

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on May 15, 2019, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St, Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

---

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

**Absent:** Lowell Vessey

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

## 1. Minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting

Minutes from the April 17, 2019 meeting were read by Esther, Scott motioned to accept the minutes, Cathy seconded, all were in favour, none opposed. Minutes were approved.

## 2. Chairperson's Report – George Coade

- It was decided that the regular meeting will end by 8:30, then the board will discuss the annual performance review of Sarah.
- Field Report for 2018: the mainly completed field report was sent out, please take the time to read it through.
- The Water Makeover project is completed now. It was a challenging project that we probably won't repeat.
- George attended the PEI Woodlot Owners Association meeting and mentioned the Back 50 Project. J.P. is familiar with the development of the land and the environmental history of PEI. George has sent an email requesting a map that may show how the land use has changed over the 50-year project.
- Our annual Lady's Slipper Hike is planned for June 15.
- The watershed newsletter is printed and at Canada Post, it should be arriving in mailboxes within the next couple of days.
- Sarah W sent out the information on the City water extraction. George was interested in discussing the new wellfield. By March 2019, that wellfield finally reached 25% of the city's water supply. They are allowed to take more, but they are not taking the maximum amount allowed by their permit or projected by their groundwater management plan. Cathy asked a question regarding leaks, when they must work on them and their ability to measure the water flow. There is still about 300 homes without water meters. Noted concerns about growth of the city and future water demand.
- George followed up on our annual request for funding from Charlottetown. He sent an email and letter, then called two weeks later. He briefly spoke with Terry Bernard about it at a social event, but Terry didn't get back to George with more information. Jason Coady was copied on the email. Sarah W thinks our funding is still in the Water & Sewer department budget.

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

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: April 1, 2019	\$26,280.48	\$70,329.72
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$18,293.64	-
Plus deposits	\$16,336.28	\$69.37
Less expenses	\$15,573.70	-
Plus o/s cheques	\$301.15	-
Closing balance: April 30, 2019	\$15,874.85	\$70,399.09

Sarah deposited money May 1, so she will not need to move money from Savings account to Chequing account. Lowell and Sarah are meeting with the accountant Tuesday.

## 4. Committees: Field Committee – J.P. Arsenault (Committee Chair)

- Nothing to report as things were approved at the last meeting.

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

- Canada Summer Jobs – approved for the expected number of jobs. Now open to anyone age 15-30 (not just current students).
- Skills PEI: approved funding for Chayla, so she is on the payroll now.
- Shamus is the chainsaw operator; Evan Cahill is hired for 15 weeks. Sam and Sarah M. will start once school is over.

- Communication: The newsletter is going out. There was an ad in the Guardian about our AGM. A CBC reporter saw the ad and called to ask about a possible story on our collaboration with Glenaladale. Stonepark is interested in participating in this story.
- May 31: Clare and Cathy will volunteer for the Stonepark field trip (20-30 students). We will have more school groups if we get funding from the EcoAction.

**6. Watershed Alliance Meeting**

- Their AGM is April 25, 6:00 pm at Bar 1911 on Longworth Avenue for the B.O.D.'s and Coordinators of all PEI watershed groups.

**7. WRTBWA Property - George**

- Sarah W states that the staff want to have a name for the property.
- John, Sarah, Clare, and George visited on May 7 to discuss plans. The old foundation hole will likely require a machine to excavate for safety reasons. Some original stones of the foundation are still apparent. The staff already removed a lot of garbage, and last fall they tore down the playhouse. It was discussed that an excavator with the right operator could skilfully excavate the site and possibly salvage the basement stones. Sarah called Island Coastal about the credit on our account from years ago (approximately \$800), which we could put that towards this work.
- The trail plan involves stream crossings. Under our existing watercourse alteration permit, we can place temporary water crossings (made from logs) but will need a new permit for a permanent foot bridge. Chayla is working on plans for these bridges.

**8. Land Management Issues - George**

- George talked about the property where we built straw bale structures last fall which has experienced significant erosion over the winter. Sarah created a Facebook post about the project, which had a lot of views. The post carefully captures the work without indicating the owner. The potato board and CBC called Sarah W to discuss the issue and wanted to know who owned the land. Clare asked if the owner has broken any laws, but Sarah explained that they haven't. Cathy expressed that their reputation of stewardship is compromised. There was much discussion about this issue and a decision to do the following:
  - Contact the landowner about the situation, tell them the concerns, and ask what their plan is for a solution.
  - Approach the Potato Board to arrange a meeting with Greg Donald with Sarah. We would like to see them work with the owner on a solution.
  - George would approach the Dept. of Agriculture to talk with them about how this would be handled.
  - CBC: let them know that we are not interested in doing an interview now.

**9. AGM - George**

- Meeting starts at 7:00, but it would be helpful if some could arrive before 6:30 to set up. John will set up chairs the day before. Sarah will bring cups, projector, screen, computer, etc. Esther will take her coffee percolator, coffee, milk, sugar and cookies.
- Cathy will introduce and thank the guest speaker, who is Mary Gallant. Ryan will do the Nominations for BOD's.

**10. Next Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

Next meeting: June 19, 2019

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