

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 November 20, 2024, at 7:05 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Lowell Vessey, Roger Roy, Shauna Barry, Philip Murphy, Kelly Watson, Raena Parent, and Clare Martin

Absent: Jean-Paul Arsenault, Matt Steeves, Cassandra Gautreau, and Jeff Bysterveldt

Guest: Nik Neitz

1. Minutes of the October 23, 2024, meeting

Draft minutes of the October 23 meeting were reviewed. A correction was made such that it now reads “Shauna asked for an update on the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (**AERF**). It was noted that we received \$16,200 from the Fund to **submit proposals for a larger AERF project. Initially the intent of this fund was to update the WRTBWA Watershed Management Plan.** Members discussed whether we should attempt to update the Plan, but no decision was taken.”

Moved by Shauna, seconded by Kelly, that the corrected minutes of the October meeting be adopted. Motion carried.

Business arising from the minutes - It was agreed that the Staff will review the WRTB's present Management Plan and bring their suggestions for updating the Plan to the January meeting.

2. Report from the Chair

- Staff luncheon will be December 13. Raena will confirm the time and place.
- Red Isle ATV will be giving the Association a donation
- The Winter River Committee meeting was held on November 13. Streams running dry continues to be our concern. Charlottetown indicated that their water use has plateaued. They also indicated that there has been no effort to find new well sites. Charlottetown plans to dig two new wells at the Suffolk as Miltonvale is not proving to be able to supply the forecasted volume of water and one of the present Suffolk wells is not performing well. This also suggests that Brackley and Union well fields will experience increased withdrawal.

3. Report from the Treasurer

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Oct. 1, 2024	\$98,700.45	\$86,685.58
Less o/s cheques	\$9,653.18	
Plus deposits	\$16,671.34	\$295.97 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$1,531.38	
Less expenses	<u>\$24,933.18</u>	
Closing balance: Oct. 31, 2024	\$82,316.81	\$86,981.45

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Philip that the November's Treasurer's report be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by Lowell, seconded by Kelly that the October's Treasurer's report previously tabled be adopted as presented.

Motion carried.

4. Field Committee Report

- Raena reported that the Committee met on November 6th.
- Raena reviewed up coming deadlines for funding including applying for two positions per constituency for CSJ.
- The recently created Terms of Reference for the field committee was presented.
Moved by Roger, seconded by Shauna, that the Terms of Reference for the Field Committee be accepted as presented. Motion carried.
- Safe transportation of gasoline cans was discussed resulting in the Board agreeing that Field Supervisor(s) will be added to the truck's insurance and a crib will be used so the gasoline cans don't move around during transport.

5. HR Committee Report

- Clare asked that the HR Committee Report be moved to the end of the meeting when Nic will be excused from the meeting.
- The Committee reviewed and decided no edits were needed to their Term of Reference.

- The rationale for denying the Staff's recent request for a pay raise was presented and supported by the Board.

6. Communications and Outreach Committee Report

- Curriculum development for the Grade 6 watershed course continues. Raena reported that the proposed lesson plan has been sent to the Department of Education for review and feedback.
- The Committee reviewed and decided no edits were needed to their Term of Reference.

7. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- The Wildlife Conservation Fund Fall allotment \$2, 500.00 has been received.
- Raea will present at a panel discussion for UPEI students seeking a work term.
- The Staff were given a "working in the cold" presentation for the fall/winter weather.
- TID approved a fishing line only garbage disposal at Corran Ban bridge.
- Eleanor Glahn, Ph.D. student at the Vet College, was sent photos of trout found in the Watershed possibly affected with Saprolegnia. Glahn is studying presence of Saprolegnia in PEI trout.
- The City has hired Dougal MacEwen who will remove beavers from the well field areas.
- Island Coastal is scheduled to remove tree root fans from our property on November 21st.
- By spring of 2025 the Community Sector Network of PEI has agreed to provide us with bookkeeping services under a shared services initiative.
- A large drone has been offered to us. The Board felt meeting the qualifications to operate this drone is not be realistic so we will not accept this donation.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Raena reported that most goals are on target or have been surpassed. The "estuary watch" and the "total area improved" goals will not be met due to field conditions. Some goals will be adjusted for the 2025-26 scorecard.

9. Other Business

- Reana asked that the course "Climate Adaption and Resilience Training" be made available to herself and field supervisors. The online course involves 5 hours/week for 12 weeks.
Moved by Philip, seconded by Roger, that the Climate Adaption and Resilience Training will be made available to the three supervisors.

10. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date