

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

**Grand Tracadie School**  
**March 21, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

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**Present:**

Ben Hoteling  
Bruce Smith  
Cathy Corrigan

Don Mazer  
John Hughes  
Sarah Wheatley

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was convened with a majority of board members present.

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

The minutes from the February board meeting were read and accepted with minor corrections.

**3. Co-chair reports**

- a. Discussed differentiating when documents are to be submitted “from the board” versus from an individual who is on the board. Currently, using a consensus model and only submit items “from the board” if everyone on the board agrees. Consider having a workshop with Paula Gallant who was the facilitator at the Volunteer Board Development workshops that Cathy and Sarah attended in 2012.
- b. Presentation given to the Horace Carver commission, regarding the connection between land use and water quality. There seems to be support among those attending the consultation sessions for maintaining the status quo on land limits.
- c. Working with Ramona and Rob Reddin on an education program for all grade 5 students in the City and incorporating a late spring field trip, perhaps to the pit and Suffolk pumping station. The landowner has approved of the initiative. A grant application was submitted for this program.
- d. The screening of GasLand and discussion about fracking was attended by 35-40 people. After hearing about the event board members discussed some fracking issues in other areas.
- e. Don made a submission as an individual (not on behalf of the board) to the Sustainable Futures forum.
- f. We were invited to submit an abstract to the Heritage Rivers Conference which will be held in Charlottetown in June 2013. We were then invited to give a presentation at this conference, but even presenters must pay a \$500 registration fee for the 3 day conference (or \$230/1 day). There is a possibility that a funding source will be found to cover this cost. We decided to pay for one day to present the paper if no funding is available. Don will also look into registering as a group so that different people could attend different sessions. There may be other watershed groups at this mainly academic conference.

**4. Coordinators Report**

This report was submitted to board members prior to meeting and discussed some items from the report.

- a) Applied to the Walmart fund for the tree planting day planned for June 1. There was a poor turnout at last year’s event in Suffolk, considering Union Road as a location for this year’s event. Might include a hike as part of this event too.
- b) Applications submitted to the 2014 fund for two different categories, 1) Up to \$2000 category to develop brochures for part of the system (titled: Where have all our Fish and Forests gone?) and 2) Up to \$25,000 category to build a new trail/heritage walk on river edge property from Brackley downstream to hopefully include the Winter River Trail. This would require cooperation with the City, which owns much of the property. There are apparently guidelines in place that all provincially owned lands are open to the public for recreational purposes, perhaps the City could have a similar policy. Cathy and John volunteered to look into this issue further.

- c) There is a government program of environmental awards and discussed whether we know of an individual, group or farm worthy of being nominated for this award. The deadline for nominations is soon (May 1)
- d) The summer fieldwork planning group (George, John and Bruce) met a couple times recently and are getting plans made.
- e) Recent CBC story on the importance of water
- f) Charitable status – once the draft of the updated bylaws is complete, a link will be put on the website.
- g) Discuss some terms and conditions for some returning workers this summer.

#### 5. **Nutrient Management Project**

Nutrient Management Project – Meeting with local farmers is planned for March 26. Bruce talked to some farmers from elsewhere on the Island for their perspective and heard that they would be reluctant to share data from their fertilizer programs with someone else. Bruce and Lowell must therefore stress the confidentiality agreement that will be included in our project.

#### 6. **Watershed Management Plan**

Still working to achieve consensus regarding the letter to address the City's comments and recommendations on our WMP.

#### 7. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting, held Wednesday April 24.