@acadiiau.ca

Mike Brylinsky, Chair of
Minas Basin Working Group
902-585-1509
mike.brylinsky@acadiiau.ca

Backgrounder

The Minas Basin Working Group and The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

The Bay of Fundy has long been of great economic, social, ecological and scientific significance. It is recognized around the world, largely because of its renowned tides. However, in recent years there have been disturbing signs that all may not be well with the Bay. Declines in fish stocks, falling numbers in other wildlife, and declining water quality are some of the issues currently being addressed. An increasing number of resource users with competing interests have placed an incredible amount of stress on this ecosystem. The Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) was initiated in 1997 with the vision of promoting the ecological integrity, vitality, biodiversity and productivity of the Bay of Fundy ecosystem, in support of the social well-being and economic sustainability of its coastal communities. One of its major goals is to facilitate and enhance communication and co-operation among all citizens interested in understanding, sustainably using and conserving the resources, habitats, and ecological processes of the Bay of Fundy. The Minas Basin Working Group of BoFEP is focusing specifically on the Minas Basin portion of the Bay of Fundy to develop a sustainable management plan for the region. This Minas Basin project will be based on the issues and efforts of local residents and groups.

The Hants Shore Community Health Centre

The Hants Shore Community Health Centre, located in Kempt Shore, opened in 1984 and serves an area from Tennecape to Upper Burlington. The result of a community initiative to secure health care services for the area, it is owned by the community and operated by a volunteer Board of Directors. The health centre offers primary care services, including a Family Physician, Pharmacy, Massage Therapy and a variety of health promotion programs such as a Nursery School, Active Living and Family Literacy.

The Hants Shore Concerned Citizen Action Group

The Hants Shore Concerned Citizen Action Group is a group of local citizens from the Hants Shore concerned over the environmental issues such as the depletion and destruction of the natural resources along the Hants Shore of the Minas Basin from the Avon to the Shubenacadie River. The group was formed as a result of the bloodworm-harvesting problem that took place along the Hants Shore during the summer of 2001. Commercial harvesters from Yarmouth and Kings County were engaged in violent confrontations over who had the right to dig the bloodworms. The group promotes a community based management plan that would place a moratorium on the commercial harvesting of bloodworms along the Hants Shore until proper research has been done to determine the impact of harvesting. They meet regularly to discuss action plans to make their community voice heard by Government officials. They promote peaceful solutions and a community based management of resources.

Citizens Action to Protect the Environment

Citizens Action to Protect the Environment (CAPE) is a Hants County based volunteer group with a mandate of promoting the wise use of natural resources and opposing further abuse of the environment. They have focused on promoting an alternative model to the clear cut/spray/replant softwood model of forestry management and successfully worked with the Department of Natural Resources to cancel the spray program on crown land in Hants County cancelled for the year 2002.

Hants Regional Development Association

Public Service Announcement

A series of Community Forums are being held around the Minas Basin to initiate real actions toward management of the natural and human resources of the Minas Basin Watershed. The Forums are free of charge and people living in these communities are being invited to take part in them.

The fourth in a series of community forums will be held Tuesday, October 22nd and will be co-hosted with the Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group, the Hants Shore Community Health Centre, Citizens Action to Protect the Environment and the Hants Regional Development Authority. It will be held at Dr. Arthur Hines School, Summerville, NS from 5:30pm to 9:30pm. The Community Forum is free of charge and will consist of an Open House from 5:30pm to 6:30pm (Food and Refreshments provided) and a Discussion Period from 6:30pm to 9:30pm.

