

Project Final Report

Project Name	Community Strategy and Engagement Plan for Tidal Energy Development
Description	Several years ago, a tidal energy project was proposed for the community of Scot's Bay. In dealing with the company in question, the residents of Scot's Bay concluded that they were "ill prepared to address the community challenges that this proposal entailed." As a result, a community group was formed to support the development of a community strategic and engagement plan for Scot's Bay. The result will be a more proactive position by the community, which will allow them to better manage the impacts of tidal energy development in their community
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Date	2018

Project Results

Scope	
Original	Actual (To Date)
Host discussions with community members to identify common values, future desires for the community, and features to protect/preserve to include in a Community Strategic and Engagement Plan.	Data was collected in community member interviews which identified values, future desires, and features to protect/preserve for a Community Plan.

Schedule Milestones	
Original	Actual (To Date)
Group meetings and interviews	Conduct 12 semi-formal 2 hr. interviews with community residents
Explanation of Variance COVID-19 Meeting restrictions meant that group meetings were not possible and more specific information could be obtained through one-on-one interviews	

Project Budget	
Planned	Actual (To Date)
\$7500	\$7500

Project Successes

Name	Description
Data Gathering	Lengthy interviews were conducted with community residents to obtain data regarding community wishes for engagement, development, internal & external
Meeting Attendance	Met with the Scots Bay Wilderness Society with regularity to understand mandate, work in progress, and value systems
Meeting Attendance	Met with the Scots Bay Wilderness Society members and local District elected Municipal Councilor to discuss prioritization and community's relationship with the Municipality

Project Challenges

Description	Impact	Actions Taken
Meeting with community members in a group proved a challenge	Could not meet in a group at project data collection time	Changed format of data collection to semi-structured interviews
Varied perspectives of community residents on many issues (old guard vs. new residents)	A division of perspectives	Interview Participants were widely varied in age, gender, background, residence status, etc. to obtain varied data
Lack of agency of community residents to envision desired futures and feel that they might be heard/helped/witnessed respectfully	Reluctance to dream big or engage fully in that part of interview	Encouragement to dream big, think beyond what exists currently

Recommendations

Description	Recommendation
Resources needed to create agency in community members to feel their needs will be heard	Hold more group meetings, reconnect community members post-COVID, knowledge share and celebrate accomplishments achieved
Communicate Community perspectives shared and check for accuracy among those who did not participate	Write a Community Action Plan for dissemination and host community meeting to discuss
Engage community members who would like to participate further in creating plans, documents, etc.	Form Community Action Group or a committee of the Community Hall Assn. to discuss and plan community actions into the future
Desire for a Community website to communicate characteristics, benefits, etc. of the community outward	Find someone to help create and maintain website for very low cost and use FaceBook group (3.9K+ members) and community e-news list already established
Help the community understand what they have here, what has been identified as wanting to protect/preserve	Create Asset Map of Community and share with community and more widely

<p>Engage Indigenous community who are landholders in the community in an effort to establish a community-to-community relationship for the co-creation of a Community Action Plan and Information Board texts produced by Wilderness Society</p>	<p>Connect with Chief of Annapolis Valley First Nation (there is a personal community member connection) to wayfind staff or community members who may want to participate</p>
<p>Understand and Educate about Municipal role, relations, and power of community voice in its development of private and public land</p>	<p>Meet with Municipal Councilor(s), Deputy Mayor, Planners at Community Hall to understand intersection of community desires and current By-Laws and the Municipal Planning Strategy and power dynamics and other factors that impact decision-making (and potentially how to make changes)</p>

<p>Transition to Action</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a Community Development Plan was discussed with some enthusiasm. This will be an ongoing piece of work and a living document. The researchers will create a draft for community review and discussion. • The formation of a Community Action Group was desired to discuss and make decisions regarding the future of the community and be able to communicate that with others – especially Municipal politicians, developers, etc. • Thoughts of a Community Website were also discussed for the community to be able to have outward-facing communications in an effort to attract the “right kind” of new residents and tourist visitors. There is unknown capacity to not only create this website but to maintain it into the future in the community. • Terms a Community Benefits Agreement might address to potential developers were discussed, but it was decided this action may require more thought and research to implement as well as perhaps Municipal support and By-Law changes. This seemed somewhat beyond the capacity of community members alone.