

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA  
Held on February 16, 2022, 7:00 pm by Zoom

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**Present:** Clare Martin, Sarah Wheatley, George Coade, Dwayne McNeill, Jay Carr, Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves

**Absent:** Jeff Bysterveldt, John Hughes, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Patrick Lévêque

## 1. Minutes of the January 12, 2022 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

- Looking for a date in May to hold the Annual General Meeting. Anyone with suggestions for speakers at the meeting can let Clare know.
- There are 2 vacancies to fill on the Board of Directors. Would be good to fill these vacancies at the AGM.
- The letter to the City of Charlottetown requesting our annual grant was sent on February 15.
- The Winter River Water Committee bi-annual meeting is coming up in April, however Todd Dupuis may no longer be a representative from the province (has taken the Assistant Deputy Minister role). Bruce Raymond will arrange the meeting.
- 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.
- The Winter Woodlot Tour is planned for Saturday February 9. Details are available on Facebook.

## 3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

### *Chequing account*

Opening Balance: Jan. 1, 2022	\$123,164.36
Less o/s cheques	\$11,102.70
Plus deposits	\$16,203.80
Plus o/s cheques	\$4,950.46
Less expenses	<u>\$17,105.01</u>
Closing balance: Jan. 31, 2022	\$116,110.91

- George asked if all revenue for the current fiscal year has been received. Sarah responded that we're still waiting for approximately \$30K.

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

## 4. Field Committee – No report

## 5. Office Committee

- Sarah discussed with the Landlord the plan to upgrade the current bathroom, as it is in very poor condition. The Landlord was not in favour of doing minor renovations to the building due to its deteriorated condition and was considering doing a major renovation (possibly re-building), which will result in a considerable increase in rent. Considering this, the Board must decide on a plan going forward for office space. We can do the bare minimum to get by in the current building, we can look for a new location to move into, or we can consider developing our property on the Suffolk Road to suit our needs. Dwayne has looked into the potential for a "lease to own" trailer that could be set up on our property (estimated cost ~\$74K). We'd need to install a well and septic, as well as design a suitable parking/turn-around area to ensure the site can be safely accessed.
- It was decided that we should proceed with the bare minimum fix-up of the bathroom in the current office to get us through another season, and continue to explore the costs for a trailer for our own site. The committee should meet on site (of our Suffolk property) in May/June to determine if developing our property is viable.
- Should contact Holland College re construction of office through their carpentry program

## 6. Coordinators Report

- Sarah reported that we have approximately \$60K remaining in the Coastal Restoration Fund that has to be spent by fiscal year end. The province had committed to partnering on a project with us to use this money, but they have run out funding and therefore don't plan to partner on a new project.
- Sarah has a few potential projects that we could pursue to spend the funds (Black Creek, Beaton's Creek), but both will require political support. The Board likes this approach of trying to partner with the province to get the funding spent.
- Sarah is putting together a workplan for the Watershed Management Fund by March 31, 2022.
- Sarah currently taking part in a series of Watershed Alliance Webinar training sessions.

## 7. Review of the Scorecard

- Sarah presented an updated format for the scorecard. Board was generally pleased with the new format.
- Sarah will prepare the scorecard for the annual newsletter (or the AGM), with a target delivery date in May. She'll gather board members input at the March meeting and approve a draft scorecard at the April meeting, in time to have it finalized for the AGM in May.

## 8. Watershed Alliance's Request for feedback on subcommittee

- Watershed Alliance is requesting an expression of support from all watersheds on a Diversity and Inclusivity subcommittee.
- D&I policy being requested more frequently on funding applications.
- Purpose of the D&I subcommittee is to reach out to other communities to increase diversity within the Watershed Alliance and Watershed Boards.
- If we agree to support the subcommittee, we must be prepared to provide feedback and support if requested.
- Decision to express WRTBWA's support for the subcommittee. Clare to send our acknowledgment of support on behalf of WRTBW.

## 9. Non-Partisan Status - Practice and Policy

- Invitation to "All things Land" roundtable forum hosted by the Green Party.
- Invitation came to WRTBWA coordinator email account
- The objective is to operate WRTBWA in a non-partisan manner
- Recommendation is Sarah can attend similar events as an individual, not a spokesperson of the WRTBWA
- Sarah noted as a registered charity, we can make presentations to government or candidates as long as we are furthering our purpose as a charity. We can advocate to further our purpose.

## 10. Other Business – Charlottetown Water Usage Discussion

- Charlottetown Water Utility supplying an average of 16.2 ML/day in 2021 (Winter River: 11 ML/day + North River: 5.2 ML/day) compared to a peak of 19.8 ML/day in 2008, which was all from Winter River.
- Per capita use down from a peak of 206 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year to 154 m<sup>3</sup>/person/year in 2021.
- Attributed to infrastructure replacements, water conservation measures.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

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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