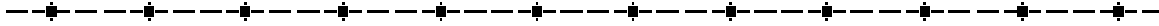
Contacts:

Robin Musselman, Forum Coordinator at 902-455-2202 or

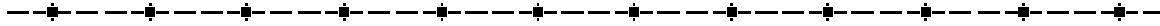
Dr. Graham Daborn, Chair BoFEP at 902-585-1113

Mike Brylinsky, Chair of Minas Basin Working Group at 902-585-1509

*“Planning for Action in the
Minas Basin Watershed”*



**Report of the Minas Basin
Action Planning Workshop**
Truro



Prepared for: Minas Basin Working Group, Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership
By: Jamie Orser and Michael Brylinsky

NOVEMBER 2002

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Executive Summary

During the past year, the Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership has been working with others that have an interest in the natural resources of the Minas Basin and its watershed. The long-term objective of the MBWG is to develop community-based management plans to ensure the sustainable (ecological, social and economic) future of Minas Basin resources and the communities within its watershed. The first step toward this goal was to carry out a series of community meetings to identify the issues surrounding the sustainability of the natural resources of the Minas Basin, and to determine what resources and actions are required to resolve the issues.

Between January and October 2002 four public community forums were held throughout the Minas Basin watershed. These were held in Wolfville, Truro, Parrsboro, and Summerville. As part of the forums, individuals and groups that expressed a desire to play a lead role in dealing with the issues were identified and subsequently invited to participate in a two day 'action' workshop to further develop work and action plans on the issues identified during the community forums. The action workshop was held in Truro on the 16th and 17th of November. This report documents the activities and results of this workshop.

In addition to a number of resource persons, the action workshop was attended by twenty individuals representing the different geographical areas of the watershed and a diversity of interests. Three generic action plans were developed based on the broad issues of Marine Life, Water Quality and Agriculture. Unfortunately, a snow storm on the morning of the second day of the meeting resulted in the meeting being terminated early with the result that not all of the workshop's objective were achieved. However, all participants felt it to be a valuable exercise and expressed a high level of interest in participating in future workshops.

Background

Over the last several years, the Minas Basin Working Group (MBWG) of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership (BoFEP) has been working towards the development of an Integrated Management Plan. This plan will be designed to enhance and ensure the sustainability of the natural resources of the Minas Basin and the communities within its watershed see (Appendix I for a listing of the MBWG's Objectives, Workplan and Action Plan). An initial step in this process has been the identification of resource issues and activities that impact on these resources. During 2002 four community forums were held throughout the Minas Basin watershed to identify the issues and determine what kinds of resources and actions are required to move towards resolving these issues. The results have been summarized by Musselman (2003). A common outcome of the discussions held at these forums was the identification of the need for a coordinated effort to develop specific action plans to deal with the numerous issues. As a consequence, it was decided that a special workshop be held to deal specifically with the development of work and action plans and a 'Minas Basin Action Workshop' was held in mid-November of 2002.

Workshop Objectives

The primary objectives of the workshop were to:

- (1) inform individual and community leaders of the resources available to move forward on natural resource issues within the Minas Basin Watershed,
- (2) identify resources that are not currently available but required to effectively deal with these issues,
- (3) begin the development of strategic and action plans with clear goals and timelines to deal with the issues,
- (4) develop and maintain networks between individuals, organizations, government agencies and other stakeholders with interests in the resources of the Minas Basin watershed and,
- (5) determine what the future role of the Minas Basin Working Group should be in meeting these objectives.

Workshop Participants

Participants for the workshop were selected from information obtained at the community forums that identified individuals having expressed an interest in playing lead roles in dealing with various issues. A total of 62 individuals were invited and, of these, 20 attended the workshop. The workshop was also attended by a number of resource persons representing various community groups and government agencies. The names and contact information of all participants are contained in Appendix I.

