

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
Held at the WRTBWA office on April 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Raena Parent, Lowell Vessey, Philip Murphy, Shauna Barry, Clare Martin, Cassandra Gautreau, and Loman Cannall

Absent: Matt Steeves and Jeff Bysterveldt

1. Minutes of the March 20 meeting

Draft minutes were reviewed.

Moved by Clare, seconded by Philip that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Motion carried.

2. Report from the Chair

- Tim Banks has asked to meet with the Board to seek clarification on why we refused to accept his offer of a \$1,000 donation in 2023. It was noted that the Board decided not to accept the donation because Mr. Banks sued ECOPEI for challenging the provincial government's decision to award a building permit on a lot he owns in Greenwich next to the National Park.
- Jean-Paul has asked Gary Schneider of ECOPEI whether the lawsuit brought by Mr. Banks is still active.
- It was agreed that Dwayne will set up a meeting with Mr. Banks and send out an invitation to attend to Board members by email.
- Dwayne will respond to a person who showed interest in joining the Board and invite the person to attend the May Board meeting. It was noted that the WRTBWA's Bylaws allow for up to 12 Board members and, although they are normally elected at the AGM, past practice has allowed the Board to add members between AGMs.

3. Report from the Treasurer

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Mar. 1, 2024	\$55,228.74	\$85,530.19
Less o/s cheques	\$2,396.24	
Plus deposits	\$30,198.26	\$129.12 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$9,796.88	
Less expenses	<u>\$25,178.26</u>	
Closing balance: Mar. 31, 2024	\$67,649.38	\$85,659.31

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Clare that the Treasurer's Report for March 2024 be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

- It was agreed that Lowell and Dwayne will meet with Sarah Wheatley to hear her concerns regarding the Board's decision not to have the WRTBWA's accounts audited for FY 2022-2023 and to report to the Board with a recommendation on what to do for FY 2023-2024.
- Raena will seek clarification from Heather Laiskonis, Executive Director of the PEI Watershed Alliance, regarding the practice of other watershed groups on the matter of financial audits.

4. Field Committee Report

- The Committee met on March 25 to review the proposed workplan for FY 2024-2025 and adjusted some of the goals.
- Most landowner permission forms need to be renewed; the focus will be on areas where crews plan to work in 2024.
- The Committee identified the need for an onboarding process for new Board members. It was noted that a course is available through Holland College. Clare reported that she has taken the HC course but found it too long (20 hours) and not suited to our needs. It was agreed that we should try to source Board member training that is shorter and more appropriate. Raena will check with the Watershed Alliance to see if it has developed any such training or what suggestions it may have for us.

5. HR Committee Report

- Raena reported that she conducted interviews for summer staff and has identified two people of interest thus far.

6. Communications and Outreach Committee Report

- Clare reported that we will again offer a Seniors’ College course in the fall. It was agreed that we should assist the Glenaladale Heritage Trust to clear downed trees on a trail to be used for the course.
- Raena reported that she continues to work on the lesson plan for Grade 5 and 6 students in collaboration with the Department of Education’s curriculum consultant.
- We have been asked to consider offering an activity to the PEI Wild Child’s Young Ecologists’ Camp in August for 11-14-year-olds and a list of possible activities is being worked on.
- Clare reported that a spring birding workshop is being planned in collaboration with the Glenaladale Heritage Trust.
- The Lady’s Slipper Hike is planned for June 8.

7. Coordinator’s Report (sent in advance)

- Raena reported that the Watershed Alliance wants watershed groups to identify locations where signs could be installed to promote reporting of shoreline waste. Several options were suggested within our watershed area and Raena will explore these further.
- The Water Committee will meet with the City and the Province in May.
- Raena will take vacation in June. It was suggested that she prepare a list of Board members who can be contacted by her replacement depending on the issue encountered in her absence.
- Regarding the \$16,200 to be provided by the Watershed Alliance for FY 2024-2025 to update the Watershed Management Plan, Raena reported that the Alliance will send a directive to groups outlining the requirements to obtain the funding.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Board members reviewed the proposed scorecard for FY 2024-2025 and noted that several additions were made: invasive species removal; estuary watch surveys; change from number of volunteers to number of volunteer hours; rain and pollinator gardens; and fishing line disposal.

9. Other Business

- There was no other business.

10. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15, at 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date