

National Climate Change Committee Meeting  
Second National Communication  
Friday, December 17, 2010  
10 am at the BEST Commission

**MINUTES**

Present – Mr. Arthur Rolle, Mr. Philip Weech, Mrs. Hilda Luoga, Mrs. Lisa Benjamin, Dr. Richard Cant, Mr. Jeffrey Simmons, Mrs. Stacey Moultrie

Apologies – Mr. Earlston McPhee, Ms. Tamica Rahming, Mr. Jerome Elliot

*Start: 10:15 am*

**1. Welcome – Mr. Arthur Rolle**

Rolle welcomed everyone and gave apologies for Jerome Elliot, Earlston McPhee and Tamica Rahming. He invited members to review the minutes of the last meeting which was in May 2010. The minutes were adopted with no edits – Benjamin moved that they be adopted and Simmons seconded.

**2. Update from COP in Cancun, Mexico – Mr. Arthur Rolle & Mr. Philip Weech**

Bahamas delegation comprised Philip Weech (Head of Delegation in the Minister's absence), Arthur Rolle, Tishka Francis (Bahamas Mission in New York), Lisa Benjamin and Doug Bell (Bahamas Maritime Authority in London). Bell participated to assist with addressing the bunker fuel issue; there were no conclusions in Cancun on this issue. What was being proposed was to impose levies on ships and this would be the responsibility of flag states. The issue was forwarded to SBSTA 34 in South Africa. Many of the developing countries see a levy on bunker fuels being able to generate hundreds of millions of dollars for mitigation.

Cancun did have some successes. There was the creation of a technology executive committee to assist developing countries to develop technology transfer projects and diffusion. The Bahamas had applied to be in the initial group to complete a technology needs assessment, but should be eligible to do so early in 2011. The assessment will enable us to articulate and identify those technologies we need to assist us in mitigation and adaptation. Benjamin noted that intellectual property rights were not discussed as the United States refused to speak to this.

The next success was the Green Climate Fund. It is the long-term financing mechanism for adaptation, mitigation, REDD and technology transfer under the Convention. The \$100 Billion pledged during Copenhagen is to go to this fund as the long-term funding and \$30 Billion for the short term. A transitional committee has been put in place to create rules for and implement the Fund. In the first quarter of 2011, the committee will meet; it consists of 40 members. UN agencies and the GEF as well as other multilaterals will be involved in the first quarter meeting.

The Adaptation Fund (AF) was created under the Kyoto Protocol. 2% of the monies from the Protocol goes to the AF. An agency in The Bahamas can be certified to access the AF. The AF has \$130 Million at the moment and three entities have been certified from Jamaica, Senegal and Pakistan. Certification requires criteria like anti-fraud systems, project management systems and the like. The Board of the AF will host 3 workshops in order to help countries go through the certification process. The most likely agency to be certified would be Ministry of Finance.

The SIDS document started in Copenhagen was also an outcome of Cancun. We may be eligible for up to \$500,000 for mitigation projects under this. Funds should be available in April 2011.

Developed countries are focused on mitigation rather than adaptation, as they can make monies from the mitigation technologies they can sell to developing countries.

There was no agreement on a second commitment period. There needs to be either an extension for Kyoto Protocol or development of a new agreement. The first commitment period ends in 2012.

Some progress was made in Cancun, but there is still much work to be done. There is no legally binding agreement, funding mechanism, REDD and other items, but we do have a process towards them.

### **3. Briefing on the status of the SNC – Mrs. Hilda Luoga**

Weech and Luoga gave the group an update on the SNC. Two Bahamians were hired to assist with completion of LEAP – Robert Hall and Shantell Lopez. The LEAP advisor from Boston was in country last week to work on collecting more data for use in the model from agencies like BEC and Department of Statistics.

Sem should be here in the first week of January to complete his work. Moultrie noted that the intent is to complete the draft by the end of March 2011 so that it can go to Cabinet for review and approval so that the SNC can be printed and published in time for COP in South Africa.

### **4. Review and approval of 2011 Annual Workplan – Mrs. Stacey Moultrie**

Moultrie went through the proposed workplan for 2011. Key items for NCCC to address include monies to be utilized for PEO strategy outputs, project management and the audit.

The PEO subcommittee would like to have a meeting with the Ministry of Education about the elements of the curriculum. Mr. Rolle would like to attend the next PEO subcommittee meeting.

The Committee approved the 2011 annual workplan with budget revisions for audit and project management and an indication of monies to be used for PEO strategy outputs.

## **5. Any other business**

Rolle said we should agree on a timeline for applying for the Third National Communication (TNC). This would be an enabling activity and therefore separate from the STAR allocation. If we are sure the SNC will be finalized for March/April 2011, we should have this as a target date. Otherwise he suggested October 2011 as a potential target date.

Weech noted that there is a proposal to do a landfill flaring project in Grand Bahama. BEST is the Designated National Authority (DNA) and will have to certify the project; this would be funded under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Rolle noted that South Pole Company had put forward a proposal to flare the methane from the landfill in New Providence to generate electricity and were willing to pay 678,000 Euros annually. This proposal was not approved to move forward.

With respect to the light bulb project, BEC is putting in place a system for addressing disbursement of the bulbs. Solar hot water heaters and photovoltaic installation will be lead by a private company who will handle training persons on installation and guiding that process. One suggestion from the funding from SID doc was to further implement what the IDB project has started and target hotels for energy savings. The \$500,000 would be put in a revolving fund managed by the Bahamas Hotel Association to give loans to hotels to implement energy saving technologies which the hotels would repay to keep the fund going.

Rolle mentioned that a sustainable tourism meeting will be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 21 – 25 March 2011 which someone from The Bahamas should attend. Benjamin noted that Dr. Sophia Rolle within COB Small Island Sustainability Institute is the sustainable tourism expert and would be good to attend. Earlston McPhee may also be a possible representative.

PEO subcommittee is a joint effort between BNT and COB. The subcommittee drafted a PEO strategy and suggested a series of comics that could be produced. Benjamin found one artist who agreed to do it. The PEO strategy needs a budget assigned to determine how the comic would be circulated. Another PEO meeting is tentatively scheduled for the second week in January. Rolle suggested January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

ECLAC wrote a paper on impact of climate change on tourism. Ramone Martin from University of Havana is the lead on the paper. There is an issue with the scenarios being used for the paper. Martin has requested an opportunity to present the paper in The Bahamas to discuss it. Most of the writers are economists so they were not very familiar with the scenarios and what they mean. There is some climate data lacking in the paper. Simmons will circulate a draft of the paper to the Committee. Rolle will follow up with Martin to possibly present to the committee around January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Mr. Rolle noted that Jo McGann is from CCCCC in the region. Moultrie noted that he never responded to Loraine Cox's request for more information on his visit. Mr. Rolle will follow up with him.

**6. Next NCCC meeting**

Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> was selected as the date of the next NCCC meeting. The workshop to present V&A and mitigation findings should be scheduled after this meeting.

Rolle wished everyone all the best of the season and looked forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

*End: 11:54 pm*