



Nova Scotia
Environmental Network
Connecting for a Sustainable Future

2020 NSEN Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 @ 7:00 pm, online via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

NSEN Board Members (8 out of 10):

- Chris White (Chair)
- Megan MacLeod (Vice-Chair)
- Emily Dodge (Secretary)
- Emma Bocking (Treasurer)
- Samantha Burns
- Victoria Byrne
- Sheila Richardson
- Natalie Palmer (incoming)

Organization Members (11 out of 32):

- Rev. Marion Lucas-Jefferies (Priest with Anglican Diocese of NS & PEI, coordinates the environment network of the Diocese)
- Becky Parker (NS Young Naturalists, Board member of Nature NS)
- Jessica Alexander (Deputy Leader for Green Party of NS)
- Tina Northrup (East Coast Environmental Law)
- Marion Moore (South Shore Council of Canadians and Offshore Protection of NS)
- Holly Lennox (Living Earth Council in Truro)
- Joanne Light (Citizens Climate Lobby Halifax, former NSEN board member)
- Patrick Yancy (Extinction Rebellion NS)
- Katie Scott (Education specialist with Ducks Unlimited, Chair of ESEC)
- Christie Chaplin-Saunders (Solar Nova Scotia)
- David Wimberly (Transition Bay St. Margarets)

Individual Members (4 out of 42):

- Emma Wattie (Director of Atlantic Water Network)
- Sheila Cole (member of NSEN)
- Kelly Schnare (ReImagining, part of Water Caucus and ESEC)
- Charlene Morton (here as individual, involved in Campaign to Protect Offshore NS)

Non-Member Guests (6):

- Federica Jacks (here as individual, works at Clean Foundation)
- Hil Hamilton (SuperNOVA at Dal, involved in ESEC)
- Megan Myers (Saint Mary's River Association)
- Aislin Livingstone (Atlantic Water Network)
- Laura Chandler (Atlantic Water Network)
- Kate Sullivan

AGENDA

Introduction:

Megan MacLeod gives an introduction and opening talk about current events re systemic racism and acknowledges that meetings aren't accessible to everyone and that this is something that we can work on moving forward.

Land Acknowledgement:

Chris White acknowledges that Nova Scotia is on Mi'kmaq land and that it has never been ceded. Acknowledge that the inclusion of Indigenous voices is critical to the environmental movement.

Approval of Agenda:

Megan MacLeod goes over the agenda for the AGM. Call out for participants to add to the agenda. No one has anything to add. Moving forward with the stated agenda.

Introductions from all Attendees:

Who they are, what organization they are with, and what gives them hope.

Sheila Cole recommends counting our numbers. Number of environmental organizations and the number of members.

Approve 2019 AGM Minutes:

Emma Bocking moves to approve, Jessica Alexander seconds. Motion passes.

Directors' Report:

Chris White and Megan MacLeod deliver the 2020 Directors' Report presentation (see document for full details).

- **Historical context:** Had federal funding until 2011. There has been diminishing capacity. 2017 hit a low point. In 2018, new people got involved in NSEN.
- **Team:** 2017 had 3 board members, 1 communications officer, low capacity. 2020 now has 10 board members, more capacity, more volunteers, upcoming Canada Summer Jobs
- **Finances:** Since 2018 when annual income was less than annual expenses:, cut down on expenses: Changed mailbox, started doing more in-house bookkeeping, cut communications role (changed it to volunteer position). Also added more members.
- **Administration:** List of administrative tools added (Google for Non-profits, automated emails, newsletter format, new website with online membership forms and payment system, bank e-transfer, new mailbox, balanced book, Instagram account.)
- **Membership:** 32 organizations, 42 individuals. Education Caucus and Water Caucus both operating. New sign-up and payment methods make it easier for people to join. Going forward would like a membership coordinator and more outreach.
- **Network Activities:** Mi'kmaq Talking Circles, *Let's Talk Tidal Power* panel, *Water Not Gold* campaign, Annual meetings with NSE, Website redesign, SDG grant application with RCEN.
- **Visioning:** Board did a strategic planning process to discuss why NSEN exists and where it should go.
- **Vision statement:** To be the primary forum (hub) in NS that facilitates environmental discussion, consultations and collaborations.