Workshop Format

Appendix II contains the workshop agenda. The first morning included an overview of the objectives of the Minas Basin Working Group, followed by the objectives of the Action Workshop. This was followed by presentations by individuals representing well-established and active community groups. The focus was on failures and success when trying to move actively to resolve issues. Gary McMahon, President of the Cobequid Salmon Association, Belinda Manning of the Environmentally Concerned Communities of Kings Association, and Steve Hawboldt, Executive Director of the Clean Annapolis River Project provided the group with varied reflections of their groups activities. Each presenter's recollection of challenges they had faced and resources they had used to combat these challenges illustrated that by working together, and by sharing resources and utilizing volunteers, a great deal can be done by individuals and community groups to ensure the sustainable management of our natural resources. The information presented was also particularly helpful in dealing with activities associated with the development of action plans that took place in the afternoon. The first day's activities culminated with a presentation by Sean Brilliant, Executive Director of the Saint John ACAP program, in which he shared the challenges his group has faced over the past decade, and the innovative steps taken to overcome some of these obstacles.

Activities scheduled for the second day of the workshop included presentations on funding opportunities, further development of action plans and a discussion on the role the MBWG could play in serving community groups and individuals to help develop and carry out their action plans. However, these activities were cancelled due to a snow storm which caused the workshop to end in the early morning.

Development of Action Plans

Afternoon activities focused on the development of action plans. Examples of how to create an action plan, and the type of information and level of detail required to develop a plan that is both useful and realistic was presented. After a discussion on how to best proceed with the development of specific action plans it was decided to break out into three groups, each dealing with a broad set of issues. The three issues were Marine Life, with a focus on fisheries, Water Quality, with a focus on sewage, and Agriculture, with a focus on water quality and quantity. Each group then spent the afternoon developing a plan that involved clearly stated objectives, a set of tasks to achieve the objectives and specific actions associated with each task. The three groups reconvened in the late afternoon and presented the results of their discussion to each other.

Action Plans

The following is an outline of the results of the discussions for each working group.

Marine Life

Issue: Marine life in the Minas Basin is in trouble due to human activities such as habitat destruction and degradation and poor harvesting practices.

The group felt that three main categories of factors affecting marine life within the Minas Basin are:

1. Chemical (dissolved oxygen, pollutants, sewage)
2. Physical (tidal barriers, harvesting techniques, dredging, shipping, climate control, erosion/siltation)
3. Biological (harvesting techniques, introduced species, sewage)

Goal: To restore marine life to a 'healthy state' by addressing critical habitat issues and harvesting practices.

Tasks:

1. Collect base / historical information on marine life
2. Determine current status of marine life within the Minas Basin
3. Identify marine life that is sensitive or in decline
4. Determine factors limiting the ability of sensitive species to flourish
5. Involve community in every step

Actions:

'Actions' were developed for two of these items, tidal barriers and harvesting practices (for bloodworms), both itemized as physically limiting factors.

Tidal Barriers:

1. Look for historical data/info on anadromous fish
2. Observe and document anadromous fish present
3. Measure physical/chemical properties of either side of suspected barriers (for example, temperature, depth, salinity)

Harvesting Practices for Bloodworms:

1. Determine how important bloodworms are in the ecosystem
2. Measure erosion rates and other physical properties
3. Research other areas having similar experiences (for example, Maine)
4. Compare bloodworm abundance and catch rates
5. Determine species composition before and after harvesting
6. Examine the food web
7. Reverse 'burden of proof'

Corrective Actions:

Tidal Barriers:

1. Explore feasibility (pros and cons) of alternatives (ecological, social, economic)
 - brooding/removal
 - fish ladders
 - culvert design/repair
2. Implement best alternatives
 - fundraising
3. Evaluate alternatives

Bloodworm harvesting:

1. Impose a temporary moratorium (advocacy, civil disobedience)
2. Utilize sustainable management and the precautionary approach
 - reduced commercial harvesting
 - enforcement, impose limits and areas for fishing
 - close areas
 - recreational harvest?
3. Community involvement
4. Community based management
 - co-management

Agriculture

Goal: To protect and ensure the quality and quantity of water resources for agricultural use.

Tasks:

1. Educate a network of agricultural stakeholders
2. Understand diverse solutions to water quality and quantity issues (in an agricultural context)
3. Initiate and maintain water quality and quantity monitoring processes
4. Liaise with other water-related groups
5. Encourage and promote the development and use of environmental farm plans

Actions:

1. Identify a network of stakeholders
 - Assess the educational needs of these stakeholders
 - Develop an education plan (using brochures/ newsletters)
2. Contact the stakeholders using focus group sessions
 - Evaluate and research previous actions and initiatives
 - Form partnerships as a result (of above)
3. Identify resources (i.e. Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Environment Canada)
 - Contact other environmental agencies for any data pertaining to water quality

- and quantity
4. Identify water-related groups and farm partnerships
 5. Become familiar with Environmental Farm Planning (EFP)
 - Evaluate current implementation of EFPs
 - Establish a mentoring program for new proponents using advice/knowledge of agricultural lists with EFPs

Sewage

Goal: Better sewage management - better water and a better environment

Objectives:

1. Identify problems and issues:
 - onsite sewage and Central systems
 - disposal
 - education

I. Onsite:

Issues: Expense for homeowners
Enforcement
Poorly operating systems (no maintenance)

Strategy: Educate homeowners (awareness)
Determine extent of problem
Educate lenders (tie into mortgage)
Offer tax deductions for maintenance
Provide more regulation for contractors
Institute mandatory filter systems

II. Offsite:

Issues: Efficiency of current systems
Land development and sewer system capacity are no increasing together

Strategy: Monitor rivers (quality and quantity)
Request input and cooperation from the NSDOEL
Treat sewage with constructed wetlands
Draw examples from other functioning systems

General Actions:

1. Encourage water reduction through education and new technology
2. Treat sewage as a resource
3. Use 'graduated rates' for water consumption (the more you use, the more you pay)
4. Educate the public - compile a leaflet for small communities and have it delivered by community groups to people's homes
5. Survey the community on their water use and sewage systems
6. Educate lenders - prepare a package to convince banks to cooperate

Recommendations of Workshop Participants

Workshop participants were provided with a series of questions (Appendix V) and asked to comment on the workshop in particular and the activities of the MBWG in general. The following is a summary of their comments.

Participation

The first set of questions focused on the participants' willingness to further participate in the Minas Basin Initiative. All participants felt that they could participate in some manner, but only a few specified which action group (or groups) they would be interested in working in.

Action Group	Participants
Marine Life	Pam Comeau, Randy Corcoran, Kerrie Murphy, Denise Rudolph, Paul Saunders
Sewage	Susan Brown, Randy Corcoran, Belinda Manning, Kerrie Murphy
Other	Karen Beazley (Avon River – ecological issues in the Minas Basin as a result of or related to the Avon River as discussed at the Summerville Community Forum)

Both Richard Hennigar and Alex MacDonald stated that they were interested in working with the MBWG and would like to be involved in action groups, but were not prepared to state which group at this point. Susan Brown and Belinda Manning both provided lists of action groups that would be useful to explore: wetlands, forestry, water, and building community groups.

A meeting, conference, or online chat should be set up with those people who stated their interest in working on a particular action group. These individuals should act as leads in their communities, and could help further develop the action plans that were started at the workshop. By the responses above, it is easy to see that Marine Life (fisheries) and Sewage are top priorities within the Minas Basin, as illustrated as well in Musselman's report (2003).

The second set of questions was aimed at the connectivity between the workshop and the community forums, the action plan exercise, and the workshop itself. Not all workshop participants were present at the community forums, but all participants were aware that they took place. Some individuals felt that this workshop allowed the group to focus in on the issues that were presented at the forums, and allowed discussion and a chance to develop strategies towards solving these issues. Other individuals felt that there were more intangible benefits, for example, "...mutual support, inspiration, a feeling of doing important work, and that you are not alone."

