

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
Held on November 18, 2020, 7:02 pm by Zoom

Present: Clare Martin, George Coade, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Scott Stevens, Jean-Paul Arseneault, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill, Jay Carr, Patrick Lévêque, Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves, Roger Townshend

1. Minutes of the October 21, 2020 meeting

Minutes were reviewed.

Moved by George, seconded by John 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

- The Watershed Alliance is looking for more publicity for the Wildlife Conservation Fund; encouraging people to buy the conservation license plates. Clare placed the poster we were given at the Tracadie Community Centre.
- Because the Association's signing officers have changed, Clare, Lowell, Sarah, and Dwayne will have to call in to the Credit Union on University Ave. to fill out the necessary forms.
- Due to the new restrictions announced by Health PEI, everyone attending in-person committee meetings must wear masks.
- The letter to the Charlottetown Water and Sewer Utility regarding our grant was sent October 23. There has been no response as yet and the next meeting of the Utility is scheduled for November 19. We will await a response to the October 23 letter before submitting our request for 2021.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>		<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Oct. 1, 2020	\$78,812.00		\$ 71,073.41
Less o/s cheques cashed	\$2,019.52		
Plus deposits	\$33,666.73		\$5.21
Plus o/s cheques	\$80,959.03		
Less expenses	<u>\$93,581.56</u>	(less transfer)	<u>\$30,000.00</u>
Closing balance: Oct. 31, 2020	\$97,836.68		\$41,078.62

Note: \$30,000 transferred from Savings account to Chequing account

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

4. Field Committee Report

- Sarah presented the report as the Committee does not have a Chair. Culvert replacement was the main point of discussion. The Committee discussed whether to apply for funding through the PEI Climate Challenge Fund and what projects might qualify under EcoAction. The Committee will meet again when the federal government issues its call for grant proposals.

5. Outreach Committee

- Patrick led a discussion about how to improve the impact of our outreach activities. The following ideas were suggested: better ways to use our website and other social media; possibly seek marketing professional help; find ways to interest print, radio, and TV media in our field projects; better use of the Winter River Trail to demonstrate our work.
- Patrick will summarize and evaluate the impact of past efforts and how they align with our Management Plan to a future Board meeting. He will also try to connect with former Board members and potential volunteers to brainstorm, and bring back a summary and recommendations.

6. Data Management Committee

- Jean-Paul reported that the Committee met on November 2 with Sarah, Brittany, and Raena. An internal review of level of effort showed that 25% of our work is tied to data collection, analysis, and reporting. The Committee reviewed all data collection activities according to four criteria for retention:
 1. Recognized indicator of watershed health;
 2. Essential for planning field operations (link to the Watershed Management Plan);
 3. Important to funding and other partners; and
 4. Consistent with the long-term capacity of the WRTBWA.
- The Data Committee asked staff to prepare a data management plan for presentation to a future Board meeting, ideally in January. The plan will break down data collection, analysis, and reporting efforts into one of four categories:
 1. Water Quantity
 2. Water Quality
 3. Land Use and Biodiversity
 4. Essential for Field Operations
- The data management plan will identify which data-related activities will be kept and which will be dropped. It will also identify new activities, if any, and provide a percentage estimate of the WRTBWA’s total effort in terms of staff time going forward.

7. Review of the Watershed Management Plan

- Dwayne presented the goals and objectives of the Management Plan as adopted in 2013.
- Board member feedback can be summarized as follows:
 - We need to find a way to remediate siltation issues
 - Mussel beds around the Corran Ban bridge are affecting boating safety
 - Very few of the objectives are quantified
 - Some objectives are beyond our control and mandate
- Dwayne suggested creating a scorecard to quantify our objectives and to use as a way of measuring progress.
- It was suggested that we devote a Board meeting to a review of the Watershed Management Plan.

8. Coordinator’s Report (sent in advance)

- Members discussed how to handle the situation of two farmers whose cattle are being allowed to access a watercourse. This activity is prohibited under the buffer zone regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act*. It was agreed that Sarah will divulge the names of the two individuals to Jeff. If Jeff feels comfortable doing so, he will approach the farmer(s) to discuss. If he doesn’t, the WRTBWA will send letters to the two informing them of our concern.
- It was decided to forego the Holiday Season luncheon for Board members and staff this year. Instead, we will send \$30 gift certificates to each staff member.
- Regarding the Watershed Alliance’s request for feedback on the proposed Beneficial Management Practices for Potato Production, we responded to say that we did not support the proposal. According to the Alliance, 15 watershed associations supported the proposal, 2 were against, 1 did not have time to consider, and 6 did not respond.

9. Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be a special meeting to discuss the Watershed Management Plan on Wednesday, December 16, at 7:00 pm

Meeting adjourned at 9:20

Next regular Board meeting: January 20, 2021

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date