

RAVEN Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2019

Participants: Susan O'Donnell, Matt Rogers, Sophie Lavoie, Rachel Bensler and Tracy Glynn

1. Rachel gave an update on the Orange Square Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign. The campaign was launched Sept. 20 and collected almost 200 signatures. She and Susan met with the UNB board of governors investment committee on Oct. 7 and will have a follow-up meeting with the committee secretary Oct. 24. Rachel is drafting an information booklet that will be shared with the UNB administration on Nov. 15. The guide will be for students, faculty and admin and we hope to publish it early in 2020. Hoping to work on a pop-up action on campus before the end of this year. Fossil Free UNB cookie idea. Thinking of an action in the meal hall around food. Patrick had to withdraw from the campaign work because of his course load. Rachel, Hannah and Nikita presented in Tracy's class last Friday. Tracy will send a note to the STU faculty telling them that the students are willing to speak in their classes.

2. Tracy's update: the photovoice exhibition/panel on Sept. 27 during the Voices of Environment week event went very well. Currently organizing a book tour with Joan Kuyek this week. In Fredericton, this Thursday at 7pm at the Abbey Café. Tracy met with Renelle from Productions Aulnes before this meeting to discuss Colombian participation at their event on Jan. 17-19. The goal is to make people in the Belledune area aware of how the coal that is burned there that comes from mines in Colombia is affecting communities in Colombia. Hope to involve the striking Glencore workers. Want to also invite Kristen Francescone with Mining Watch Canada to talk about Glencore in Latin America. If a Colombian can't come, maybe they could skype in with Kristin's facilitation. Tracy will contact the Atlantic Regional Solidarity Network to see if they want to participate and will look into grants for travel for guest speakers from the Global South. Susan suggested approaching Alain's group, Imaginons, another group in the north shore of New Brunswick.

3. Susan's update: Working on the NB Media Co-op website. During the last five days of October, the website will not be available to upload new material as they transition to the new website is made. Will be able to showcase the RAVEN material like the photovoice project on the NB Media Co-op website.

El Jones came to the media lab to perform her poem from the Sept. 20 event, and the video published online will be featured as part of launching the new website.

In January, David Hofmann is teaching the new course on social network analysis and RAVEN will hire some of his students from his class to do some analysis on articles on the NB Media Co-op website.

Susan has been approached by a student who is doing her Masters project on food security. Susan is talking with Amy Floyd about getting involved in that project too.

Research in development – Susan is working with former students to complete RAVEN reports in development – rail infrastructure (led by Kim) and Internet infrastructure (led by Brian). She will be reviewing the drafts that have been submitted to her.

4. Matt's update: not successful the first time the NBIF grant but got an email from the ORS encouraging him to apply again because they were close to getting it. The feedback involves it needing to be more business-oriented and must bolster the ongoing social impact. Deadline is December for the Social Innovation grant.

Matt is working with Alison Taylor, a filmmaker, and working again with David Perley on the film project.

Susan can provide business-oriented feedback for the research proposal to Matt.

Matt is curating 13 short films from Atlantic Canada at the Creative Creations Conference in Fredericton on Friday, Oct. 25 at 7pm. This weekend is the Charlottetown film festival and Matt is screening 2 of his films there. Silver Wave Film Festival is in 2 weeks. Matt's film is the feature film and is being premiered there on Nov. 7 at 7pm. On Nov. 8 at 7pm at Gallery on Queen, Cinema Politica will screen two NB shorts as part of the Silver Wave Film Festival.

5. Sophie presented some ideas from her experiences with the Wabanaki Land-Based Learning Course. There were 13 participants, most of them Masters students and some of them were thinking of going into grad studies. Two days in Kouchibouguouac and other days in Metepenagiag. The course was taught by Margaret Kress and elders. Professors offering the course could be potential collaborators. They have contacts with communities and are associated with UNB. They visited other First Nations and had meetings with band councilors. Sophie made a list of different projects that have direct links to the RAVEN's work. RAVEN could reach out to them to see if there is interest in doing media workshops. NB Media Co-op has done a story on the Eel Ground Community Food Centre, which has lots to showcase. There are elders/knowledge holders who are interested in sharing. Indigenous voice should be more central in RAVEN's work. The students who participated in the course could be part of the RAVEN project. Some of them have full-time jobs but some of them may have more flexible schedules. They may be interested in engaging with the RAVEN project as part of their research. See attached "Opportunities for synergies" document by Sophie.

Matt explained course stipulations on research for those doing education degrees that could be part of this too.

Sophie: The course will hopefully happen again and attract more students. There was good feedback from this year's cohort.

Rachel: RC grads may be interested in the course.

Sophie: Individual school initiatives being run outside the system are interesting. They are working on outside learning initiatives.

Matt: Could document the course/stops in the community and make it into a short documentary.

Susan: Can talk about student supervision at the next meeting. Susan will be maxed out supervising students with David's course and the food security project. Can support hiring Indigenous students if someone else from RAVEN can supervise. Could possibly engage Productions Aulnes. Could talk to Tyler and JEDI too about organizing something training-related.

RAVEN
Wabanaki Land-Based Learning Course, July 2019

Opportunities for synergies
Presented by Sophie M. Lavoie
Oct. 22, 2019

Description of Course

Professors offering course would be great collaborators- Evie Plaice Margaret Kress
 Great contacts in communities, with elders and in community organizations.

Course takes place in Rural New Brunswick- connections

- a. -Kouchibouguac
- b. -Elpsipogtog (Big Cove)
- c. -Metepenagiag (Red Bank)
- d. -Esgenoopetitj (Burnt Church)
- e. -Pabineau First Nation
- f. -Natoaganeg (Eel Ground First Nation)

OPPORTUNITIES TO SHARE

Work being done in rural communities

- a. Natoaganeg Community Food Centre- food security, director Chad
- b. Augustine Mounds- Indigenous anthropology/ethnology, historical research
- c. Esgenoopetitj/Natoaganeg- resource use, esp. fishing
- d. Kouchibouguac- historic resource use, ecological conservation, existing facilities
- e. Metepenagiag Heritage Park- Patricia (Trish) is the director, conservation efforts in rural setting (including ecological conservation of Augustine Mounds)
- f. School Initiatives- outside classroom spaces, school gardens
 - Terry-Ann Larry is the principal in Natoaganeg
 - Lorinda Ward in the principal in Metepenagiag (former UNB grad student)
- g. Cultural Councilors in Bands- such as Ernie from Natoaganeg
- h. Brandon Mitchell- writer/graphic novels- another way to tell stories of rural places (he's from Listiguj)
- i. Elders- people like Nelson Cloud, who also work in conservation
 - Gilbert Sewell, George Paul, Miigam'agan, Andrea Colfer