

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
Held on May 18, 2022, 7:07 pm by Zoom

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

Absent: George Coade, Jay Carr

Guest: Shauna Barry

1. Minutes of the April 20, 2022, meeting

Draft minutes were reviewed. Minor changes were made.

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

2. Chairperson's Report – Clare Martin

- Clare noted that the Watershed Alliance AGM will be held on May 28; no pre-registration is required this year.
- Clare shared comments we received from the Program Officer for the Eco-Action Program in the Atlantic Region and Québec following the submission of our report on last year's work. There were positive comments on the number of trees planted; our hiring and training practices for students; our collaboration with the provincial government in data sharing; and the fact that Sarah was able to find additional funding mid-project.
- Sarah will follow-up with Todd Dupuis on an unresolved issue from the meeting of the Water Committee and with Councillor Doiron regarding the grant request to the City Water and Sewer Utility.
- The Lady's Slipper Walk is scheduled tentatively for Saturday, June 11 at 10:00 am with an alternate date of June 18. John will lead the walk and welcome hikers at his cabin as in years prior to COVID. Summer staff will help with logistics.
- Clare reminded Board members of her request for feedback on mileage rates for staff.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>	
Opening Balance: Apr. 1, 2022	\$113,270.08	\$71,167.24	
Less o/s cheques	\$13,957.07		
Plus deposits	\$0	\$9.75	(Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$1,034.31		
Less expenses	<u>\$2,292.06</u>		
Closing balance: Apr. 31, 2022	\$98,055.26	\$71,176.99	

- 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 Dwayne that the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.

4. Field Committee

There was nothing to report. John suggested that staff organize a field trip for Board members now that COVID restrictions have been lifted. Sarah will follow up.

5. Office Committee

Several Board members visited the WRTBWA property prior to this Board meeting. Dwayne reported that the next steps are to determine locations for the septic system and the well, and to ensure that we can obtain a highway access permit. Dwayne and Sarah will continue to work on options for a structure, including lease-to-own of a trailer and report findings to the next meeting.

6. Hiring Committee

Sarah, Jean-Paul, and Lyndsay interviewed several candidates for summer positions on May 9.

7. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- Sarah reported that most summer positions have been filled but that we're still looking for two people.

- In response to a question from a Board member, Sarah replied that we could have as many as 15 people working for us during the field season, compared to past years' average of 8-10.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- The tree planting goal has been set at 3,500.
- Sarah will present the 2021-2022 scorecard to the AGM as part of the Coordinator's Report.
- We still must set objectives for most priorities for 2022-2023.

9. AGM Update

- Members reviewed and approved the agenda.
- Clare explained that we had to select a different guest speaker than what had been proposed because Dr. Sarah Stewart-Clark was unavailable. Scott Anderson, Coordinator of the Living Laboratory will speak on "Agricultural Climate Solutions Using the Living Labs Approach".
- Matt agreed to oversee the election, if required.
- Clare is looking after the gifts for the guest speaker and retiring members.

10. Next Meetings

- Following the AGM, a meeting will take place, tentatively on June 1, to elect members of the Executive.
- The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for June 15.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA	Date
Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA	Date