

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

**Grand Tracadie School**  
**January 17, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 P.M.**

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**Present:**

Bruce Smith  
Don Mazer  
John Hughes

Lowell Vessey  
Ben Hotelling  
George Coade

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was convened with a majority of board members present. It was determined that a quorum was present.

**2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting**

The minutes from the December 6, 2012 board meeting were read. In section 5, it was suggested that "several local residents" be changed to "a number of local residents". With this amendment the minutes were accepted.

**3. Business Arising from Minutes**

a. Water Extraction

John questioned how the stream flows would be measured to determine what percentage was remaining in the stream. Bruce and Don reported that at the meeting with the province, they had been informed that a computer model was being developed which would determine stream flows. It was noted that the department staff had not provided much information to the public as the new policy had not yet been completed. Bruce noted that the government staff did agree that the drying up of the Brackley Branch would not be permitted under the new policy. Bruce was requested to meet with Quin Li, to see if he could get a better understanding of how the determination of changes to stream flow would be determined and report back by the next meeting. It was agreed that at the current time, we were not much further ahead in understanding how water extraction sustainability was to be determined than we had been before the change in the new policy to ensure sustainable extraction of groundwater.

**4. Report from Chair/Coordinator on Meeting with City**

Don and Bruce reported on a meeting held with Eddie Rice, Craig Walker and Ramona Doyle from the City and Bruce, Cathy and Don from WR-TBWA. Don reported that a new Water Conservation Plan was being developed by the City. It was noted that in accordance with the letter submitted by the City, there might be problems with the city meeting 50% of recharge. But the goal was to meet these levels through redistribution of water extraction from Winter River using the existing wellfields. This might involve the drilling of new wells at Suffolk but the goal was to meet the city needs, using water conservation and existing maximum limits. The City agreed that there would be no increases in extraction of water from the Winter River basin above the levels currently permitted. It was noted that extraction from the Malpeque station was still an option. Craig indicated that changes in extraction quantities would not be made until the wellfield at Miltonvale was operational which might be as late as 2017. Eddie suggested that there was a very real possibility that funding in the \$2,000,000 range would be forthcoming shortly which would be used to initiate planning and development as well as universal water metering to prepare for the larger amounts of money that were to come from the City, province and federal government, hopefully in 2014. It was noted, however, that the City continues to infill ditches rather than set aside money to address the water problem. By law however the City is not permitted to "stockpile" funds for specific uses. There is a division on city council as to whether the infilling should be taking place with Mitch Tweel leading the opposition.

## 5. Watershed Management Plan

Don reviewed changes he had proposed to address the changes in how the Province defined sustainability for water extraction, e.g. % decrease in stream flow versus % of recharge. Similarly Bruce made suggested changes to address the concerns identified by the City. **It was agreed that these changes would be circulated.**

George raised a question regarding the potential of a fuel spill at the airport, which is located in the upper portion of the watershed. He suggested this should be included in the Watershed Management Plan. Bruce will make this addition and circulate it with the above changes

## 6. Coordinator Activities

Bruce distributed and reviewed a summary of his activities since the last meeting. As well he emailed a summary to all board members.

## 7. Newsletter

The status of the newsletter was reviewed. It was noted that Sarah felt we had enough text to fill the newsletter, leaving no room for photographs, diagrams, etc. It was agreed that such a newsletter would not be well received by the public. It was agreed that the various authors would attempt to reduce the amount of text. It was suggested that some of Cathy's material was not as time sensitive and could be deferred to the next newsletter, but the board did feel some of the smaller items, such as "what you can do" were important. The possibility of increasing the size of the newsletter was discussed. Bruce agreed to contact Ellen Andrews and see what options were available.

## 8. Snowshoe hike

Ramona had expressed interest in having a snowshoe hike in the Winter River watershed to make the public more aware of the watershed where all of the city water originates. This would also help promote the WR-TBWA. A snowshoe tour had been planned for mid-February as had occurred in previous years, so it was thought that such a cooperative initiative would be beneficial to both. It was suggested that the hike take place on the Winter River Trail. It was agreed that the date for the hike would be Saturday February 16 and it would start at 10:00 A.M.

## 9. Meetings

### a. Meeting Reports

Bruce reviewed a farming sponsored meeting where Horace Carver reviewed the term of reference and planned action to solicit public input on land ownership limits and regulations. Horace had been the Minister responsible for the act when it was developed. The impetus for the review was thought to be a wish by some of the farming community to have agricultural land limits expanded above 3,000 acres. It was suggested that a presentation be made by the WR-TBWA, especially on limits for shoreline ownership. The commission is to report by late June. Horace Carver indicated he would include landscape as an area of interest/review in his deliberations about land ownership limits. It was noted that a very similar commission, the Land Use Policy Task Force was going to be holding similar meetings. A member of the task force, who was at the Horace Carver meeting, was surprised that Mr. Carver would be looking at landscape and agreed that there seemed to be significant overlap between the two programs.

### b. Bruce reviewed a meeting with Ducks Unlimited. Their staff indicated a wish to drain Hardy's Pond and install a new water control structure.

### c. Upcoming meetings

It was noted that the NDP will host a forum on January 30 in Cornwall to look at watershed management initiatives. Don agreed to make a presentation on behalf of WR-TBWA.

## 10. Treasurers Report

George presented a report indicating that funds were similar to what they were at this time last year. He noted that Bruce was no longer employed full time but would be paid for nine hours per week. He also noted that in order to have audits end when most of the government programs ended an audit would not be completed until after the year end which is now March 31. This would mean that this year's audit would extend over 15 months

### a. Funding

Bruce noted that he had worked with the City on the Royal Bank funding proposal which would support the Nutrient Management initiative. Cooperation with the City was necessary as eligible projects needed to be urban oriented and have a residential population of 10,000 residents as well as have charitable status. Hillsborough River Watershed had requested that we partner with them but it made more sense to partner with the City of Charlottetown.

Bruce continues to work on the charitable status, noting that we must alter our bylaws to indicate how funds or lands would be disposed of if the group ceases to function. Given the requirement of a detailed audit and forms to be completed each year the benefits of charitable status were questioned. Bruce noted that for many funding sources, charitable status was required. Bruce noted that he had completed the appropriate forms (all but the audit) for the Natural History Society, the Island Nature Trust and the PEI Wildlife Federation in the past.

## 11. Upcoming year

George suggested that over the winter an effort should be made to consolidate all of the information that had been collected over the past several years. This would include:

- Fish trap data
- Riparian zone assessments
- Stream habitat assessments
- Tree planting survival
- Maps by year of where activity took place
- Equipment

## 12. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on February 21, 2013 at the Tracadie School

## 13. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM