



Advisory Board Meeting/ Réunion du comité consultatif

Agenda / Ordre du jour

May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010/ 6 mai 2010

Grand-Pré national historic site of Canada / Lieu historique national du Canada de Grand-Pré

1 pm - 3 pm / 13 h à 15 h

Chair/ Président de session: Gérald C. Boudreau

Voting Members Present

Peter Herbin (Co-chair)	Community Member and Co-chair
Gerald Boudreau (Co-chair)	Société nationale de l'Acadie (SNA)
Jim Laceby	Kings Regional Development Agency
Beth Keech	Kings Hants Heritage Connection
Hanspeter Stutz	Community Member at large
Robert Palmeter	Grand Pre Marsh Body
Stan Surette	Société promotion Grand-Pré (SPGP)
Barbara Kaiser	Community Member at large
Mike Ennis	Municipality of Kings County

Ex-Officio Members Present

Neal Conrad	Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development
Robert Sheldon	Parks Canada
Claude DeGrace	Parks Canada
Louise Watson- Alternate	Nova Scotia Economic and Rural Development
Paul Richards	Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA)
Mary-Jo MacKay- Alternate	NS Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage
Christophe Rivet	Parks Canada

Resource Members Present

Stephen Kerr	Kings Regional Development Agency
Marianne Gates, Secretary	Kings Regional Development Agency
Dawn Sutherland	Municipality of Kings County

Voting Members Absent

Greg Young	Eastern Kings Chamber of Commerce
Liz Morine	Destination Southwest Nova Scotia
Chief Shirley Clarke	Glooscap First Nation

Ex-Officio Members Absent

Bill Greenlaw	NS Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage
Victor Tetrault	Société promotion Grand-Pré (SPGP)
Vaughne Madden	NS Office of Acadian Affairs(OAA)

1. Welcome / Mots de bienvenue  
The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by chair Gerald Boudreau
2. Approve agenda / Approbation de l'ordre du jour  
The agenda was approved by consensus.
3. Approve minutes from previous meetings / Approbation des notes de la réunion précédente  
The minutes were approved by consensus.
4. Change in nomination team membership / Changement dans l'équipe  
Christophe reported the following:
  - Chrystal Fuller no longer at the Municipality of Kings County.
  - Christophe met with warden and councillor Ennis and they have assured him of the Municipality of Kings County's support.
  - Dawn Sutherland will serve on the AB.
  - Thanks to Chrystal on behalf of AB and SC.
5. For discussion and approval / Pour discussion et approbation:
  - a. Update on community discussion to acquire land on Old Post Road - request for support for this project from Nomination Grand Pré / Mise à jour sur les discussions pour acquérir le terrain sur Old Post Road - demande d'appui au projet de Nomination Grand Pré  
Report with Steering Committee recommendation circulated.

Recommendation:

The Steering Committee suggests that the land acquired by Parks Canada in 2009 provides the opportunity for viewing the entire area proposed for World Heritage designation. This opportunity was identified as a priority by Hockin Cronin consultants to provide visitors with a location to view and understand the Outstanding Universal Value. In light of this requirement being fulfilled, the decision from the Advisory Board in January 2010 was for Nomination Grand Pré to focus on four priorities to benefit the entire community and maintain the existing positive relationship with the funding partners.

Therefore, the Steering Committee recommends that a letter be sent on behalf of the Advisory Board to Ms. Blanchard wishing her success in her efforts but indicating that the project is unable to participate.

NOTES:

- Christophe indicated that the circulated recommendation was the recommendation of the Steering Committee. It was determined that this could be a distraction from the dossier submission in Feb 2011 in terms of time and money.
- Peter Herbin: Wording suggestion change from "wishing well" to "do not oppose".
- Barb Kaiser: Attended the Historical Society meeting. This group gave support to forming a committee. She indicated that those in favour of the house acquisition indicated that the current legacy project is second class and that this acquisition will out-do the legacy project. This voted in favor under the belief that parks Canada felt that the current property was unsatisfactory and that Parks Canada had \$250,000 dollar and 25K from the legacy project.