Open for comments / questions:

Sheila Cole says that the current NSEN team does not have much institutional memory, and that there are people at the meeting who have been involved in NSEN for more than three years. She feels the report ignored the work done by many others including herself prior to 2018, and suggests circling back to it at another meeting. Chris White clarifies that the report was not meant to cover NSEN's full history, but acknowledges that both Sheila Cole and Joanne Light were crucial to keeping NSEN afloat after the federal funding was pulled in 2011.

Motion to approve Directors' Report: Emma Bocking moves to approve, Victoria Byrne seconds. Motion passes.

Financial Report:

Emma Bocking delivers the 2020 Financial Report presentation (see document for full details).

- Cash flows: \$9,533 (from grants, memberships)
- Expenditures: \$9,785 (grant projects, bookkeeper, mail transfer, society fee, PayPal fees)
- Net surplus: -\$252
- Equity: -\$238
- Assets: \$1,249
- Liabilities: \$1,487
- NSEN books are balanced
- NSEN was in the red at the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2020), but NSEN is now in the black thanks to over \$1,000 in membership dues received since the end of the fiscal year.

Open for comments / questions: None

Motion to approve Financial Report: Victoria Byrne moves to approve report, Sheila Richardson seconds. Motion passes.

Board Appointments for Organization Members:

- Emily Dodge is appointed to represent Sierra Club Canada

Jessica Alexander asks if the Green Party can appoint someone later: Chris White advises that our bylaws allow for organizations to appoint someone after the AGM.

Board Appointments for Individuals:

- Natalie Palmer
- Samantha Burns
- Chris White
- Megan MacLeod
- Sheila Richardson
- Victoria Byrne
- Thomas Gregoire (absent, nominated via proxy by Chris White)

Christie Chaplin-Saunders asks if there are any knowledge gaps currently identified on the board. No obvious gaps are identified but anyone with any kind of knowledge is welcome.

Motion to approve all nominated individual board members: Jessica Alexander moves to approve all board members. Christie Chaplin-Saunders seconds. Motion goes to a voting poll and passes.

Launch of New NSEN Website:

Samantha Burns gives an overview of the new website and its features. See nsenvironmentnetwork.ca.

Storytelling Activity with NSEN Member Organizations:

Anglican Diocese of NS (by Marion Lucas-Jefferies)

- Approximately 500 people connected to the network. Has spread beyond NS.
- Committed to supporting and working with like-minded environmental organizations. Work with faith and secular based groups.
- Can add events / articles to FB page, website and newsletter.

East Coast Environmental Law (by Tina Northrup)

- Environmental law charity based in Halifax but are engaged throughout Atlantic Canada.
- Three pillars of work: Public education, collaboration, and legal action.
- Largest focus is community outreach and capacity building.

Green Party of Nova Scotia (by Jessica Alexander)

- 190 members. Board of 20.
- Located throughout NS.
- Mission: to elect members to the Legislative Assembly.
- Received 2.78% of vote in last election.
- Interested in all provincial issues: currently open-pen fish farming, guaranteed livable income, electoral reform.

Citizens' Climate Lobby (by Joanne Light)

- Based in Halifax: Position to lead it will be open.
- Focus on carbon fee and dividend.
- 20 - 30 CCL groups in Canada. Over 100 in the States.

Living Earth Council: (by Holly Lennox)

- Based in Truro.
- 346 email contacts, 98 members.
- Mission: LEC is a catalyst for sustainable change in Truro and surrounding communities.
- Past: Climate Summit and Cafes, 100 debates, Seedy Saturday.
- Future: PLUG IN Renewable Energy Forum and Sustainability Fair (rescheduled for September).
- Collaborate: Climate crisis.

Young Naturalists Club: (by Becky Parker)

- Province-wide. Chapters in Halifax, Dartmouth, East Hants, Musquodoboit Valley, Cape Breton.
- 1 staff, led by Board of Directors, and 5 volunteer chapter leaders.
- 300 voting members (families) and 1000+ followers / participants.
- Mission: Create opportunities for youth to develop natural history knowledge and skills through hands-on outdoor learning experiences. YNC is an immersive nature club that promotes and appreciates conversation of nature.
- Projects: developed an English-Arabic species guide, 30+ guided hikes for youth, bird counts, etc.
- Future: Celebration and outreach / educational events: ex) Nocturn, learn-to-camps, movie nights, etc.

Exit Poll:

- Did you enjoy the format of this meeting?
- What did you like about this meeting?
- What would you change about this meeting?
- What would you like to see offered as a future webinar from NSEN?

Motion to adjourn meeting: David Wimberly motions to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.