

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA

Held on April 17, 2019, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St, Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

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**Present:** George Coade, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Lowell Vessey, Esther Currie, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin, Scott Stevens, Matt Steeves and Cathy Corrigan

**Absent:** Ryan Winters

George called the meeting called to order at 7:05PM

## 1. Minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting

Minutes from the March 20, 2019 were read by Esther, some corrections made. J.P. motioned to approve the March minutes, John motioned to approve the January and February minutes, all were in favour, none opposed. Minutes from January, February and March 2019 were all approved.

## 2. Chairperson's Report – George Coade

- Estuary Health Workshop - Clare attended this two-day event. Sarah was ill and could not attend. Clare said that there were good speakers at the event, and she spoke with Dana Drummond, a VP at Atlantic Aqua Farms, who have 50% of the mussel leases in Tracadie Bay.
- Field Report for 2018 - Sarah said this document is still in progress, as merging reports written by three different writers caused several delays.
- Water Committee Meeting – members of board with interest in the joint Winter River Water committee met on April 9, to discuss our plans for the next full committee meeting. There was discussion of the towns of Stratford and Cornwall joining together with the City of Charlottetown water utility in some way. J.P. mentioned that we are still awaiting all the regulations for the new Water Act, and the city water extraction permit is due to be changed given the new rules and regulations. Miltonvale wellfield is now producing, though at a level that is lower than their maximum allowed under their extraction permit for that site. There has been a corresponding decrease in extraction from Winter River pumping stations since Miltonvale became operational. J.P. asked if we are prepared to assess the impact of the reduced groundwater extraction on our river flows. We need assurances that there is going to be long term reduction from Brackley wellfield before we commit to a major monitoring project.
- George has sent a follow-up email to the City regarding our letter requesting funds which was mailed in early February.

## 3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey.

Opening Balance: March 1, 2019           \$17,198.76

Less o/s cheques clearing

Plus deposits                                 \$11,402.47

Less expenses                               \$20,430.49

Plus o/s cheques                             \$18,109.64

Closing balance: March 31, 2019       \$26,280.48

- Savings: Opening \$70,258.00 + \$71.61 (Interest) = Closing \$70,329.72.

## 4. Committees

### ● Field Committee – J.P. Arsenault (Committee Chair) and Sarah reporting

- Tree planting - At the Glenaladale, there were three sites noted for planting, possibly white spruce and add some diverse species. At the City land on Brackley Point Road add some trees to have a seed source as well.
  - Trail Creations - Ideas to create trails on our land, Glenaladale, and/or Tracadie Commons. After discussion it was decided to go with our property because of issues at other sites.
  - CAMP program with D.F.O. Sarah discussed that this is like the CABIN Program to assess environmental health. It involves sampling with a big net to catch fish, get water samples, and record vegetation. Looking at the health of the
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estuary ecosystem. The results will be compared to different areas throughout the Island. Sarah is working with Moncton staff from D.F.O. to plan for this project, including site selection.

- Staff - returning are Vanessa, Trent, Sam, and Sarah. Chayla is an environmental engineering grad from Saskatchewan, who we will hire through the Graduate Mentorship Program. Trent is working for two weeks in April until fishing season starts, then will return for 6 weeks. This may be challenging for Canada Summer Jobs which usually likes to hire students for an 8-week term. Sarah will investigate possible alternatives. We will need a Chainsaw Operator for the months of May/June when Trent is lobster fishing.
- Some field activities are dependent on decisions from grant applications, such as the rain gardens with the EcoAction program or trail work with CPRA Green Jobs. Discussion had, proposed work for 2019 was accepted by B.O.D.'s.

**5. Coordinator's Report – Sarah Wheatley reported (see report)**

- Discussion had about the staffing and wages. No set formula currently for wages. Currently individually determined wage based on skills, education, grants the individual is eligible to receive, etc. For example, the Chainsaw Operator position has variables such as risk, certification, maintenance of equipment, which merits higher wage. However, some funding programs require high wages for some students or interns.
- Staff – discussed above.
- Watershed Makeover Data - analysis is winding down, turns out participants are not saving as much as anticipated.

**6. Watershed Alliance Meeting** is scheduled for April 25, 6:00 pm at Bar 1911 for Coordinators and board members of any watershed groups.

**7. WRTBWA Property - George**

- Trent is going to start cutting trails with the chainsaw. We can place a temporary water crossing but will require a permit for a permanent bridge crossing.

**8. Management Plan Review - Sarah**

- Sarah says this is still in progress.

**9. Annual General Meeting - George**

- It will be held in Corran Ban Hall. Topic is Glenaladale with the guest speaker being Mary Gallant. She will speak about its history and what is there on site and the land. We would like them to focus on the management plans for the land – as this aspect of their project overlaps with our watershed projects the most.
- Help will be needed to set up for the A.G.M. and some of the B.O.D.'s will take cookies or something for snacks.

**10. Board of Directors - George**

Cathy and Esther are leaving the board. J.P. will be gone for up to 6 months of the year and questioned if he should remain, discussion about his attendance while in PEI. Discussion had on potential new B.O.D.'s. Five names mentioned and will be followed up on. Discussion had as to who will take the nominations from the floor. We hope Ryan will help with this part.

**11. Next Meeting**

**Meeting adjourned 9:00**

Next meeting: May 15, 2019

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Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

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Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date