- Naomi Blanchard: (observer) Indicated it was a second choice, not second class.
- Christophe: The legacy project may just be a start that the house acquisition could build on.
- Barb Kaiser: Asked if money from UNESCO could go towards this acquisition? Could Parks Canada support the purchase with no house?
- Stephen Kerr: Asked if the acquisition, if added, would help? Can we phrase as “active support”?
- Christophe: The community legacy project was planned to provide a tangible project for the community irrespective of designation. The legacy project is not key for the UNESCO submission. UNESCO does not require a view of the site.
- Christophe: Project must concentrate on the 4 priorities. It would be a concern if we spend time on this project.
- Peter Herbin: Concern about funding support. Requirements and objectives must be clear. Does not oppose but cannot actively support due to perception that it may hinder the nomination process. He expressed concern that the project would approach the same funders and cause confusion.
- Robert Sheldon (Parks Canada): No exact figure indicated or confirmed. There is general support for the acquisition. Parks Canada is interested in the land but not interested in the house. Open but not firm. Support of \$100-\$200 a possibility for land use potential if other partners are determined.
- Claude DeGrace: The Legacy project will be a project of the AB and Parks Canada and the goal is to have in place this fall.
- Stephen Kerr: Is there a competitive issue? Robert indicated no.
- Barb Kaiser: Wanted to clarify that Parks Canada is not interested in the residence.
- Neal Conrad: Appreciates discussion- but- acquisition is NOT essential to nomination. The future very unclear but he does not want the AB to be an impediment, however, the project must stay on track and the acquisition should not interfere.
- Naomi Blanchard: not asking for participation and there is no financial support requested from the AB. She indicated that Nomination GP is not seen as a community project and that this acquisition could provide the community with an opportunity to lead a part of the project. The community will decide if the project should go forward, likely by the end of October. If this property is purchased, the legacy project could adjust to reflect new realities. The acquisition group will report to legacy committee and AB.
- Stephen Kerr: Asked if the community would raise money and then donate?
- Naomi Blanchard was not sure of funding at this early stage.
- Mike Ennis indicated that the AB must be careful as there are so many groups in the Grand Pre area: UNESCO, Community Plan, now perhaps another project. It is very confusing to the residents. He feels there is community support to creating a committee to look into the acquisition but not a clear mandate at this time. There is already confusion so we need to be careful.
- Jim Laceby suggested we should table for July meeting after the community meeting to discuss the acquisition.
- Barb suggested that the AB allow community to meet and see if there is support and outline of a funding plan for the project.
- Naomi Blanchard indicated that the funding will not be public until likely August.
- The Steering Committee will review the results from the public meeting and determine if there is community support. The recommendation will be re-considered at the July meeting.

- Approved by consensus.

6. For information / Pour information :

a. Financial and administrative report / rapport financier et administrative

It was noted by Marianne that there were some errors in the allocation of expenses for the recent visit by the experts. This will be corrected and the AB will receive a correct statement as of year end (March 31, 2010) in June. The funders requested an adjusted projected cash flow. Kings RDA will work with funders to produce a cash flow to the end of the project. The next financial report will indicate the current funding as well as the requested increase in funding. The AB has approved the increase but the funders have not yet confirmed the increased amount.

- Neal Conrad: Indicated he is looking forward to the projected cash flow.
- Paul Richards: Asked that the cash flow numbers be sharpened to ensure they were accurate and there would not be underage/overages.

b. Community engagement and planning report / rapport sur la participation communautaire et la planification

Two public meeting were held to review the Community Plan. There were great turn outs with great input from the community. The Community Liaison Committee and planner Dawn Sutherland are making changes now to reflect public input. The process will continue with the next draft. There may be more change-and may go direct to PAC or back to community. The main concerns were mapping errors, open space issues, set back issues and view-plane issues.

