

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

February 16, 2016 at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI at 7:00 pm.

Present: George Coade, John Hughes, Dominic Johnson, Meghan McCarthy, Sarah Wheatley, Scott Stephens, Will Horne

Regrets: David Thompson, Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves, J.P. Arsenault, Ben Hoteling, Bernie Fitzpatrick

George Coade was Chairperson of the meeting and Meghan McCarthy acted as secretary in Bernie's absence. The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7:05pm.

1. Minutes of January board meeting:

Draft minutes of the January board meeting were read by Sarah. As there was not a quorum of board members in attendance, the minutes were tabled to be voted on at the March meeting.

2. Chairperson's Report

George reported on several points of interests:

- J.P. had correspondence with Todd Dupuis.
- George/the External Relations committee will contact Eddie Rice regarding the city's water extraction plans, and Robert Mitchell regarding the Province's intent for permit renewal.
- Sarah has not yet heard from the Watershed Alliance on the proposed Stream Rehabilitation Training.
- Hilary Shea will do a presentation to the board on the work she completed this year for the watershed.
- The Winter Woodlot tour has now been postponed to March 5 due to site conditions and lack of snow.
- Dominic talked to Steve Watts as a member of Agrologists PEI. He emailed George, who has not yet responded. George would like to meet with him. If we want to consider Steve's services, we would have to look at funding option for that.
- We will need topics for the Spring newsletter, Sarah will discuss.
- George will contact Cathy Corrigan regarding the Charlottetown City Sustainability plan as she attended the meeting as a representative of the Watershed Alliance.
- Sarah will send an email to Board members about eforcepei.ca – there are courses funded by Holland College and other funding. It is free for one year. George will get set up first, then the rest of the board can do so if all goes well.

3. Treasurer's Report

Sarah gave the financial report.

Opening Balance \$20,000.00 as of Jan 1, 2016

Closing Balance 9,000.00 Feb 16, 2016

Sarah has 8 data loggers to purchase with the approx. \$400 left in the slush fund. There was discussion had about possible bridge funding options until our grant money begins to come in for the new year.

4. Field Committee Report

John reported on behalf of the committee:

- The committee met on February 4, 2016.
- They looked at training, including: Nutrient Management, Stream Rehabilitation, and Chainsaw training.
- They discussed pond bathymetry, and decided that it can be done on Officers Pond by boat in the spring. Scott said he could take his boat out. They'll have to go early before the weeds get thick.
- The contract for summer staff for the upcoming season will be updated. We need to hire a manageable combination of supervisors and workers.
- The plan is to cut back on tree planting, and focus on maintenance of existing plantings and pruning.
- The existing silt traps need to be assessed for any required action. Do they need to be dug out again?
- We will continue with the culvert program, small stream enhancement and data collection (except the fish count, which will be done every 5 years unless a more efficient system can be established).
- We need to ensure that the work being done matches the goals stated in funding applications.

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.

- The watershed has been approved for the Clean Tech Internship at \$12,000.

6. Communications Committee Report

- We may want to follow up on a local business owner's offer to sponsor/partner for a television commercial.

7. Snowshoe Event

- Our annual snowshoe hike is scheduled for February 20, 2016. The plan is to meet at the trailhead for the hike to start at 10am.
- Sarah, Cathy Corrigan, Cathy's friend, and Jill have volunteered to hike in to the cabin at 9am to get the chili and cider heating, and get the fire started. They'll set up to be ready when the hikers arrive.
- Meghan will text Sarah when the hikers set out so they can have a good idea of when they'll arrive at the cabin.
- George and John will check trail conditions on Thursday so we know whether we can proceed, or move to our storm date of Feb 27.

8. Annual General Meeting Guest Speaker

- George emailed Dr. Michael van den Heuvel, who has confirmed that he is available to speak at our AGM on May 24.
- Dr. van den Heuvel is the Canadian Research Chair on Watershed Ecological Integrity and with the Canadian Rivers Institute.
- George will reply in the next week or two with possible presentation topics relevant to our watershed.
- If board members have thoughts on this, please send them to George.

9. Report Presentation by Hilary Shea

- George thanked Hilary for her work and Sarah for doing the legwork for the funding which enabled us to hire Hilary.
- Hilary presented a detailed slide show and presentation of the work completed in the watershed in 2015.
- She provided detailed info on the depth info, water info, the fish count, and the state of the streams in the watershed.
- Hilary and Sarah also answered questions from the board members.

10. Bylaw changes

- Proposed bylaw changes were tabled to the next meeting due to time constraints.
- We need to define “member” for the bylaws.

11. Next Meeting

March 15, 2016

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

ORIGINAL VERSION SIGNED

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Meghan McCarthy, acting Secretary of WRTBWA

Date

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	Field Committee	Open
June-2	Changes to By-Laws	Discuss at next meeting	Board Members John, Bernie, Will J.P. and Sarah	Open
Aug-3	Business Arising from Minutes	To review the Environment Canada funding	Sarah Wheatley	closed
Oct-4	Field Report	Submit to Government Beaver Removal plan	Sarah Wheatley	closed
Oct- 5	Coordinator's Report	Charitable Status application	Sarah Wheatley	closed
Oct-6	Chairperson's Report	Rental of office space	Sarah Wheatley	closed
Dec-7	External Relations Report	Letter to Todd Dupuis	J.P. Arsenault	open
Dec-8	Coordinator's Report	Decision on banked hours	George, Sarah and Scott	open