

Minutes
Winter River/Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Grand Tracadie School
December 3, 2008, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Present:

Rod Dempsey
John Hughes
Allan MacCormac

Don Mazer
Luke Peters

Regrets:

Ben Bain
Cathy Corrigan

Scott Lewis

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened with a majority of Board members present.

2. Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and two items were added: the letter to TARRP and the ALUS meeting on December 15.

3. Points of Discussion

- a) Don shared a letter to TARRP he had drafted in response to the November 24th letter they had sent to us. Whereas the misunderstandings with TARRP had developed prior to the formation of the Association, it was decided that the former members of our Organizing Committee would sign the letter. As former members, the letter was then signed by Don, Rod, John and Allan.

ACTION: Don will secure the signatures of the two remaining former members (Cathy Corrigan and Wayne Corrigan).

- b) Shawn Hill, the Coordinator for the Department of the Environment's ALUS (Alternative Land Use System) Program has invited the Association to send a few representatives to an information meeting that will be held at 3:00 p.m. on December 15 at the North Shore Community Centre.
- c) It was agreed that, beginning in January, Dale Thompson should be invited to several of our Board meetings to act in the capacity of a resource person – that is, as someone who is familiar with the mandates of various watershed groups and could provide advice on the best way for us to proceed as we commence our planning activities.

- d) It was decided that proposed changes to the bylaws should be submitted in advance of the Annual General Meeting so they could be distributed to allow members sufficient time to consider the full impact of the changes.
- e) It was felt that Article III, Clause 2, of the bylaws, which states that only members who are permanent or seasonal residents in the watershed can serve on the Board, was excessively restrictive and could prevent interested and qualified people from being able to serve on the Board.
- f) Allan provided a brief on the Watershed Planning Conference that he and Cathy attended on November 29 in New London. Details are attached as an addendum to these minutes.
- g) An initial discussion of which Board members might serve as Officers of the Association yielded the following results.
 - Chairperson: possibly Cathy Corrigan
 - Vice Chairperson: Don Mazer
 - Secretary: Rod Dempsey
 - Treasurer: Allan MacCormac

The formal designation of Officers will occur at a future meeting.

ACTION: Rod will contact Cathy to see if she would consider the possibility of serving as Chairperson.

- h) It was recognized that we will need committees to allow for the Association to grow and to conduct activities in the watershed. After some discussion, it was decided that rather than develop a committee structure at this time, it might be better to focus on the work that has to be done and then develop committees as needed to support that work.
- i) A number of potential projects for 2009 were discussed such as: a beach clean-up, stream enhancement activities, and events combining education (e.g., workshops) with hands-on activities. It will be important that initial projects are inclusive and visible.
- j) The membership form should be amended to specifically request the civic number of the applicant and to include a return address (that of the Treasurer).

ACTION: Rod will amend the membership form.

- k) For the next fiscal year, the membership fee should be \$10 for regular members and \$5 for youth members.
- l) With regard to the stream survey that the City of Charlottetown had offered to fund, we should define what information we would like to see come from it. Dale Thompson may be able to help us in this, in particular, by indicating what information already exists and by identifying any common models that are used. A stream survey could serve as the basis for future projects that would help develop a volunteer base. People could receive some basic training and then participate in the projects.

- m) It was mentioned that a call had been received from Mark MacLeod. Mark has some concerns about a two-acre parcel of land opposite his home and was wondering if the Association might have some means to make use of it (e.g., such as for a tree nursery.
- n) Now that the two public meetings are over, some of the information on the Association's website is out of date. Rod will revise the website so that content can be added as the Association develops.
ACTION: Rod will develop a new website for the Board to consider.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

**ADDENDUM: Watershed Planning Conference
New London, November 29, 2008**

Representing Winter River/Tracadie Bay Watershed Association: Allan MacCormac & Cathy Corrigan

The Conference was attended by watershed groups from across Prince Edward Island as well as watershed representatives from the Department of Environment. The Conference opened with a welcome from Environment Minister Webster. After introductions of the attending watershed representatives, presentations and facilitated discussions were held on the pro's and don's of forming an Island wide Watershed Alliance.

The focus of the proposed Alliance would be to represent watershed groups as a collective in areas where it would be advantageous to have one voice representing all watershed groups.

Highlights of discussion points:

Pro's

- Improved communications between existing watershed groups
- Training could be more efficient and cost effective in larger groups
- Unified lobbying voice for increased funding from government

Con's

- Dilution of funds
- Increased level of bureaucracy

After discussion, a vote was taken. It was agreed that there was a need for an Alliance and possible structures should be investigated. It was also agreed that to do this, the divisional structure used by the Department of Environment to divide the Island in three areas under its Water Coordinators should be used.

To ensure that the respective concerns of all areas are fairly represented by the proposed Alliance, it was suggested that a working group comprised of 3 people from each area should get together and draft possible structures for a Watershed Alliance.

It was also agreed that each board will send one representative to a local watershed area meeting. It was also agreed that each area would then select 3 people from these local board representative to represent the area.

To facilitate this process, each of the three Department of Environment Coordinators will set up an area meeting requesting the attendance of one representative from all the area's watershed groups. The proposed structure for the development of an Island wide alliance would be comprised of the 9 representatives from the 3 areas. These 9 representatives would then work on potential structures for an Island-wide Alliance and present these possibilities at a future conference for all Island watershed groups for discussion and possible establishment of a permanent alliance group.

The hope was to have this structural working group in place by the end of January 2009.

The conference concluded with three presentations on Communication, Resident Involvement, Developing Strategies and Plan Implementation.