- Beth Keech: farming community has an issue with O1 zoning.
- Dawn Sutherland indicated that this is status quo. It would not be in public interest to allow buildings on this land. Land use planning creates restrictions on land for planning purposes and this does cause issues.
- Robert Palmeter: O1 considered too restrictive to some farmers.

c. Project manager's and progress reports / rapports d'étape et du directeur de projet

- Report on international expert visit and implications / Rapport sur la visite des experts internationaux et implications pour le projet
- Report on last management plan working group meeting (oral report) / Rapport sur la dernière réunion du groupe de travail sur le plan de gestion (de vive voix)
- Progress report / Rapport d'étape

- Christophe highlighted the circulated reports.
- Major activities: International expert visit and the Management Plan working group meeting.
- Coming soon: Draft MOU and Dossier ready for AB to review at July 8 meeting.

7. Correspondence

- Letter from the Organization International de la Francophonie / Lettre de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie
- Letter from the President of Carleton University / Lettre de la présidente de l'Université Carleton

- c. Letter from the Société Saint Thomas d'Aquin / Lettre de la Société Saint Thomas d'Aquin
- d. Letter from the Conseil Jeunesse Provincial de la Nouvelle-Écosse / Lettre du Conseil jeunesse provincial de la Nouvelle-Écosse
- e. Lettre from the Fédération des Jeunes Francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick / Lettre de la Fédération des jeunes francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick
- f. Letter from Jeunesse Acadienne / Lettre de Jeunesse acadienne
- g. Letter from the Coalition des Organisations Acadiennes du Québec / Lettre de la Coalition des organisations acadiennes du Québec
- h. Letter to the Agricultural Land Review Committee from co-chairs / Lettre des coprésidents au comité d'évaluation des terres agricoles de la Nouvelle-Écosse

- A letter was sent to land committee. A similar letter will be sent to coastal management review.
- Beth Keech: asked for the land use committee letter to be sent to board.

8. Other business / Autres affaires  
None

9. Open floor (time limited by chair)/ Plénière (temps limité par le président de session)

- Ann Palmeter: The community plan process can be slow but the community wants to get it right.
- Mike Ennis: indicated that the municipality's process should be smooth once the community suggestions are reflected.
- Christophe: If not ready, we will use the stage of the plan as applicable.
- Peter Jackson: The public process for the community plan was not satisfactory. People whose land was affected were not contacted. The planning department needs to review this process. Zoning changes require more input and support. It appears that planning is disconnected with the people. Communication with land owners was not the best for the community plan.

10. Next meeting / Prochaine reunion  
**July 8- A very critical meeting**

11. Adjournment / Levée de séance

Copy of Letter:

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010

Agricultural Land Review Committee  
PO Box 816  
Kentville NS B4N 4H8

Dear Committee:

Re: Agricultural land issues in the Grand Pré area

We are writing to you on behalf of the Nomination Grand Pré Advisory Board, the group that is working to submit Grand Pré as a candidate for UNESCO's World Heritage designation. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the reasons behind our submission and the importance of protecting and sustaining agriculture as a viable economic activity.

Grand Pré is being proposed according to three of UNESCO's criteria and as an enduring agricultural and memorial landscape. Our submission to UNESCO states that:

1. It is an exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition. The intact dykelands at Grand Pré are an exceptional example of the Acadian tradition of turning wetlands into highly fertile farmland.
2. It is an outstanding example of a traditional land-use that is representative of human interaction with a distinctive environment. The enduring agricultural use of the dykeland and persistent settlement pattern on the upland at Grand Pré is an outstanding example of an adaptation to a distinctive coastal environment in North America.
3. It is tangibly associated with living traditions and ideas of outstanding universal significance. Through its evocative memorials to a people who overcame a tragedy of a forced migration, the Acadian Deportation, Grand Pré is a symbol of hope, perseverance and pride for all humanity.

Grand Pré's marsh, the basis for its past and present livelihood, was built by the Acadians in the 1680s. It is one of the most fertile lands in Kings County, in Nova Scotia, and certainly in Canada. It has been for the most part continuously used since it was created and maintained by generations of farmers who have been responsible stewards of that land.

That land may have been created over 300 years ago, but it is not frozen in time. While the principles guiding the maintenance of the dykes, the aboiteaux, and the ditches are the

same, the farmers have continuously improved the farming of that land while maintaining its distinctive character.

