

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on May 16, 2017 at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI at 7:00 pm.

Present: John Hughes, J.P. Arsenault, Scott Stevens, Matt Steeves, Meghan McCarthy Lowell Vessey, Sarah Wheatley, George Coade, Bernie Fitzpatrick, Ryan Winters (as guest)

Absent: Cathy Corrigan

George Coade was Chairperson of the meeting and Bernie Fitzpatrick was Secretary of the meeting as previously appointed. The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7:00pm.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on April 18, 2107.

Draft minutes of the meeting were previously emailed with each member of the Board having an opportunity to comment. It was moved by J.P. and seconded by Meghan that the minutes be approved as read. **Motion carried.**

2. Chairperson's Report

George reported:

- He thanked all the board members for their work on behalf of WRTBWA.
- Ducks Unlimited is moving ahead with work on the fish ladder at Officer's Pond. Sarah and staff members will work with them.
- An email was sent out on the Natural Area Protection Act. If any members have concerns they can bring them to the next meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report

Lowell gave the Financial Report: Due to time constraints, it is incomplete.

Opening balance \$34,000.00 on April 1, 2017

Closing balance \$19,300.00 on April 30, 2017

Main expenses: wages, rent, office supplies, utilities, mileage, workers compensation and water makeover project

Main revenue: EcoAction, Wildlife Federation and Watershed Management Fund.

4. Field Committee's Report

John reported for the committee. He and Sarah travelled through the watershed to observe the progress of the work done in the past and see if changes need to be made in the future. They were very pleased with the growth of trees planted in the past and could see how the work is making a difference. The staff will focus on the maintenance of these trees with clearing and pruning. He outlined other work with will take place when all staff are onboard. A site was chosen for the Stonepark Educational Student Tour.

5. External Relation Committee's Report

J.P. reported:

- The province has reached a decision over the boundary dispute and has granted most of the Dalvay area to Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bay. This will decrease the land area of WRTBWA. Both areas are reasonably happy with the decision and new maps will be issued.
- He spoke to the Mayor of Charlottetown to check on the status of the annual grant. He said that it has been approved.
- The Water Act which was planned to be introduced in this session of the legislature has not been approved.

5. Coordinator’s Report

The Coordinator’s report was provided in writing and is attached forming part of the minutes. An overview was presented by Sarah Wheatley, Coordinator.

- Sarah elaborated on the process for hiring staff and the relationship with the timing of the approval of grants. If the approval of the grant is not received in time, then the person that you wanted to hire may no longer be available. It makes it a challenge to find staff for the summer. Three members of the Board sat on the hiring committee with Sarah. It is expected that we will have 10 staff hired.
- She requested funding for the CABIN training course for the staff. Approval by the Board was given.

6. Communications Committee Report

This report was included in the Coordinator’s Report. The newsletter has been mailed out to landowners in the watershed.

7. Other Business

a. Annual Meeting:

Tuesday May 23, 2017, 7:00 pm at Corran Bann Hall. Guest speaker is Todd Dupuis, Executive Director of the Climate Change Secretariat for PEI. The topic is “The potential impacts of climate change on the Winter River-Tracadie Bay watershed.”

b. Donation of Land to Watershed:

There were two tracts of land in question for donation. The financial cost of one property is too high for the purpose it would be useful for. The second tract is worth investigating. Ryan Winters has volunteered to do a table for analysis and will bring to the next meeting for discussion.

c. School Education Trips:

In previous years, LM Montgomery and other Charlottetown area elementary schools have had educational programs in the watershed, however, the funding is not there to complete the tours this year. Would it be possible for our watershed to fund some of these programs? Sarah will consider the cost if we did the program ourselves.

d. City request for editing video:

Approximately five years ago WRTBWA was involved in putting together a video called “Save some water for me.” The City of Charlottetown Water & Sewer Utility has asked if they can use the videos with editing for the removal of the WRTBWA logo. A discussion followed and a decision was made to offer the videos without editing.

8. Next Meeting

June 13, 2017 at 7:00 pm.at 13977 St. Peter’s Road.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59.

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA	Date
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Signature – Bernie Fitzpatrick, Secretary of WRTBWA	Date
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Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item code	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
June-1	Previous Coordinator's report	Provide recommendation to board on Nitrate Report	Committee: Dominic, Bruce and Matt	open
Dec-8	Communications Committee	Follow up on partnering with a business owner to for a television commercial		open
Jan -11	Any Other Business	Report from Officer's Pond Subcommittee	Sarah	open
July-17	Field Report	To investigate the best plan possible to deal with erosion issues	Sarah and Hilary	open
Jan-17	Coordinator's Report	Fish Management Plan	Hilary	open
April-18	Other Business	Upload Water Act Presentation to the website	Sarah	closed