When asked about the action plans, participants agreed that these were a good first step in getting projects started and creating a strategy for completing these projects. However, most participants

also felt that the action plans were incomplete, and still require much work. Others learned how to create action plans and intended to take this new skill back to their own groups. The issue of scope was raised – is the entire Minas Basin Watershed too large to create an action plan for? Should the action plans be specific to smaller areas of the watershed? Another issue that was raised was the continuity of volunteers to work on these action plans, “The action plan exercise was an effective way to start defining the issues, but there will be difficulties as there isn’t a continuity of people working on the projects – this happens with most volunteer organizations.” Although the action plans were not completed, partly as a result of the loss of one of the two workshop days, participants expressed they felt excellent concepts were developed.

Overall, workshop participants enjoyed the format of the workshop, the mixture of interactive action planning sessions with information presentations. Participants were enthused to learn about existing groups within the Watershed and the issues that those groups have dealt with in the past. Although action plans were not completed, participants stated that the event was productive, “Overall, I established many contacts for my organization and was able to meet a number of different stakeholders from around the Basin.” A common theme included to host another half day workshop to conclude the items scheduled for the second day. Participants would like to know more about resource availability and would like to have the opportunity to finish working on the action plans.

Feedback from all participants reflected a strong need for the MBWG. “Many small groups are working separately; an integrated approach, a strong lead, and a supportive forum, all of which the MBWG could provide, are helpful.” There was also a strong sentiment that more ‘every day’ people should be included in the MBWG itself; the MBWG should be reflective of the communities it represents. When asked about the future of the MBWG, three themes arose:

1. Communication
 - Stronger alliances formed at the community level
 - A forum for sharing information between businesses, communities and organizations
 - Broad participation from a range of stakeholders
2. Public awareness/ Education
 - Information on environmental issues
 - Materials in a variety of mediums
 - Education for the public, government and businesses
3. Integrated planning
 - An integrated approach to environmental issues
 - Integration of various perspectives into short and long term action plans

Future Role for the Minas Basin Working Group

Participants of the Minas Basin Action Workshop strongly felt that there is a need for a MBWG and indicated a number of ways in which the MBWG could be of assistance. These included:

1. Provide information on the Working Group activities to groups and organizations within the Minas Basin.

2. Continue to take a lead in ‘bringing people together’-- scientists, citizens and non-governmental organizations.
3. Host skills building workshops for community groups and organizations throughout the watershed.
4. Act as a liaison between government, academia, and communities.
5. Provide online resources such as a message board or e-newsletter that allows people to interact with others throughout the Minas Basin.
6. Share expertise in research, scientific method and organizational structure.
7. Act as a central networking body – compile and make available a central list of organizations and what they do.

Acknowledgements

Environment Canada and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans provided the financial resources necessary for the workshop. Robin Musselman provided help identifying individuals that had expressed an interest in attending the workshop. The contribution of the numerous resource persons, many of which found the time from very busy schedules to attend a weekend workshop is greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Belinda Manning, Steve Hawboldt, Gary McMahon, and Sean Brilliant for making presentations and sharing their experiences and challenges, and for the support and encouragement they provided for continuing to work on this important initiative. The biggest thank you, however, must go to the community volunteers who were willing to give up a weekend of their time to participate in the workshop.

Appendix I

Minas Basin Working Group Strategic Plan

Background

The Minas Basin is the southern branch of the upper Bay of Fundy and a highly productive and dynamic ecosystem blessed with many natural resources that have for generations been used for the benefit of its surrounding communities. Some species, habitats and ecological processes are now threatened by current and anticipated activities in the Basin and its watershed. Concerned about the ecological integrity of the Minas Basin and the communities that depend upon it, the Minas Basin Working Group was established in 1998 as a committee affiliated with the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment. In 2000, the Minas Basin Committee became a Working Group of the Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership and began to establish its own identity, mission, purpose and objectives.

Mission

The Minas Basin Working Group has adopted the principles of the mission statement for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment.

