

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA  
Held on November 18, 2021, 7:05 pm by Zoom

**Present:** Clare Martin, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, George Coade, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Dwayne McNeill, Jay Carr, Lowell Vessey

**Absent:** Jeff Bysterveldt, Matt Steeves, Patrick Lévêque

## 1. Minutes of the October 27, 2021 meeting

Draft minutes were reviewed with no changes.

**Moved by Lowell, seconded by Jay 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

- Clare mentioned that she will be off-Island from November 26 to mid-January 2022 but will continue in her role as Chair
- Claire was advised by Hilary Shea that she has resigned from the Board for personal reasons
- The letter to the City of Charlottetown requesting our annual grant will be ready to send in January
- The Winter River Water Committee met on November 18. The City reported that total water consumption is comparable to last year and close to 2000 levels; there is additional capacity (2 wells) at the Suffolk wellfield and the City will shift extraction downstream to Suffolk once funding is available to connect these wells to the system. The Province expressed satisfaction with work being done by the WRTBWA; it reported that illegal dumping at the Hardy Mill Pond reported by the WRTBWA will be investigated; stream flow and groundwater levels in the Winter River watershed were better in 2021 than historic levels; our watershed cannot support agricultural irrigation and, therefore, no permits will be issued under the new Regulations. The next meeting of the Committee will be held in the Spring of 2022.
- In response to a question, Sarah reported that data obtained from the City shows that 68% of City water comes from the Winter River wellfields and 32% from Miltonvale Park wellfield; Miltonvale Park is near capacity.
- In response to a question, Sarah reported that we have three years of data on water levels since the Miltonvale Park wellfield came onstream; while there are encouraging signs, three years of data is not enough to establish a trend in the upper level of the watershed.
- Clare reported that the Watershed Alliance held its annual meeting on November 17. George attended in person and reported on items of major interest. Minister Stephen Myers spoke about a new buffer zone buyback program (\$500,000 budget) and a new project base fund of \$2 million; details regarding these programs are still to be worked out. Also, the Watershed Alliance will move into a new office in the Farm Centre.
- Clare reported that the Canada Revenue Agency will conduct a "charity education visit" to make sure we are following the rules for a registered charity. The virtual meeting will take place in the next few weeks and will be attended by Clare, Lowell, and Sarah. It was noted that the visit is not an audit and that the WRTBWA was chosen at random and not as the result of a problem.

## 3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Oct. 1, 2021	\$79,622.68	\$71,131.77
Less o/s cheques	\$6,358.91	
Plus deposits	\$101,220.83	\$6.04 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$6,752.58	
Less expenses	<u>\$28,011.62</u>	
Closing balance: Oct. 31, 2021	\$153,225.56	\$71,137.81

- The reserve fund policy is not yet ready to present to the Board for final approval
- There were no questions arising from the Treasurer's report

**Moved by Lowell, seconded by John that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.**

**4. Coordinator’s Report (sent in advance)**

- There was discussion about a Christmas event for Board members and staff. Sarah was asked to check with staff regarding a sit-down meal with available Board members. If there is no interest, staff will be given a \$30 gift certificate as was the case in 2020.
- There is nothing new to report on the goldfish situation.

**5. Review of the Scorecard**

- Goal achieved since the last report: number of brush piles built
- Patch cuts are being done on a section of the Winter River between Brackley Point Road and Union Road in a white spruce stand with very little remaining live crown
- Other targets are on track

**6. Insurance – Commercial Liability and Directors’ and Officers’ Insurance**

- Sarah is still trying to get a quote from Peake and McInnis. As it now stands, we have only one quote, from our current provider, Cooke Insurance. The renewal date is November 24, 2021.
- It was agreed that Sarah will forward the Peake and McInnis quote to Board members by email if it’s more than 10% cheaper than Cooke’s and if the quote arrives on time. In that case, Members will be asked to select between the two quotes.

**7. In-Kind Service Policy**

- George reported on the work of a special committee formed to review our response to requests from landowners for services like tree planting. George, Lowell, John, Jay, and Sarah met on October 6.
- The committee developed a draft In-Kind Service Policy and presented it to the Board (attached in board member meeting package).
- It was agreed that we should offer an in-kind service (up to 8 person-hours per year) to help landowners with work that meets the objectives of our Watershed Management Plan, but is not otherwise available through government programs, as a way of opening the door for more watershed work with a landowner.

**Moved by George, seconded by Jay that the In-Kind Service Policy be adopted as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.**

**8. Next Meeting**

- The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 19, at 7:00 pm by Zoom, unless CPHO guidelines permit an in-person meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35

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Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

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Date

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Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

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Date