

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
Held at the WRTBWA office on June 21, 2023, at 7:00 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Raena Parent, Clare Martin, Matt Steeves, and Shauna Barry

Absent: Lowell Vessey, Jeff Bysterveldt, and Philip Murphy

1. Minutes of the April 19 and May 17 meetings

Draft minutes were reviewed. In response to a question, Raena reported that she reached out to the Immigrant and Refugee Services Association regarding their participation in the Lady's Slipper Walk but was unable to get a response.

Moved by Clare, seconded by Shana that the minutes of both meetings be adopted. Motion carried.

2. Report from the Chair

- The Chair reported that Carol Murphy has resigned from the Board for personal reasons, leaving us with eight members.
- The Water Committee met with the Province and the City on June 21. It was a positive and productive meeting. Raena presented the WRTBWA's 2022 activities report. The City reported that water extraction from the three Winter River wellfields has declined from 7 million cubic meters in 2010 to 4 million cubic meters/year; 2 million cubic meters are supplied by the Miltonvale Park wellfield. The City attributes the decline in total water usage, despite significant population increase over the period, to mandatory metering. The City will apply for a new water extraction permit in 2026. It encouraged the WRTBWA to focus efforts on water conversation. The Province presented data showing that aquifer levels were at historic lows during the March-May period but are recharging due to heavy rains in June.

3. In Lowell's absence, Raena presented the Treasurer's report for the month of May

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>	
Opening Balance: May 1, 2023	\$51,745.25	\$72,014.97	
Less o/s cheques	\$2,266.35		
Plus deposits	\$65,811.00	\$97.86	(Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$0		
Less expenses	<u>\$10,926.41</u>		
Closing balance: May 31, 2023	\$104,363.49	\$72,112.83	

- Raena reported that we have not received the City's grant.

Moved by Shauna, seconded by Clare that the Treasurers' Reports for April and May be adopted. Motion carried.

4. Field Committee Report

- The committee met to review the 2023 operational plan. Most summer staffing is in place; Cole MacDonald started today. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure (DTI) has offered access to three of their summer staff. Members agreed that this is a good idea providing that it is clearly understood that DTI is the employer and that employees will not be supervised by the WRTBWA. If necessary, a written agreement will be signed by both parties to outline details of the arrangement.
- The Watershed Alliance provided disinfectant to be used by staff entering agricultural fields.
- Staff noted a buffer zone infraction and reported it to the Province.

5. HR Committee Report

- The revised pay plan presented to the May Board meeting was approved by members via email and is now in effect. Hourly increases are retroactive for summer staff who began working prior to the adoption of the revised pay plan.
- Raena is doing a "check-in" meeting with staff every 2 weeks to see how they're doing and to seek comments and suggestions on how to improve the work. It was suggested that there also be regular staff safety meetings.
- Raena was encouraged to take measures to reward staff for good work during the field season.

6. Communication and Outreach Committee Report

- The Lady’s Slipper Walk was cancelled for this year for reasons explained above.
- It was suggested that we find a partner or partners for beach cleanup; Raena asked to come back to the committee with a plan.
- Jess Dewey has taken on responsibility for social media posts with a target of at least one per week.
- The WRTBWA is co-sponsoring a birding event with the Glenaladale Heritage Trust on Friday, June 23.
- The planned United Way tree planting event was cancelled at their request.

7. Coordinator’s Report (sent in advance)

- Raena was asked to obtain more information on the Glenaladale hardwood seedling nursery to see whether it fits into the Province’s announced 2 Billion Tree Program, and whether the WRTBWA might benefit from partnering on the project.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Raena reported that things are on track.

9. Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, at 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date

PAY PLAN – WRTBWA

Position	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
Coordinator	\$24.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$27.00	\$28.00
Field Supervisor	\$20.00	\$21.00	\$22.00	\$23.00	\$24.00
Chainsaw Operator	\$18.50	\$19.00	\$19.50		
Summer staff	\$17.50	\$18.00	\$18.50		