

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
Held at the WRTBWA office on June 17, 2026, at 6:00 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin, Lowell Vessey, Raena Parent, Roger Roy, Meghan Lavoie, Shauna Barry, and Alexa MacPhail

Absent: Matt Steeves, Abby Cameron, Brian Gillis, Jeff Bysterveldt, Philip Murphy and Kelly Watson

1. Presentation from the Atlantic Salmon Federation

Kris Hunter shared his thoughts on the “Strategic Thinking Approach to Resource Conservation” as it might apply to our Watershed Management Plan renewal process. He began by describing the ASF, what it does, where it gets its funding and how the ASF operates. His advice to the WRTBWA was to:

- Consider what we do with data and whether it’s needed before it’s collected;
- Not be afraid to turn down money when it doesn’t fit the WMP’s goals and objectives; and
- The process he recommended for our new WMP was to first identify goals, understand the systems, identify appropriate indicators, and identify solutions that address underlying issues.

Kris agreed to advise us as we near the end of the WMP renewal process by, for example, reviewing a draft WMP.

2. Minutes of the May 20 meeting

Draft minutes of the May 20 meeting were reviewed.

In the absence of a quorum, approval of the May minutes was carried over to the next meeting.

3. Report from the Chair

- Dwayne was asked to contact Matt Steeves to determine whether he intends to attend future meetings. It was noted that since we have an even number of Board members, with one out of country for an extended period and one recovering from a health issue, it has become difficult to achieve a quorum.
- Dwayne reported on the meeting of the Water Committee on June 9. There is no progress to report on water extraction and no plan to reduce demand from our watershed in the foreseeable future. The Miltonvale Park wellfield is still not producing at planned capacity. The City continues to exceed the limit of the extraction permit issued by the province, but the province has no plan to enforce the permit. Members discussed ways to encourage public interest and debate on the issue, possibly by offering to do media interviews when the headwaters dry up in the summer. Meghan was asked to research whether any federal laws might apply.

4. Report from the Treasurer

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: May 1, 2026	\$18,633.17	\$86,263.05
Less o/s cheques	\$0	
Plus deposits	\$123,491.20	\$178.88 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$323.38	
Less expenses	<u>\$13,943.01</u>	\$5,000.00
Closing balance: May 31, 2026	\$128,504.74	\$91,441.93

- **In the absence of a quorum, approval of the March, April and May Treasurer’s Reports was carried over to the next meeting.**
- Raena was asked to explain major purchases for the month of May using the credit card.
- Raena was asked to update the FY 2026-2027 budget and to present to the next Board meeting now that we have a clearer picture of revenue.

5. Field Committee Report

- Raena reported that field staff are focusing on the following activities: tree planting, tree swallow monitoring, invasive species removal, the garden at Glenaladale, and stream surveys.
- Given the success we've had with tree swallow boxes, it was suggested we develop a "How-To Manual" to share with watershed residents and other watershed groups.

6. HR Committee Report

- Meghan was welcomed to the WRTBWA; she started work as Watershed Coordinator on June 1.
- Raena reported that almost all positions have been filled and we seem to have a very strong crew.

7. Communications and Outreach

- Shauna reported that the Youth on Board project is finished for this year. It was agreed that we should apply for next year and, if approved, do a better job of orienting and mentoring the participating student.
- The Lady's Slipper Hike was held on June 13 with 24 people participating on a rainy day.
- A tree swallow event with Fiep de Bie will be held on June 27.
- Planning for the fall Seniors College is underway.

8. Watershed Management Plan

- Jean-Paul reported that the WMP sub-committee met to review the proposed professional services contract with Leading Impact Consulting. Raena sent the contract to them and they signed. Next step will be to meet with the consultant in late July to launch the project.

9. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- Raena reported that the City's grant for FY 2026-2027 increased from \$32,000 to \$42,000, our first increase in over ten years.
- Reana and Meghan were encouraged to explore other opportunities for collaborative projects with Abegweit First Nation.
- We started electrofishing for goldfish but without much success.
- It was suggested that we partner with a high school woodworking class to build bird boxes. Meghan has a contact at École-François-Buote and will follow up to determine if there's any interest.
- Raena reported that the province requires that a perc test be done at the Suffolk Road property before a building permit can be issued. She was authorized to proceed.
- Raena reported that a family is interested in donating a parcel of land on the road that leads to Tracadie Harbour. The land is a retired farm field that has been growing wild for about 20 years. Staff were asked to conduct an inventory of the property to determine what's there and if there might be rare or endangered species. Raena will ask the Island Nature Trust to share their survey information.

10. Review of Scorecard

- Alexa reported on work done to date by the field crew; good progress on most goals.

11. Other Business

- The Charlottetown Area Watershed Association has asked for guidance from other watershed associations on managing their group. Raena will attend a meeting with them as well as Dwayne, if he is available.

12. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date