

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on March 20, 2019, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St, Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

Present: George Coade, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Lowell Vessey, Jean-Paul Arsenault, and Clare Martin,

Absent: Ryan Winters, Scott Stevens, Matt Steeves, Esther Currie, and Cathy Corrigan

1. George called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

2. Minutes from the February 20, 2019 meeting

Minutes from the February 20, 2019 were read by Sarah. The minutes were tabled rather than voted upon as there was not a quorum of board members present. Clarification of items from the minutes included:

- The letter written as a follow up with the meeting with Tracadie Bay mussel harvester, Frank MacKinnon, will be sent to DFO rather than the province as DFO has greater responsibility of water areas than the province.
- It was clarified that Winter River is classified as a Category 5 in terms of population viability of salmon which means that Winter River has very little capability to support a population of salmon if re-introduced.
- George will follow up with the North Shore Municipality regarding a request for funding.

3. Reports

a. Chairperson's Report – George Coade

- The annual Winter River Hike went well with 40 people attending.
- George attended the Mi'kmaq Confederacy PEI workshop.
- George confirmed with Sarah that Clare will help revise the Watershed Management Plan and that a Fish Management Plan will be an appendix in that plan. Sarah will ask for assistance from Ryan and Scott with the fish management plan.
- George participated in a webinar of Species at Risk which addressed the availability of new funding. Sarah is already involved in the application process for funding which is based on ecosystems. The province is focusing on forest ecosystems and community/watershed groups are looking at grasslands or coastal ecosystems. Funding is for 4 years with year one and two focussing on monitoring and years three and four focussing on implementation. Funding requires 1:1 matching (cash or in-kind support). Sarah confirmed that WRTBWA is in a position to give this kind of support. A project manager will be hired much like CRF. An expression of interest by WRTBWA is due March 29, 2019 with a firm commitment due April 22, 2019. This is a joint project and application of any interested community groups within the province, as only one project per province will be funded. Sarah is planning to ask for \$90,000 in funding over 4 years.
- There has been no further information about the Watts Road boardwalk issue brought to our attention by Wanson Hemphill of the Covehead/Brackley watershed group.
- George noted that Peter de Marsh passed away as a result of the recent plane crash in Ethiopia and that Peter provided much assistance in forming the Woodlot Owners Association of PEI.
- George will respond to Bruce Raymond's request for dates available for the next Winter River Water Committee meeting (WRTBWA, province, City) with April 24, 2019 as a meeting date. In advance of this meeting, our committee members will meet at 7 pm on April 9, 2019 to create questions for the meeting. As an aside JP noted that Michael Van Den Heuvel said that the Miltonvale pumping station is on line pumping at 80% capacity, which is 800 igpm.

b. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

Opening Balance: February 1, 2019	\$25,092.30
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$2,356.73
Plus revenue	\$43.50
Less expenses	\$5,764.31
Plus o/s cheques	\$184.00
Closing balance: February 28, 2019	\$17,198.76

c. Committees' Reports

- Field Committee: A meeting is needed prior to the field season. The details of the TIE watershed pilot project need to be clarified. Sarah will contact the committee with possible dates for a meeting.

d. Coordinator’s Report – Sarah Wheatley (see report)

- It is still unclear if funding will be available or some internship programs we used last year.
- Many of last year’s staff wish to return, plus two other interested high school students. However, this makes for a lack of university students who would be available to work in May and June. Sarah hopes to hire two university/college students and an intern or three university/college students if the intern funding does not come through. Then she will look for non-students for the fall work. Sarah will advertise soon as other watershed groups will be looking for the same type of workers. JP suggested that the students from the Holland College program be a good source for staff. Sarah is also looking for a second chainsaw operator to be part of the staff complement.
- The draft of the new Water Act Regulations regarding drilling wells seem to be very similar as in the previous act.
- The draft of the wastewater component of the new Act should be released soon.
- WRTBWA was chosen as the Queen’s County representative for the TIE pilot project focusing on roadway culverts. Sarah indicated the culverts at Tim’s Creek and the Pleasant Grove Roads are the culverts in greatest need for remediation in our watershed. There is about \$90,000 available for us to contribute to this project from CRF funds.
- The Sierra Club is sponsoring Earth Day Expo. The watershed has previously had a booth at the Expo promoting water conservation items such as low flow shower heads. It was left to Sarah to decide whether to have a booth this year.
- The Watershed Alliance AGM is from 6pm – 9 pm, April 25, 2019. JP and Clare confirmed their attendance.

4. City of Charlottetown request for a letter

The City of Charlottetown recently asked WRTBWA for a letter of support for the City’s request for funding from the federal government. The City intends to use the funding to buy land around the wellfields to help protect them from contamination. A draft version of the letter Sarah wrote was reviewed, amended and approved.

5. Management Plan Review

Clare will assist Sarah in determining which short-term objectives need to become long-term objectives. George asked that a focus on forestry be included as well as an agricultural focus.

6. AGM

After discussion it was agreed that the AGM for WRTBWA will be held Wednesday, May 22, 2019 at the Corran Ban hall. The Glenaladale Heritage Trust will be approached to be our guest speaker and present their plans for the Glenaladale Estate.

7. Water Extraction Data Analysis

Sarah used the 2000-18 graph of the Water Extraction Data she had previously sent to the BOD to show that with the Miltonvale wellfield becoming operational, extraction from the Brackley wellhead would be within the optimal limits as proposed by the Joose Consultants. Similarly increasing extraction at the Suffolk wellhead will allow the Union wellhead to also fall within the optimal limits as proposed by Joose Consultants based on their modelling of the watershed.

8. Watershed Property

Next steps for the watershed property will be to ensure the flags showing a proposed trail are still in place once all snow has melted. Then Sarah will get staff to start clearing the trail, once a trained chainsaw operator is hired.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 9:07 pm

Next meeting: April 17, 2019

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date