To maintain and enhance environmental quality in the Minas Basin and its watershed, and to allow for sustainable resource use by existing and future generations.

General Principles

This mission is predicated on the following general principles:

- Conservation, protection and management of Minas Basin resources and their habitats should be ecosystem-based and reflect a holistic understanding of ecosystem structure, processes and interactions.
- Resource development and other coastal zone activities should be based on ecologically sound integrated coastal planning and management.
- Coastal planning and management should be transparent and open to participation by resource users, coastal communities, industries, scientists, governments, managers and all other individuals and groups with interests in the Minas Basin ecosystem.
- Effective communication and active co-operation among all citizens with an interest in the Minas Basin, and linkages with groups and programs that share similar objectives are vital to this enterprise.

Operating Principles

In advancing the objectives of the Minas Basin Working Group, the primary role/function of the Group is to establish links between interest groups, and facilitate access to scientific and community knowledge pertaining to the Minas Basin and its watershed.

More specifically, the group will:

- always be objective and open to all opinions and positions;
- ensure open and transparent consensus-based decision making;
- incorporate flexibility in planning approaches;
- facilitate information exchange and access to expertise regarding the Minas Basin;
- provide contacts for information, advice and guidance on issues of concern;
- distribute information in a clear, concise and understandable form;
- provide assistance in identifying priority issues of concern, developing community oriented workplans, writing proposals and preparing applications for funding;
- identify opportunities for public involvement and community partnerships to address issues of concern;
- provide in-kind support for projects consistent with the mission and objectives of the Minas Basin Working Group and BOFEP.

To Advance this Mission

The Minas Basin Working Group will actively pursue the following objectives:

Identify Community Issues

Engage the public in identifying issues and actions pertaining to the sustainability of the Basin's resources and its coastal communities (i.e. encourage active community participation in all aspects of the Working Group's activities).

Facilitate Partnerships and Collaboration

Facilitate partnerships, collaboration and new funding opportunities among researchers, policy makers, resource managers and community groups pertaining to any aspect of the sustainable use and management of the Minas Basin.

Develop and Facilitate Implementation of Integrated Management Plans

To work towards a multi-stakeholder-supported, integrated management plan for the Minas Basin, taking into account its natural resources (living and non-living), the needs for conservation and protection, and Canada's long-term commitment to sustainable development.

Enhance Communication and Information Exchange

Enhance access to and interpretation of information on Minas Basin and its natural resources.

Identify Research Priorities

Identify emerging environmental issues and trends of importance to the Minas Basin watershed and its communities. To address research priorities, the Working Group will establish sub-committees, such as the existing Habitat Sub-Committee.

Identify Habitat Issues

Facilitate coordination of efforts to identify critical habitats and living resources of the Minas Basin (i.e. encourage conservation of the Basin's biodiversity).

Minas Basin Working Group 2002/2003 Work plan

OBJECTIVE	WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES
1. Identify community issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Organize community workshops on an as needed basis, and prepare workshop summaries/reports b) Maintain contact with key groups and individuals to ensure that emerging issues are identified
2. Facilitate partnerships and collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Network with existing groups b) Maintain and update a database of relevant individuals and organizations in the watershed c) Connect groups with similar interests and objectives to one another d) Obtain representation on the Working Group from relevant government agencies/departments, community groups and academic institutions
3. Develop and facilitate the implementation of integrated management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hold monthly Minas Basin Working Group meetings b) Support the Integrated Fisheries Management Sub-committee c) Assist focus groups in developing management plans d) Employ a coordinator to help the focus groups get started and secure funding e) Connect focus groups with expertise f) Provide data and information as needed (e.g., maps) g) Provide in-kind support where possible (photocopying, mailings, etc.) h) Act as a general resource for focus group needs
4. Enhance communication and information exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop "Ecosystem Overviews" and/or "State of the Environment" reports b) Maintain the Minas Basin Working Group web pages which include agendas, minutes and Working Group publications c) Produce educational materials such as brochures, web pages and discussion papers
5. Identify research priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) From community forums, identify emerging environmental issues and trends of importance to the Minas Basin and its communities b) Identify and initiate new projects based on local interests and needs

