

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on October 21, 2020, 7:05 pm by Zoom

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

Absent: Roger Townshend

1. Minutes from the September 30, 2020 meeting

Minutes were reviewed.

Moved by Patrick, seconded by George that the minutes be approved as written. All in favour. Motion carried.

- There were no questions arising from the minutes

2. Review of October 14 Board Members' Planning Meeting – Clare Martin

Clare provided a recap of the Board meeting held on October 14 where members identified priorities for 2020-2021:

- Watershed management plan (WMP) goals > short, medium, and long-term goals; what measurement tools we could use to track our progress on goals (ex. water quality metrics); do we need to add/remove/change any of the goals; update WMP as needed
- Streams – clearing, fish passage, water quality, water quantity, silt control (silt traps/brush mats), annual maintenance function
- Impacts of land practices on waterways
- Analyse all of our data to look for trends in indicators of watershed health and to guide future data collection and analysis
- Funding should be driven by WMP goals, rather than by funding criteria
- The Bay – impacts of agriculture, aquaculture (mussel, oyster, clams), shoreline garbage, microplastics
- Watershed property: create a goal in WMP to enhance it into a public demonstration area (including trail creation, etc.)
- Prepare an operational plan for 2020-2021
- Human Resources – recruit a chainsaw operator (2 if possible)
- Community outreach

Members agreed to establish the following committees for 2020-2021

Committee Name: Field (standing committee)

Members

- Jeff
- Jay
- George
- John
- Lowell
- Roger
- Matt

Committee Name: Data collection and analysis (special short-term committee)

Members

- Matt
 - Jean-Paul
 - Dwayne
 - Patrick
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Work with staff to review the level of effort put into data collection over the years; assess progress; determine how to use data for indicators of watershed health; prioritize indicators as critical info to collect or needed for funders; filter out any data collection activities that aren't needed/useful. What percentage of our total effort goes toward these activities? Ways to share data? Backups/organizational continuity? The committee will report its findings to the Board.

Committee Name: Winter River Water Committee (standing committee)

Members

- Clare
- Matt
- Jay

WRTBWA with Province and City. The committee meets twice per year; original plan was four meetings per year

Committee Name: Outreach

Members

- Patrick
- George
- Volunteers outside the Board (perhaps former board members Cathy, Meghan, Bernie, etc.)

Review and assess current/recent outreach activities; look how they match up with WMP; how are we meeting those objectives; opportunities for future projects; make recommendations on communications activities, annual events like hikes/walks

Committee Name: Review of Watershed Management Plan

Members

- Dwayne
- ?

Dwayne agreed to prepare a Coles Notes version of the WMP and present his findings to the November Board meeting. Members will decide whether the WMP should be updated.

3. Chairperson's Report – Clare Martin

- Review of letter to the City of Charlottetown regarding the grant
 - Clare explained that the approach taken is intended to change the nature of the relationship between the WRTBWA and the Water and Sewer Utility and hopefully result in an improvement in behaviours
 - Members thanked Clare, Sarah and other staff members who worked on the letter
 - A few suggestions were made to add specific examples of how we have reduced the impact of actions such as illegal dumping at the Suffolk Road pit
 - It was agreed that the letter would be cc'd to the Premier, Hon. Natalie Jamieson, Hon. Bloyce Thompson, and Mike Durant, Chair of the PEI Watershed Alliance
- PEI Watershed Alliance Annual Meeting
 - Clare attended in person. Sarah, George and Jean-Paul participated by Zoom
 - Favourable comments on meeting format
 - Individual watershed associations can now attend Watershed Alliance meetings

4. **Treasurer’s Report – Lowell Vessey**

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: August 1, 2020	\$56,690.76	\$ 71,061.53
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$3,723.61	-
Plus deposits	\$0	\$5.84
Less expenses	\$24,217.15	-
Plus o/s cheques	\$5,084.96	-
Closing balance: August 31, 2020	\$29,302.11	\$ 71,073.41

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

5. **Coordinator’s Report (Sent in advance)**

- The provincial government recently launched the \$1 million Climate Challenge Fund. Sarah is looking into whether we could qualify for funding on a project similar to our current Eco-Action project on stream enhancement and buffer zones with a focus on tree planting; something in the \$10,000-\$20,000 range.
- Regarding the internal data collection and analysis project, Sarah mentioned that Raena and Brittany will be involved and that she will propose meeting times for Board members.

6. **Next Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 Next meeting: November 18, 2020

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

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Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date