

RCEN ENGO Face-to-Face Meeting on Sector Sustainability Tables
March 3, 2006
Victoria Park Suites – Best Western Hotel, Ottawa

MINUTES

Minutes: RCEN

Facilitator: Cliff Wallis

Participants: Nashina Shariff (Toxics Watch Society of Alberta), Patrick Bonin (Association québécoise de lutte contre la pollution atmosphérique), Maria Castro (Beyond Factory Farming Coalition), Hart Haidn (Saskatchewan Network for Alternatives to Pesticides), Paul Senez (Sierra Club of Canada/EcoForestry Institute), Anna Tilman (Save the Oak Ridges Moraine Coalition), Rachel Plotkin (Sierra Club of Canada), Marlo Reynolds (Pembina Institute for Appropriate Development), David Boyce (Southeast Environmental Assoc.), David Coon (Conservation Council of New Brunswick), Aftab Erfan (Youth Environmental Network), Jamie Kneen (Mining Watch Canada), David Boehm (Friends of Cathedral Grove), Mary Richardson (Crooked Creek Conservancy), Anne Mitchell (Canadian Institute for Environmental Law and Policy), Cliff Wallis (Friends of the Oldman River), John Bennett (Climate Action Network Canada), Pierre Sadik (David Suzuki Foundation), Suzanne Boileau (RCEN)

Please note that not all participants were present for the entire meeting as the RCEN Cross-Caucus meeting was taking place simultaneously.

1. Finding Commonalities from yesterday's discussion –

- Communication – between all levels;
- Work towards recommendations outlined in two previous letters from RCEN to EC;
- Fair ENGO representation at the Tables and Table working groups including the ability on the part of ENGOs to co-chair;

2. Recommendations to be reflected in a letter drafted by the RCEN to EC

1. Reflect concern that ENGOs are still not happy with how the pre-set conditions are not being met.
2. Communication needs to be improved between all stakeholders.
3. More ENGO representation at all levels of the SST processes. This includes Youth representation and observers.
4. Renewed commitment to generally accepted multi-stakeholder processes.
5. De-link Smart Regs – Further clarification is needed from EC. RCEN members don't want to Smart Regs to drive the SST process. EC transparency and accountability is necessary. "It is our comment and concern that the SSTs be de-linked from Smart Regs. The RCEN wishes to see effective policy which public, precautionary, protective and non-voluntary."
6. Chairing the balance – The RCEN wishes to put forward an alternative for current and future tables and working groups. The RCEN proposes more representation, specified terms, and the ability to co-chair.
7. Restate the conditions for effective participation and ask for a clear response.

8. The SSTs in their advisory capacity should be working toward meaningful and sustainable developments, goals, targets and timelines.
9. The ENGO community wants a positive permanent forum between govt, industry and civil society.
10. The ENGO community wishes to have input into the SST evaluation process. This includes both the design and operational phases of the SSTs.
11. The ENGO community requests that EC's ENGO delegate selection take place through the RCEN.
12. The RCEN requests that the Government of Canada and the Sector Sustainability Tables work towards the objective of maintaining the healthy ecosystems upon which our economic, cultural and social pillars rest.

3. As recommended - Work to be taken on by the RCEN

- Clarification requested on ability of ENGOs to co-chairs, which working groups have been established and advisory role of SSTs.
- Is the RCEN required to send delegates to a process where our conditions aren't met?
- Does EC select delegates from outside the RCEN?
- The RCEN will circulate the CESF framework.
- Improved internal communications– Stronger Caucus Task Groups needed. Are observers allowed at the tables? Check in bi-annually – more teleconferences.
- Commission paper on effective policy.
- Look at the contract b/w RCEN and EC. Reporting structure needs to be clarified – both ways re: Accountability with the secretariat individual reps and ENGO delegates.
- The RCEN should be proactive in stipulating goals and timelines in the absence of govt defined ones.
- March 2nd and 3rd SST meeting minutes and post-meeting letter of “comments and/or concerns” to be circulated for comments.
- That an ad-hoc caucus on engagement with the SST process be formed to work with the RCEN SST Consultation Coordinator.

4. Plenary – SST & Cross-Caucus

Please see Cross- Caucus minutes

5. Wrap Up

Thank you for participating!

