

RAVEN Team Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020, by zoom

Present: Amy Floyd, Cortney MacDonnell, Susan O'Donnell, Tracy Glynn, Jessica Wall, Sophie Lavoie

Apologies: Rodrigo Gutierrez-Hermelo, Matt Rogers, Lauren Korn

1. Introductions of meeting participants
2. Discussion on food security vs food sovereignty

Susan: When she thinks of food security, she thinks of food banks and making sure everyone has enough to eat. When she thinks of food sovereignty, she thinks of local food.

Amy: Checked academic references on the terms. Food security is about working with existing flawed structures whereas food sovereignty is about local control and decision-making in food production. Food sovereignty also includes First Nations having access to traditional food and newcomers having access to foods that are culturally appropriate.

Jessica agrees with Amy and feels that the Indigenous component is part of food sovereignty.

Amy thinks RAVEN should use both terms on the website. Susan will update the site.

3. Updates from team members

Cortney: Covering environmental issues for the NB Media Co-op this summer. Working on a story about climate change and forestry, specifically about how forest species composition will change in a future of climate change. Did her first interview today and is lining up interviews with JD Irving, Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources. The researcher, Anthony Taylor, said there won't be too much of an impact right now but that we need to think about the impact in time periods. Amy suggested checking out the Hardwood Institute in Edmundston.

Jessica: Working on her MA thesis and putting together her thesis committee. Found out that there is not much research done on food tax credit programs and their successes. Found out some of the barriers - too inconvenient for the farmer to participate and food banks don't have the capacity. Wants to find out what kind of incentives are enough for the farmers to participate and how food banks can be supported to get the food to give to their clients.

Amy: RAVEN is providing up to \$200 to support low-income households to support growing food in raised bed boxes and has been busy building some of those boxes.

Working on getting a weekly market started in Stanley. Trying to network with local farmers to find out cost effective ways to move their product, for example, through a website.

Tracy: Working with Cortney on environmental stories. Initiated a photovoice project with women on the north shore for this summer. Renelle and Karine with Maritimes Spaces are keen to participate and use the project as a follow up to their event in February, which RAVEN co-hosted and the NB Media Co-op participated in.

Sophie for the NB Media Co-op: The NB Media Co-op has not printed The Brief in 2 months due to COVID. Maintained our online publication, largely thanks to RAVEN. Collaborating with Tertulia Fredericton group to host videos of the events. Suggests inviting friends on social media to our events or sharing the event pages in interested groups to get a larger audience.

Tracy will add Jessica to the NB Media Co-op list and will check RAVEN to see if all the RAVEN writers are on the NB Media Co-op.

Susan: The Journal of Rural and Community Development accepted our second academic article. The article, by Kim Reeder, Susan O'Donnell and Adrian Prado, is about leadership for climate change adaptation in a rural region. The article will probably come out in early summer.

NBEN is working with member groups to draft the second edition of the Greenprint publication originally published in 2010, a just transition to a new economy and society in NB. RAVEN is subsidizing the process. Currently receiving input from RAVEN members as part of the process.

Susan is upping her video editing game. She is especially pleased with the El Jones video that went online on Earth Day.

Susan gave a presentation about RAVEN to the faculty group working on the environment at STU, FERN, and Tracy's social work class, Organizing for Action with Diverse Groups.

RAVEN is currently accepting cellphilmms for a cellphilm competition.

Susan is working on the NB Media Co-op website to make it look nicer for our content.

RAVEN co-hosted events in March with Gordon Edwards on the social and environmental impacts of nuclear energy. NB has two potential nuclear reactor development projects. The groups that brought Gordon to NB are forming a coalition and will launch it next week. RAVEN is a member of the coalition; there are huge implications for rural NB of the new nuclear development. At a recent webinar

with Gaeten Thomas, outgoing NB Power CEO, he said that NB could site a small modular nuclear reactor in Belledune.

Amy is planning a RAVEN fall event, RAVEN's second birthday. Hoping to hold it in Taymouth in October.

Many of our planned events have been postponed due to COVID, including an event with El Jones and a book launch on fake news.

Sophie has an update from Matt Rogers. Matt applied for NBIF on the impact of COVID-19 on education reform. He received the \$30k grant!

Susan: Matt is also working on trailer for his RAVEN video project.

Daniel is still working on Letters from the Future series. Still looking for submissions.

Amy: Atlantic Permaculture Network turns 2 years old this week. Putting together a webinar focused on permaculture and education. Hayes Farm will participate. In PEI, the legacy gardens in Charlottetown teach people how to grow food. Martha's New Growers in Antigonish and another project in Annapolis Valley is also doing education on how to grow food in a holistic way.

Susan: Hannah is working at the Hayes Farm and will be writing a series on food security/sovereignty and regenerative farming. Food stories are popular on the NB Media Co-op site.