

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

Grand Tracadie School
September 22, 2011, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Present:

George Coade
Cathy Corrigan
John Dalziel
Rod Dempsey
John Hughes

Don Mazer
Chris Mutch
Bruce Smith
Lowell Vessey
Sarah Wheatley

1. Welcome

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

2. Review of Minutes

The minutes from the August 17 meeting were approved.

3. Planning Review

There has been considerable discussion on planning at past meetings without any formal endorsement. It was moved by Don and seconded by John Hughes that we accept the planning outline included in the July 21 minutes. Motion approved.

4. Newsletter

Chris will work on compiling a newsletter to be released by November 7. He will accept submissions up to October 10 with the intent that a draft newsletter will be produced and can be approved at the next Board meeting (October 20). Ideas for content included having

- a map of indicating the field work completed this year,
- something on the history within the watershed, perhaps, on Hardy's Pond and Officer's Pond,
- information on how the public can take action to help improve the health of the watershed,
- photographs to convey watershed conditions and improvements that have taken place,
- a summary of a plan for future work in the watershed, and
- specific education information.

5. Meeting with Provincial Government

Don and Cathy met with Richard Brown (Minister of Environment, Energy & Forestry), Robert Vessey (Minister of Tourism and Culture), and Jim Young (Director of Environment, Department of Environment, Energy & Forestry). Don and Cathy provided some background on the issues in our watershed. They learned that a new water extraction policy that will respect limits on well field extraction is being developed. The development process will involve public consultation.

6. Nitrate Clinic

A nitrate clinic will be held on November 17 in conjunction with a public meeting to obtain input toward the development of our watershed management plan.

7. Schedule to Implement Watershed Management plan.

Bruce developed the following schedule to guide the development of the watershed management plan.

- Prepare draft for sectors for review by Board (Oct. 20)
- Review by Board members (Oct. 20 to Nov. 1)
- Review by Board as unit (Nov 3, 2 weeks before Board meeting)
- Incorporate Board recommendations into plan (Nov 17, normal board meeting, to Dec. 1)
- Send out drafts to those involved in previous sectoral meetings (Nov. 18)
- Have sectoral meetings for review (Dec. 1 -15)
- Incorporate sectoral changes and additions (Dec. 15 to Jan. 15)
- Review/suggestions/changes by Board (Jan. 17, regular Board meeting)
- Incorporate changes (Jan. 31)
- Approval of Draft (Feb. Board meeting)
- Distribute draft (Mar.)
- Discussion/approval at Annual General Meeting (Apr.)

8. Community Dialogue Series

This public event will be held at the Confederation Centre Library. Cathy made a submission to the organizers that we would like to make a presentation.

9. P.E.I. Teachers' Federation Convention

The Convention will be held October 21-22. We will share a booth with the City of Charlottetown and our presence at the Convention will be an opportunity to share information about our watershed.

10. Meeting with City of Charlottetown Officials

Don and others meet with officials from the City of Charlottetown. One of the main points of this meeting was to convey to them our desire that water conservation measures include water consumption targets.

11. Treasurer's Report

George reported that the financial health of the Association continues to be favorable.

12. Assistant Coordinator's Report

Chris has completed a summary of his work within the watershed this summer. It will be soon be available for distribution to our members.

Chris has met with a representative of the Rural Beautification Society of Prince Edward Island with regard to a submission he made for the Senator Archie H. Johnstone Family Tree Award. Among other criteria, the \$1,000 award recognizes the number of seedlings planted by landowners. Chris reported that we planted 4,350 trees this summer on several properties.

13. Activities of Becky Peterson

Bruce provided a summary of Becky's activities.

- Brushmats
- Tree inventory with mapping
- Rapid stream habitat assessment development (just about done development and soon to start assessments in Winter River)
- Starting process for application to Canada Revenue Agency for charitable status. Found out at ½ day workshop last Friday that watershed groups will not be able to use a charity tax number acquired by the PEI Watershed Alliance unless they give up all autonomy and have the Alliance handle their accounts.
- Received contact from Lucy Maude Montgomery School this week and the Grade 6 classes are interested in doing tree planting, likely in the next week or so, and having me (Becky) do a presentation on the importance of trees in the context of global citizenship. Sounds like an interesting connection. Actually having the students become involved with the environment and their local watershed group is a good step towards awareness of their global responsibility.
- Planning meeting on September 27th for developing a display/presentation at the up coming teachers convention October 20 and 21.
- Submitted a project idea to Dr. Donna Giberson's Watershed Ecology class (UPEI) that involves the use of the new PEI Stream Habitat Assessment Method in measuring the degradation of stream habitat due to dewatering of first and second order tributaries in the Winter River Watershed. The idea is to have two other watersheds as similar to ours as possible, compared using the same assessment method.

14. Coordinator's Report

Bruce submitted a summary of his work, parts of which are provided below.

1. Staff T4's and Records of Employment have been completed.
2. Final Reports/Accounting
 - Federal and Provincial Students completed
 - Chris' interim report for internship completed
3. Watershed Management Plan
Beaver Management plan

4. Fish Passage

Union Road culvert: Remediation will not take place this year. The floor of the culvert must be repaired before water level raised. Transportation staff must be trained to work in confined space. Additional rock and placement will be done by Transportation. Currently no fish passage.

Union Road Pumping Station Access

The City does not have funding this year. Currently no fish passage, but also no water.

5. Water Conditions

Very low water flows. Hardy's 35 cm below normal, fishway functioning
No flow at Union Road on Brackley Branch

6. Hardy's Draw Down

Permits not yet approved. DFO want data on sediment levels in pond, carried out with Chris and Becky. DFO may approve silt trap and drawdown under condition that there will be no reflow until fishway approved. Suggest no draw down until fishway approved over winter. Need to do research on impact of drawdown on vegetation. Use diver to assess current density?

7. Fish passage

Blockage at Vesseys –inactive beaver dam. Although Gasperauux got through in June , may have been blockage. Accessibility difficult. Is now open.

Blockage at head of Hardy's – active, beaver still there. Need early permit so need approval of beaver management plan.

8. Political Forum

Question about Winter River extraction and need for funding and policy by government prepared for candidates to review and respond. Question asked again at meeting by Don. Commitment made but no time frame. Subsequent conversation with Stu MacFadyen indicates City on side but funding needed from Federal government (1/3)

9. Fish Habitat Assessment

Met with development committee to provide direction/advice to Becky. Process seems to be going well.

10. Expansion of Watershed to Include Campbell's Pond in PEI National Park

Talked with Phil McCabe and he suggested letter to Trevor Ridell, the Manager of Resource Conservation as the person that should respond to the question of Parks Canada participation with WR-TBWA management. Letter prepared and sent.

11. Officers and Directors Liability Insurance

Learned through Becky the drawbacks of forming affiliation with the PEI Wildlife Federation. Completed application and submitted to Charlie Cooke Insurance for quote.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 20, at the Grand Tracadie School. Association members and the public are welcome to attend.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.