

Nova Scotia Assessment Management Board (AMB)
Minutes
October 28, 2005

Attendees

John Cameron
Russell Walker
Delphis Comeau
Lloyd Hines
Tracy Williams

Charles Crosby
Trudy LeBlanc
John Prall
Bob McNeil

Amery Boyer
Ken Simpson
Greg Keefe
Kathy Gillis

1. Minutes

- Minutes of the Sept 30, 2005 meeting were accepted.

2. Stora Appeal

- Sam Farrell advised that lawyers for Stora Enso have commenced a Supreme Court action challenging the assessability of tanks and other structures with regard to the 2004 and 2005 assessment. At this point, 3 municipal units (Guysborough, Richmond and HRM) will be applying for intervenor status. Approximately \$60,000 has been reallocated from the 2005/06 estimates for legal and expert witness costs.

3. IT Update

- Rick MacLeod reported that the CAMA project office has been established. Contract discussions are almost complete and the gap analysis will begin November 14/05 although a fair amount of work has been done to date from the project team. The Steering Committee for the CAMA project will include members of the AMB (Bob McNeil and Trudy LeBlanc) and will begin meeting on November 4/05.

4. Budget

- A 2006/07 preliminary budget was presented for review and discussion. Some of the pressures identified include the 2nd year payment for the technology (the vendor has indicated it will accept payment over 3 fiscal periods; 2005/06; 2006/07; 2007/08).
- Other pressures include an increase in the PAIP funding from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and agency transition costs.

5. Agency Transition

- An outline of the major areas for transition was reviewed. More work is required to define each activity along with resources and time lines. The department will also need to secure government approval to proceed to collaborate with the UNSM to create the appropriate governance model.
- The Board will be represented on the Steering Committee for the transition. Lloyd Hines and Russell Walker are the designates.

- The governance for the Board was discussed. This included membership and composition of Board members.

6. Cobequid Move

- The Board was informed that the Department has decided that the move to the Cobequid site will not include Assessment Services.

7. Communication

- Michelle MacFarlane presented an outline on the concept of an AMB website. In addition, Michelle identified additional communications could include branding for the agency and an annual report.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting - November 25, 2005

Note: There will be no meeting in December