

# Freshwater Bay - Alexander Bay Ecosystem Association

## Constitution

### I. NAME

The name of this association shall be the Freshwater Bay - Alexander Bay Ecosystem Association.

### II. AFFILIATION

The Association shall affiliate with other associations or groups pursuing similar objectives from time to time, as the Association deems effective in achieving its aims, provided that such actions do not conflict with its constitution.

### III. ORGANIZATION

The Association shall consist of an Association with the following Executive Officers: (a) President, (b) Vice President, (c) Treasurer, (d) Secretary, (e) as many Directors as the Executive deem necessary to achieve its mandate as determined by General Meetings and provided such Directors are approved at the next following General Meeting.

### IV. OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate and support policies and actions which will maintain healthy and viable ecosystems within the area defined by the drainage basins that are sources for headwaters which reach the sea in the Alexander Bay region. This would include all bodies of water in this area including the three arms and also Freshwater Bay.
2. To help organize and determine policies and projects for Municipal, Provincial and Federal advocacy.
3. Specifically to:
  - (a) promote present projects such as Salmon Enhancement, River Watch; as well as fostering the development of other similar projects as

approved at General Meetings;

- (b) seek funding for such projects as may be identified in 3 (a);
  - (c) promote and foster economic development of resources consistent with IV.1.
4. To promote public awareness of the Associations aims by calling special public meetings from time to time where specific information on ecosystem regulations is made available as well as explanations of the need for the same - including information on how members of the general public can help.
  5. To continuously seek to upgrade information on ecosystems, activity in the area, and what other groups are doing in other areas of the world, especially other parts of Newfoundland and Canada.
  6. To seek expert advice from other groups and individuals who might be able to assist the Association in reaching wise decisions that can be used in helping the Association formulate specific proposals to meet its mandate.

## V. MEMBERSHIP

1. (a) Any resident of the Area identified in Objective IV.1 who is Fourteen years of age or older, who supports the Association's objectives and who satisfies any membership requirements the Association may establish, may be a member. To this end, all individuals fourteen years of age or older, shall be eligible for membership in the Association without discrimination based on race, nationality, colour, religion, sex, and age.
  - (b) Representatives in legitimate organizations may have the Residency Clause in V.1(a) waived at the discretion on the Association's Executive, provided such action is approved at the next following General Meeting.
2. Membership in the Association shall be for twelve (12) months and may be achieved by attending General Meetings, OR Directors Meetings, OR Executive Meetings, OR Special Committee Meetings called by the Chair -

such as meetings with funding authorities or Community Ecosystems Association or exploratory meetings with government representatives.

3. In order to become a member, the minimum number of meetings attended be one-third the number of General Meetings called and conducted. This article is not intended to conflict with (2) above.

## VI. ELECTION AND DUTY OF OFFICERS

1. The Officers of the Association shall be elected for a period of one year, by secret ballot at the Annual General Membership Meeting of the Association.
2. For the purpose of insuring continuity, a Nominating Committee shall be struck each year from Acting Officers.
3. The Nominating Committee in VI.2 shall not prevent Nominations from the floor at the Annual General Membership Meeting.
4. The Officers shall assume office immediately following their election and will form the Freshwater Bay - Alexander Bay Ecosystem Association Executive.
5. Priority shall be given to the concept of having the greatest representation as possible with respect to geography and legitimate organizations, when electing Directors.
6. With reference to VI.5 other organizations may be recommended by the Executive to be approved at the next following General Meeting.
7. The duties and responsibilities of the respective Officers of the Association shall be as follows:
  - (a) President - preside at all meetings of the Executive and at General Meetings and generally be the one responsible for providing leadership required to promote and preserve the aims and objectives set out in the Constitution.
  - (b) Vice President - in the absence of the President, to preside or have his/her appointee to preside, over meetings and to represent the

President.

- (c) Secretary - to keep the minutes of all meetings of the Executive, all General Meetings, and all Nomination Meetings; to be responsible for giving due notice of all meetings called by the Executive; to handle, as directed by the Executive or a General Meeting, all the correspondence.
- (d) Treasurer - to be the custodian of all funds and financial accounts of the Association and to keep such funds in a bank, trust account, or other secure place as the Executive Officers may direct; to disperse all monies as approved by the General Meeting or the Executive Officers; to make regular, complete reports to the Executive and to the General Meeting.
- (e) Directors - to support the President and the Executive Body in carrying out the directives of the Association as determined by General Meetings.

## VII. FINANCES

1. All funds shall be deposited in a bank or other secure account and no disbursement shall be paid except by cheque.
2. All monies of the Association shall be sent as directed by the Executive in accordance with projects approved at General Meetings.

## VIII. GENERAL MEETINGS

1. The plenary authority of the Freshwater Bay - Alexander Bay Ecosystem Association is vested in General Meetings, and general meetings shall be held on the last Wednesday of each month.
2. The basic policies of the Association shall be established by the Association in General Meetings and time for the consideration of such shall be allocated at all General Meetings.
3. Policy resolutions passed shall be directives for action by the Association's Executive.

4. Except in the case of VIII.1 at least fourteen (14) days before any General Meeting the Secretary shall publicize the place, date, and time on Cable TV and in at least one (1) major newspaper.
5. Persons other than members may attend but only on invitation of the Executive or of the General Meeting.

#### IX. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS

1. Executive Meetings may be called at any time by the President or any other four (4) Executive Officers.
2. Notice of the time, date, and place of each Executive Meeting will be provided to all Executive Officers at least seven (7) days before the Meeting time except in emergencies when the Meeting shall require no prior notice.
3. The regular ongoing activities of the Association shall be decided at Executive Meetings; however, no substantive decisions - including especially the election of officers - will be made at Executive Meetings.
4. Other persons may attend but only by a majority vote of the Executive Officers present.

#### X. ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1. The annual General Membership Meeting shall be held between March 1 and May 1 of each year.
2. Notice of the time, date, and place of such meetings shall be publicized on Cable TV and in at least one (1) major newspaper at least twenty-one (21) days before the meeting is to take place.

#### XI. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

1. The Constitution may be amended by the vote of the majority of members present and voting at any General Meeting.
2. Notice of the proposed amendments shall be forwarded to the Secretary at least twenty-one (21) days prior to a General Meeting.

3. The Secretary shall publish on Cable TV and in at least one (1) major newspaper such intent in XI.2, as well as the date, time, and place of such Meeting at least fourteen (14) days before the date of such Meeting.