OBJECTIVE	WORKING GROUP ACTIVITIES
6. Identify habitat issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Hold regular meetings of the Habitat Sub-committeeb) Establish a multi-stakeholder working group to identify species and habitats of concern in the Salmon River and its watershedc) Consolidate habitat/species information from various sources into one map series, and update current informationd) Work with communities to identify values in habitat protection/management and identify gaps in knowledgee) Create a priority species/habitat inventory for the Salmon river watershed including identification of habitats that can/should be conserved, restored and enhancedf) Develop maps of significant species and habitats based on available informationg) Develop action plans for species and habitat maintenance, restoration and/or enhancement where required

APPENDIX II

Workshop Participants

Groups Represented

Acadia Centre for Estuarine Research
ACAP Saint John
Bay of Fundy Marine Resource Centre
CAPE
Clean Annapolis River Project
Cobequid Salmon Association
Colchester ATV Club
Colchester Regional Development Association
Eastern Kings Community Health Board
Environmentally Concerned Communities of Kings Association
Five Islands ATV Club
Friends of the Avon River
Friends of the Cornwallis River
Hants Shore Concerned Citizens Action Group
Kings Community Economic Development Association
Nova Forest Alliance
Sheffield Mills Community Association
Valley Watershed Stewardship Association

Resource Persons

Community Members

APPENDIX III

Minas Basin Action Workshop Agenda

Saturday 16 November

- 9:00 - 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 - 10:30 Introductions and Workshop Objectives - Mike Brylinsky
- Group Presentations – Experiences of Others**
- 10:30 - 11:00 Steve Hawboldt – Executive Director, Clean Annapolis River Project
- 11:00 - 11:30 Gary McMahon - Cobequid Salmon Association
- 11:30 - 12:00 Belinda Manning - Environmentally Concerned Communities of Kings Association
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:20 Mike Brylinsky – Elements of an Action Plan
- 1:20 - 4:30 Formation of Working Groups and Action Plan Development (Nutrition Break 3:00 – 3:15)
- 4:30 - 5:00 Brief Progress Reports on Action Plans
- 6:00 - Dinner Guest Speaker Sean Brilliant – Executive Director, ACAP Saint John, N.B
- 7:30 - 9:00 Poster Session

Sunday, 17 November

- 8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 - 10:15 Presentation and Discussion of Action Plans by Working Groups
- 10:15 - 10:30 Nutrition Break
- 10:30 - 12:00 Presentation and Discussion of Action Plans Continued
- 12:00 - 1:00 Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:30 Heather McLean, Environment Canada - Funding Agencies, Proposal Writing and Fund Raising
- 1:30 - 1:45 Justin Huston, NSDEL – Sustainable Communities Initiative
- 1:45 - 2:00 Wrap-up

Appendix IV

Comment Sheet

Minas Basin Workshop: Planning for Action
Truro, Nova Scotia, November 16th and 17th, 2002

Name (optional):	
Address (optional):	
Email/ Phone (optional):	
Would you like to continue to participate in BoFEP's Minas Basin Initiative (<i>If 'yes', please fill in the above information so we can contact you.</i>)	Yes
	No
Would you like to participate in one of the Action Groups established during this workshop? (<i>If 'yes', please fill in the above information so we can contact you.</i>)	Yes
	No
If 'yes', which Action Group?	

Do you feel this workshop helped address the issues previously defined in the community forums held throughout the Minas Basin?

Do you feel that the action plans developed are a good first step to deal with issues within the watershed? Please explain.

How can the Minas Basin Working Group be of greater assistance to you and your organization?

General comments on the workshop.