

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on August 15, 2018, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St, Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

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

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

1. Minutes from the July 18, 2018 meeting:

Minutes from the July 18, 2018 read by Esther, after discussion, the minutes Ryan put a motion on the floor to approve the minutes from July. Scott seconded. All were in favour and the minutes were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report – George:

- Bird Boxes - Sarah explained decision to build bird boxes for swallows, Trent will build them as a project to make up missed time. Sarah has found some homes for the bird boxes, exact number of locations depends on how many Trent can build.
- George attended a conference for the Nature Conservatory of Canada at the Best Western Conference Centre. He explained that their classifications system for streams and rivers determined (temperature, slope, grade, ...). George stated that they would likely merge this data with other groups. He said this was a nice presentation with a tutorial. They also have a website with this information available.
- City water – the deepest well is 532 feet in in Brackley, Sarah presented an Excel document with construction details for each of the wells in the three Winter River wellfields.
- Property - George would like to see a new committee to draft a management plan for our land. He asked for volunteers from the group, Clare, Ryan and Esther put their names forward. Scott also suggested that we put this on the website for people to have input.
- Officers Pond - George asked what else does the WRTBWA plan for Officers Pond? Sarah presented some work that has been done so far. Discussed water temperature issues, weed growth, and types of fish in the pond (trout, eels, gaspereau, and perch). The Haviland Club holds a renewing yearly lease with Frank Johnston for fishing rights, and Scott explained that Frank Johnston owns the land under the pond (which is different than the property ownership rights for many bodies of water in PEI). The dam is important for fishing and Ducks Unlimited takes care of it. The original reason for the dam was to power a mill, which no longer exists. Until the Ducks Unlimited contract for Officers Pond expires, they provide the dam maintenance. Ducks Unlimited helped to create the existing dam, to preserve the pond and wetlands for ducks.
- B.O.D. Field Trip is Friday August 31st 9:00 am, shall we extend the field trip to include others? Matt, Emma, and Vanessa will be going, highlights will be identified. Suggestion to videotape the field trip highlights for those who can't attend.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey absent, Sarah presented

- July 1 Opening balance: \$170,322
- July 31 Closing Balance: \$165,006
- Budget extended up to August 13, 2018
- Year to date updates (to August 13, 2018): 76% of our income has been received, 46% of our Budget has been spent

4. Committees

- **Field Committee – J.P. Arsenault (Chair) absent**

John Hughes has forwarded information to J.P. as J.P. has taken over Chair. Work report is being deferred as J.P. is absent.

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

- Staff - Waiting to hire new person soon. Sarah hopes to hire a part time person maybe 3 days/week to be flexible as she has \$4,000 set aside. The salary will depend on the skill level of the hired staff member. Have 600 more trees to plant this fall, starting sometime in September.
- This summer the challenge has been to come up with projects that are safe for extremely hot weather, like beach clean-up.

- Fishway - Sarah has been communicating with Frank, doing field trips to other similar fishways, and has read much of Sean's Landsman's PhD dissertation. Sarah discussed the two different philosophies between Sean's dissertation and Brian's proposal. This is discussed further later.
- Culverts surveys – culvert projects are the backup use for CRF money in case the fishway project does not go forward.

6. Minister Brown

George explained that Minister Brown has requested a meeting with the group to discuss concerns. We have responded to his request to meet after September 10th as some board members are away. The meeting has been set for September 12, 2018.

7. Request for Stream Permit for bridge construction

- Meeting with Bernie Fitzpatrick (George, Sarah, Bernie, and Gerard) at the Fitzpatrick's property. The Winter River flows through the middle of their parcel and they would like to build a bridge. They would like a long bridge with footings so that there could be a crossover for access to the Winter River Island Trails.
 - Gerard requests the WRTBWA obtain the Stream Alteration Permit and build the bridge, then in return he would make a comparable donation to the association, with the expectation of receiving a tax receipt for this amount.
 - Would this be for only their private use, or to increase public access to the Winter River trail?
 - Ryan raised the topic of the WRTBWA goals from our WMP and listed two that he thought applied to this project; raising public awareness of water issues and enhanced recreation.
- There was discussion, and questions whether we have enough information to make this decision. George has tabled this discussion so that we have time to reflect on the pros and cons. George will find out some more information about our concerns (size of bridge, if the public will be accessing, etc.).

8. Fishway Project

- Special Meeting July 31 - The minutes were reviewed, details clarified, and discussion. George is concerned that Brian left out information from the reports we received, which is important for planning this project (like minimum flow requirements). We have consulted Sean Landsman on the importance of locating the fishway exit close to the dam – Sean thinks it is a very important design aspect, while Brian does not. Clare motioned the minutes be approved, John seconded. Discussion to clarify some details, then all were in favour, and motion passed.
- Letter to Ducks Unlimited – Reviewed letter and made some changes. We are requesting a contribution from Ducks Unlimited of \$40,000 - should it be more? Proposed that WRTBWA will do some maintenance, while Ducks Unlimited will be responsible for insurance and longer term/larger maintenance tasks. Action - we will send out a letter to Jonathan Platts.
- Letter to Brian - Discussion contents of an email to Brian for clarification regarding Sean's research on locations of fishways in relation to dams, and clarification of the minimum water flow requirements. Discussed how more fish move in the months of June and October when it is cooler in the waters. The time of low water flow is usually a time of minimal fish migration.
- George recapped the estimate of what the project might cost.
- Electrofishing and use of the Alliance Equipment- deferred to next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:30

Next meeting: September 19, 2018

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA	Date
Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA	Date