

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

Grand Tracadie School
July 18, 2013, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Present:

Bruce Smith
Cathy Corrigan
Chris Mutch
Don Mazer

John Hughes
Lowell Vessey
Sarah Wheatley

1. Welcome

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

2. Review of minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the June board meeting were read and accepted.

3. Business arising from minutes

Discussed charitable status and possible workarounds if we didn't get charitable status for our group. Decided to continue working toward this goal.

4. Work Crew Issues

Chris Mutch came to discuss the policy regarding the hours of work for the summer staff. There seems to be some confusion about what board members thought the policy consisted of and what the students thought. Extensive discussion among board and Chris, and then just among board members. Since the students wrote a letter to the board about the issue, we planned to write a response back. At 9pm the discussion had to be tabled to cover some other pressing issues.

5. Field Work

We have a partnership in place now with Island EMS. Their employees are volunteering with our field crew for afternoon a couple people at a time. We should look into larger projects that would allow more employees to participate.

Current status of the river: The flow has stopped in the springs, and through the culverts, but it doesn't look "dry" yet because of the puddles remaining in all the low spots.

6. Water Extraction Issues

Discussed letters drafted for Craig Walker requesting a timetable for drilling new wells in Suffolk and to Eddie Rice, asking that the Utility implement the next level of water restrictions, and requesting to know the criteria used in making this decision. We also drafted a letter to Jim Young with questions about how the province's new water extraction policy will apply to our watershed.

We agreed that Bruce should agree to a requested CBC interview about the state of the river, and to try to encourage them to have a reporter who would stay with our 'story' and become increasingly knowledgeable about our issues.

We noted that we have not had the opportunity to discuss the key agenda item of the approach we were going to take in addressing this issue during the summer (e.g. how proactive would we be in bringing this issue to public attention), and that this was a discussion we needed to have.

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be August 15.