It is that character that has inspired countless artists in writing literary works based in Grand Pré and in depicting its extraordinary landscape. It is also that character that has attracted millions of tourists since the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to come visit, invest in, and enjoy the bountiful products of the land.

These reasons and many more are at the heart of the proposal to present Grand Pré and area as a candidate for World Heritage status. There are many agricultural landscapes already on the World Heritage List. The large majority of them are living agricultural landscapes just like Grand Pré. There are vineyard landscapes, staple and economic crop landscapes, landscapes where agricultural activity has produced particularly beautiful scenery, and landscapes related to nomadic or pastoral activities. The landscapes on UNESCO's list are located in Europe, Asia and Africa, but there are none in North America. Grand Pré if successful would be the first to celebrate the importance of agriculture in people's livelihoods in North America.

This is the result of the land still being farmed and still being protected as agricultural land. It is also the result of the connection between local farmers and that land still being there.

There are important challenges with the future of Grand Pré that, you may agree, echo those experienced in other agricultural communities in Nova Scotia. Some of the challenges are social and economic. Local farmers relate that maintaining an agricultural industry is becoming increasingly difficult. There are concerns that younger generations are not interested in pursuing farming activities which is a threat to sustaining an agricultural economy. Moreover, the area attracts new residents who for the most part are individuals who retire in Grand Pré to enjoy the rural setting while being somewhat close to amenities provided by the neighbouring town of Wolfville or even Halifax. As a result, increased land use conflicts between agricultural and residential uses have put pressure on farmers.

Some of the challenges are environmental. This mainly relates to rising sea level which will be a pressure on the protection of actively farmed dykeland. Sea level rise combined with storm surges and other natural phenomena may damage the dyke system and, subsequently, paralyze agricultural activity.

These concerns need to be addressed to protect Grand Pré's agriculture and maintain its legitimacy as a candidate for World Heritage designation. Farmers must continue to adjust to changes in methods and technology to ensure success. Farming needs to be encouraged as an industry including by further ensuring the protection of the dykeland and surrounding agricultural land. Proactive measures should be taken in the present to respond to this threat.

We have identified several objectives for Grand Pré and area in our World Heritage proposal that your Committee may wish to consider:

- We aim to support the agricultural industry in remaining a vibrant economic activity and an attractive option for youth employment. This may be achieved by encouraging businesses related to agriculture, such as agritourism.
- We need to continue to preserve the dykeland and agricultural land for agricultural use and reduce the potential for land use conflicts with controls on non-farm uses on agricultural land.
- We wish to support the Grand Pré Marsh Body in its role as the long-term steward of the dykeland and work collaboratively with the Body when considering initiatives that may have an impact on the dykes and dykeland. This includes working to develop initiatives to educate visitors about the importance of working on and protecting the dykelands and doing so without impeding the everyday work of the farmers.
- We need to dedicate resources to monitor and maintain the dykelands, including the dykes, the ditches, and the roads, to assess the pressures to them and develop mitigation measures.

These objectives are found in the draft Management Plan for the proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site and in the goals of the draft Grand Pré and Area Community Plan. These are goals that make sense for both the protection of this extraordinary part of our collective heritage and for the agricultural community.

This farmland is important to the local farmers, to the Acadians, to residents, and to visitors. Agricultural land in our province is economically valuable for agriculture as an industry as well as for tourism.

As we are working diligently to ensure an international recognition for the agricultural landscape of Grand Pré, we urge the Province of Nova Scotia to work towards solutions that assist in maintaining this important landscape and that support the enduring agricultural activities of this area.

We recognize the challenges involved with the management of agricultural land in Nova Scotia. We believe that Grand Pré has a strong tradition of making a living from agriculture and we are working to contribute to a bright future by maintaining that essential part of everyone's well-being.

We appreciate the effort that you are making to consult with all interested members of the public including federal, provincial, and municipal governments.

Sincerely,





Peter Herbin  
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Co-Chair,  
Nomination Grand Pré Advisory Board



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