

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WRTBWA  
Held on October 11, 2023, 7:00 pm at the Tracadie Community Centre

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**Board Members Present:** Lowell Vessey, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill, Shauna Barry, Philip Murphy

**Members and Guests Present:** John Hughes, Daniel MacRae - guest speaker, John Rowe, Megan Glover, Cassandra Gautreau

**Staff Present:** Raena Parent, Lyndsay MacWilliams, Jess Dewey

**Board Member Absent:** Matt Steeves

**1. Dwayne McNeill called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM**

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Dwayne presented the agenda. Moved by Clare Martin, seconded by Jeff Bysterveldt that the agenda be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

**3. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board**

Dwayne welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, including Board members, staff, and supporters.

**4. Guest Speaker**

Philip Murphy introduced guest speaker Daniel MacRae of Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project who spoke on the topic of “Restoration Ecology: Lessons Learned from a Coastal Environment” with the aid of a slide presentation. Highlights of his talk included the following:

- It’s hard to guide a forest to a better place without knowing its history.
- A series of slides illustrating succession in coastal ecosystems.
- The importance of Krummholz forest in coastal ecosystems. Tracadie Bay is in a high-wind zone characterized by strong winds resulting in gnarled growth forms due to desiccation and abrasion from blowing sand.
- Daniel showed an example of successional stages on Hog Island, ranging from secondary dunes to a mature mixed forest.
- His observations of post-Fiona forests lead him to conclude that those that had the most disturbance (old-field, plantations, cutovers) were least resistant to damage.
- He reviewed what he called “Ecological Restoration Guidelines”: age, deadwood, native species, waterway enhancement, protect soils, work with ecological succession, manage the light, balance ecological and economic values, and help others learn to love native plants.
- In conclusion, he reminded us of the importance of embracing and accepting ecology.

Philip thanked Daniel and presented him with a gift.

**5. Annual General Meeting and Special General Meeting Minutes from 2022**

Jean-Paul Arsenault read the May 25, 2022 AGM minutes and moved their adoption. Motion seconded by Jeff Bysterveldt. No changes or corrections were made. Motion was carried.

Jean-Paul Arsenault read the November 23, 2022 Special General Meeting minutes and moved their adoption. Motion seconded by Clare Martin. No changes or corrections were made. Motion was carried.

**6. Report from the Treasurer**

Lowell Vessey presented the Treasurer’s report. He explained that the Board decided to have the year-end financial statement prepared by CA, Regan Lewis of Signature Accounting & Tax. The cost of having audited financials prepared by a third-party auditor have become, in the Board’s judgement, too expensive at BDO’s quoted fee of \$7,000. The year-end financial

statement as presented cost \$800 and meets the requirements of CRA to maintain our charitable organization status.

Highlights included:

- net assets for the year ended March 31, 2023 of \$196,312 compared to \$222,547 for the year ended March 31, 2022;
- revenue of \$325,668 for 2023 compared to \$265,525 for 2022;
- expenses of \$289,489 for 2023 compared to \$248,554 for 2022; and
- year-end bank balance of \$192,463 for 2023 compared to \$156,284 for 2022.

Lowell moved the adoption of the Treasurer’s report. Motion seconded by Clare Martin. There were no questions arising from the Treasurer’s report. Motion was carried.

**7. Report from the Chair**

- Dwayne began by explaining how he became interested in the work of the WRTBWA.
- Highlights during the 2022-2023 fiscal year included: hiring our new Coordinator, Raena Parent; the change in our office location which turned out to be very positive as the new space is far more functional; purchase of our own vehicle; met or exceeded most of our operational goals; approved a Reserve Fund Policy; met with the Province and the City to review water extraction from the Winter River watershed; and strengthened our collaborative relationship with the Glenaladale Heritage Trust.
- He thanked Board members and staff for their efforts during the year.

**8. Report from the Coordinator**

- Because of the change in the AGM from spring to fall, Raena presented highlights of both 2022 and 2023 field seasons using the scorecard we’ve developed to track field operations and other metrics.
- She thanked our funding partners and mentioned that they are acknowledged in all our publicity, including our newsletter.
- Plans for the remainder of the 2023 field season include: invasive species removal, prepare tree planting sites with patch cuts, do redd surveys, and collect soil samples from selected farm fields.

**9. Election of Board Members**

Philip Murphy reported that eight Board members will return for another year. Clare Martin reported that Cassandra Gautreau expressed interest in joining the Board and moved her nomination, seconded by Shauna Barry. Philip called three times for nominations from the floor. There being none, he declared Cassandra elected and welcomed her to the Board.

**10. Other Business**

Raena mentioned that a reminder was received from Frank Morrison that the law requires that public spaces be smoke free.

**11. Concluding Remarks**

Dwayne thanked all for attending and declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50.

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Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

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Date

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Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

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Date