

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA  
Held on March 17, 2021, 7:07 pm by Zoom

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

**Absent:** Scott Stevens. Jay Carr

## 1. Minutes of the February 17, 2021 meeting

Minutes were reviewed with the following changes: noted that the Data Management Committee was dissolved after it reported to the last Board meeting; no final decision was made on the proposed Winter River fishing derby.

**Moved by Lowell, seconded by Patrick 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

- A letter of support was sent to Island Trails in response to a request from Bryson Guptill.
- A request was sent to Councillor Bob Doiron, Chair of the City's Water and Sewer Utility, for our FY 2021-2022 grant.
- George, Dwayne, Roger, and Clare will conduct Sarah's performance review.
- Clare and Jean-Paul will conduct an exit interview with Brittany.
- Regarding the proposed fishing derby, Clare reported that the following information was received from the organizers: that it will be held the first weekend of May; it will be catch-and-release only; a non-profit activity; will take place on the main branch of the river from Corran Ban bridge to the boat slip. Following discussion, members requested that a Zoom call be organized between interested Board members and the organizers to clarify questions about how the fish will be handled. A decision regarding whether or not the Board will support will be made after the Zoom meeting.
- Decision on whether to hold the AGM in May will be made at the next Board meeting; members were asked to contact the Chair to indicate whether they wish to continue to serve on the Board.
- Clare will contact Bruce Raymond to set up the spring meeting of the Water Committee.

## 3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>	
Opening Balance: Feb. 1, 2021	\$37,509.20	\$ 41,089.48	
Less o/s cheques cashed	\$2,659.90		
Plus deposits	\$33,529.00	\$3.15	(Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$4,814.59		
Less expenses	<u>\$12,570.53</u>		
Closing balance: Feb. 28, 2021	\$60,622.36	\$41,092.63	

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

- Lowell led a discussion regarding the reserve fund. It was agreed that Board members form a committee to draft a policy for presentation to the next Board meeting; members of the committee to include Lowell, Patrick, Sarah, George, and Jeff. Scott will be contacted to invite to join the committee as well.

## 4. Field Committee Report

- Sarah presented the report as the Committee does not have a Chair. Job ads were developed for the positions of Field Supervisor and Chainsaw Operator and they will be advertised soon.

## 5. Outreach Committee

- Nothing to report.

## 6. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- Sarah reported that the Watershed Management Fund contribution will increase for FY 2021-2022; it will be either approximately \$60,000 or \$70,000 depending on Government's final decision on the formula to be used.
- We are targeting 8 people for a summer crew, subject to funding and approval by the Field Committee.

- Patrick suggested that the Tim’s Creek culvert replacement would be an excellent media opportunity.
  - George requested details about the Riparian Forest Survey being conducted by the Watershed Alliance.
- Moved by Dwayne, seconded by Jean-Paul that WRTBWA purchase a laptop; Sarah authorized to spend to a maximum cost of \$2,000 for her choice of laptop and supplier. All in favour. Motion carried.**

**7. Review of the Scorecard**

- No significant changes noted.

**8. Working with Volunteers and Public/School Groups**

- Sarah requested guidance from the Board on how to respond to requests for this year’s field season.
- It was decided that, except in the case of a small school group, we should wait a couple of months before making a final decision on requests from volunteers and public/school groups.

**9. Lands Protection Act**

- Jeff opened the discussion by stating that the Federation of Agriculture is now supporting an increase to the land holding limits despite some of its member groups, like Dairy Farmers of Prince Edward Island, being in favour of retaining the current limits. He asked for members’ views on whether the Board should take a position.
- It was generally agreed that the VANCO experience has been negative and has had an impact on the Board’s views on the land ownership limit question.
- Other comments: increased potato production is having a negative impact on crop rotation and soil management practices; important to keep good land in agricultural production; important to maintain the rural character of the watershed; important to minimize conflicts between farm and non-farm residents through better land use planning; and general apprehension about large industrial farm operations.
- There was no consensus on whether we should take a position at this time, but it was suggested that we monitor the work of the provincial government’s Land Matters Committee and consider presenting to a public meeting.

**10. Next Meeting**

- The next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:00

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA	Date
<b>ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED</b>	
Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA	Date