

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on January 20, 2021, 7:02 pm by Zoom

Present: Clare Martin, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill, Jay Carr, Patrick Lévêque, Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves, Roger Townshend

Absent: Scott Stevens, George Coade

1. Minutes of the November 18, 2020 meeting

Minutes were reviewed.

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Dwayne that the minutes be adopted as written. All in favour. Motion carried.

- There were no questions arising from the minutes.

2. Chairperson's Report – Clare Martin

- Sarah is participating in the group benefits plan administered by the Watershed Alliance. The additional cost to the WRTBWA will be \$342 for the first year.
- Gift cards were purchased for all staff and sent to them in December.
- Nothing received in writing from Charlottetown re 2020-2021 grant request. Clare contacted the Chair of the Water and Sewer Utility, Bob Doiron, as well as Mayor Brown. The issue is on the agenda of Council's Standing Committee for January 21. Clare will follow up next week at the latest.
- Request received from Bryson Guptill of Island Trails for assistance with garbage collection and removal from the Winter River trailhead. It was agreed that we should work with Island Trails in areas where we have common interests but not take on responsibility for the garbage.
- Discussion on AGM: we will aim for May and will revisit the issue at the Board's March meeting.
- Director's liability insurance was renewed in November at an additional annual premium cost of \$232 (25%). Sarah will request quotes from providers.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Nov. 1, 2020	\$97,836.68	\$ 41,078.62
Less o/s cheques cashed	\$80,959.03	
Plus deposits	\$55,566.23	(Interest) \$7.37
Plus o/s cheques	\$11,894.17	
Less expenses	<u>\$30,990.84</u>	
Closing balance: Dec. 31, 2020	\$53,347.21	\$41,085.99

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Jeff that the Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.

4. Field Committee Report

- Sarah presented the report as the Committee does not have a Chair. All federal grant programs were announced this week. Sarah will review and schedule a meeting of the Field Committee in the next couple of weeks.

5. Outreach Committee

- Patrick has reached out to former Board members for ideas. He will compile results and report to the next Board meeting.

6. Data Management Committee

- Jean-Paul reported that Sarah has developed a table summarizing all data collection activities and staff have made recommendations on which ones should be kept, modified, or cut. The Committee (Patrick, Matt, Dwayne, Jean-Paul) will meet to review the recommendations and will present its findings to a future Board meeting. The goal is to have the data collection plan incorporated into 2021 field operations and the Scorecard.

7. Coordinator’s Report (sent in advance)

- Sarah, Brittany, and Raena are working full time on data analysis and the 2020 Activities Report.
- Sarah was selected to serve on a committee reviewing criteria and the formula for distributing the Watershed Management Fund to watershed associations. The proposed new formula would benefit the WRTBWA. She reported that the provincial government may increase its annual contribution to the WMF by \$250,000 per year over three years.
- Discussed our annual snowshoe hike, and decided with the pandemic restrictions, not to hold this event this year.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Dwayne reported that comments from the December special meeting were incorporated into a revised version.
- Members approved the proposed Scorecard for use in planning the 2021 field season. It may be updated following decisions of the Field and Data Management Committees and will be reviewed regularly at Board meetings.

9. Watershed Management Plan

- Clare led a discussion on whether there should be changes to the WMP.
- Sarah gave an account of how the Plan was developed prior to its adoption in 2013. She mentioned that it is an important reference document, especially in preparing grant applications.
- Activities have evolved to meet changing requirements and areas of focus by government programs; some of these are not found in the WMP.
- Roger noted that climate change is not mentioned in the WMP as an issue that will affect the watershed. Sarah responded that climate change is related to “sustainability”, a guiding principle of the WMP.
- Members agreed that we should develop a more regular review process but acknowledged that to rewrite the WMP would be a significant undertaking.
- The general consensus was that the Scorecard and the Data Management Plan will give us a better idea of whether and how we should update the WMP.

10. Other Business

- Lowell asked that the issue of deep-water wells be added to the agenda for the next meeting, and Jeff asked that we also discuss land holdings as it relates to the *Lands Protection Act*.

11. Next Meeting

- The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

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Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date