

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on April 21, 2021, 7:03 pm by Zoom

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

Absent: Jeff Bysterveldt, Jay Carr

1. Minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting

Minutes were reviewed with the following change: Clare was not a member of the Reserve Fund Committee.

Moved by Patrick, seconded by George 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

- Water Committee: meeting held on April 8 with Jay, Sarah, and Clare representing WRTBWA, as well as Richard MacEwen from the City, and Bruce Raymond and Todd Dupuis from the Province. Water Utility Chair, Bob Doiron, was not advised of the meeting. Matt Steeves joined the meeting, but had technical difficulties and left early.
 - MacEwen reported that the City is looking to buy land around wellfields and requested help from WRTBWA with communicating this interest to landowners; Sarah has helped with this task since the meeting. He stated that water usage per household continues to decline; additional demand due to population growth will be met by supply from the Miltonvale Park wellfield; only 1 of the 3 newer wells at Suffolk is producing; the City has not developed a position with respect to the proposed Water Extraction Regulations.
 - Raymond reported that Winter River flows were at or below normal levels in 2020 but have recovered; Water Extraction Regulations will come into effect on June 16, though the water withdrawal formula in the new Regs doesn't work for the Winter River; suggested we use West River flow rates as a proxy; no progress on process for establishing "Water Management Areas" identified in the Water Act.
 - Dupuis reported that concern about snow dumping in the Suffolk pit is related more to garbage than salt or other contaminants.
- Clare followed up with Councillor Bob Doiron, Chair of the City's Water and Sewer Utility, regarding our FY 2021-2022 grant; a \$32,000 grant has been recommended by the Utility to City Council.
- Sarah's performance review committee has been formed; a recommendation on compensation will be presented to the Board at a later date.
- Regarding the fishing derbies, Logan McInnis cancelled his; don't know whether or not the one organized by Luke Peters and Logan McNab took place.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>	
Opening Balance: Mar. 1, 2021	\$60,622.38	\$ 41,092.63	
Less o/s cheques cashed	\$3,722.37		
Plus deposits	\$6,367.77	\$30,003.49	(Transfer + Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$13,442.49		
Less expenses	\$20,164.89		
Less transfer to savings	<u>\$30,000.00</u>		
Closing balance: Mar. 31, 2021	\$26,545.38	\$71,096.12	

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Scott that the Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. All in favour. Motion carried.

- Lowell reported that he'd approached a couple of accounting firms to determine whether costs charged by our current provider are reasonable; he determined that they are. Also, Lowell, Scott, Sarah, George, and Patrick met to discuss the Reserve Fund. A draft Policy has been drafted and will be presented to the next Board meeting for approval; \$85,000 is the recommended target, this will be expressed as a percentage of our operating budget going forward.
- 4. Field Committee Report**
 - Sarah presented the report as the Committee does not have a Chair. Field report for the past three years have been completed and circulated to committee members for review before being uploaded onto our web site. There is no date as yet for start of field operations; dependent on funding approvals.
 - 5. Outreach Committee – Patrick Lévêque**
 - Patrick asked for feedback on the possibility of hosting a plant identification and foraging workshop; there was general support for the idea. Discussion about whether by Zoom or on-site or a combination of both. Patrick will investigate further and prepare an outline of the activity for a future Board meeting.
 - 6. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)**
 - Sarah reported that Jennifer Woods has been hired as Supervisor, replacing Brittany Steele. Chainsaw Operator position is vacant and will be re-advertised.
 - 7. Review of the Scorecard**
 - No significant changes noted.
 - 8. Annual General Meeting**
 - Members were asked for their views on whether the meeting should be held in May or in the Fall and whether it should be held in person or by Zoom.
 - It was decided to plan for an in-person meeting, preferably at the Tracadie Cross Community Centre, on May 26. Clare will look into CPHO guidelines and availability of the Centre. Sarah will approach the person identified to be our guest speaker for the 2020 May AGM which was cancelled due to the pandemic.
 - Regarding Board membership, Clare reported that all currently-serving members appear interested in continuing. Scott offered to step down if another person shows interest. Sarah will place a notice on social media inviting people to put their names forward for Board membership.
 - 9. Possible Expansion of WRTBWA Boundary**
 - Clare reported that she was approached by Dan McAskill, Chair of the Hillsborough River Association, regarding the area known as "Feehan's Shore." The province wanted clarification whether this area was to be allocated to HRA along with Savage Harbour, or if it there was another plan for this sub-watershed. Sarah reported that some of our maps from the province show a portion of Feehan's shore (164-hectare area north of Deroche Pond) as part of our watershed, while others show it as unallocated, so we have been doing some management in that area. Apparently, Hillsborough would not contest if we requested to assume responsibility for management of the whole of Feehan's shore (164 hectares near Deroche Pond & 475 hectares north of French Village – some maps group these as one watershed, other maps consider these two separate watersheds).
 - **Moved by Lowell, seconded by Patrick that Clare and Dan McAskill prepare a joint letter to the Province's representative, Kate MacQuarrie, to indicate that WRTBWA is prepared to assume management responsibility for an additional 639-hectare area west of Savage Harbour. All in favour. Motion carried.**
 - 10. Next Meeting**
 - The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 19, at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:39

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date