

Strengthening environmental stewardship among major stakeholders in the Grenadine Islands¹

(The Grenadines Water Taxi Project)

**Second Meeting of the Joint Executive Committee Meeting
Sustainable Grenadines Project Office
Clifton, Union Island
June 20th, 2006**

Minutes

The meeting commenced at 10:30 a.m. with a prayer by Mr. Tannis. The participants were welcomed to the meeting by Ms. Fleary-Noel who invited participants to volunteer as chairperson for the meeting. This position was accepted by Mr. Jeremiah Jones who directed the proceedings as outlined in the Agenda (Appendix 1)

After a short discussion on the Inception Report which was produced at the first meeting of the Joint Executive Committee (JEC), Mr. Mahon moved for the adoption of the report which was seconded by Ms. Fleary-Noel.

Ms. Fleary-Noel led the discussion on the project activities informing the committee that there were some changes to the time schedule for training and activities. Table 1 is a summary on the progress thus far in the project. Ms. Fleary mentioned that the workshops were generally successful with the operators coming out to receive the training. The water taxi association leaders were concerned about the challenges facing operators and how they should proceed. The major issue was that of the new law to take effect in 2007 requiring passenger craft to change from the use of gasoline engines to 4-stroke or diesel engines. Participants discussed the option of appealing to government for assistance but they also recognised that the Associations needed to prepare operators for such a change. It was also noted that the associations should seek out the avenues through which concessions may be acquired for equipment.

Ms. Fleary-Noel led the discussion on the budget in which she also informed participants of the reporting system in place for the project. She noted that progress reports which include financial reporting are submitted every quarter to GEF and that the current report for this meeting was the mid-term submitted to GEF. Based on the discussion it was decided that there need to be greater efforts at information sharing among water taxi associations and the project and documentation

¹ Implemented by: The Carriacou Environmental Committee

Assisted by: Counterpart Caribbean; CERMES, UWI; Sustainable Grenadines Project

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should be provided after meetings whether official or unofficial to avoid any disagreement on matters discussed. The participants also agreed that they needed to work from an agreed upon principle on how monies are spent on the two organisations. This was in light of the discussion on the money spent on t-shirts for the Carriacou and Petite Martinique Water Taxi Association for the meeting held in Barbados. Participants then approved the budget.

Mr. Tannis expressed concerns about the degree of involvement of Bequia water taxi operators in the project. He expressed regret at the fact that the group has not yet formed and hopes that with the help of the Sustainable Grenadines Project, this will happen in the near future. It was decided that he would get the group together and project staff would meet with Bequia operators to plan for the next year of activities.

Participants discussed the next step for the project which is to upgrade the project to a GEF medium-sized project. Mr. Mahon suggested that the upgrade could take one of two forms. The first was that the project can be extended to other marine resource users like day-cruisers. The second was for the project to continue to support the water taxi associations. Participants expressed interest in upgrading the project and extended gratitude to those who played a part in securing the initial funding.

Ms. Fleary-Noel expressed thanks to the participants for coming to the meeting. She asked that the associations continue to support the Carriacou Environmental Committee (CEC).

Mr. Tannis moved for the meeting to be adjourned which was seconded by Mr. Bethel. The meeting ended at 1:00 p.m.

Table 1. Summary of Training Workshops in the water Taxi Project

Workshop/Activity		Location	Date	No. of Participants	Documentation	Facilitator	Comments
1.1	Green Boat Operation Training	Petite Martinique	Nov, 2005	40	Report Available	Susan Mahon	
		Carriacou	Nov, 2005	18			
		Total		58			
1.2	Natural Resource Management Training						
1.3	Environmental Stewardship Education	Carriacou	July, 2005	23	Report Available	Susan Mahon	
		Union Island	Sept, 2005	42			
		Bequia	Sept, 2005	20			
		Total		85			
1.4	Production and distribution of environmental education material				Will be available in November, 2006.		
2.1	Customer service workshop				Available soon		
2.2	Self-marketing skills training						
2.3	Training in Negotiation Skills/Conflict Management	Carriacou	May 16 th - 17 th , 2006	40 (day 1)	Available soon	Martin Barriteau	Conducted in conjunction with SGP
				35 (day 2)			
3.1	Acquisition of safety demonstration equipment	Carriacou	May 24 th , 2006		Report not yet available	Roland Baldeo	
3.1	Safety equipment demonstration and training. Training in safety procedures	Carriacou	May 25 th , 2006	30	“ ”	Roland Baldeo	
3.2		Union Island	May, 2006	34			
		Total		205 persons			
4.1	Production of WTA's website		June, 2006		Both WTA are in process of getting web sites up and running. Soon to come		
4.2	Training of WTA leaders in	Carriacou	October 20 th -	34	Report Available	Martin	Conducted in

	Leadership		21 st , 2005			Barriteau	conjunction with SGP
4.3	Individual level record keeping training/accounting		Proposed Date: Sept. 2005				
4.4	Acquisition of office equipment and supplies		June 10 th 2005		Already available in both water taxi association offices.	WTA	

Appendix 1

Agenda

- 1. Assignment of Chair**
- 2. Adoption of previous meeting report**
- 3. Project implementation schedule**
Review of activities since last JEC meeting. Changes in schedule and approach
- 4. Project budget**
Review of funds spent versus projected budget
- 5. Bequia Water Tax Association**
Review ways of getting the Bequia water taxi operators association operational and incorporating them as fully as possible into the project.
- 6. Any other business**

Documents

Inception Report
GEF Water tax proposal
Accounts summary

Appendix 2

Joint Executive Committee members

Jeremiah Jones – Chair, Southern Grenadines Water Tax Association
Dr. Robin Mahon, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies,
University of the West Indies
Mrs. Virginia Fleary-Noel, Coordinator, The Grenadines Water Tax Project
Mr. Kim Bethel – President, Carricou and Petite Martinique Water Tax Association
Mr. Thomas Alexander, PRO, Carricou and Petite Martinique Water Tax Association
Mr. Montgomery Laborde, President, Southern Grenadines Water Tax Association
Mr. Sylvester Tannis, representing the Bequia water taxi operators
Ms. Alexcia Cooke, Project Development and Administration Officer, Sustainable
Grenadines Project