

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 October 23, 2024, at 7:05 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Lowell Vessey, Roger Roy, Shauna Barry, Raena Parent, and Clare Martin

Absent: Philip Murphy, Matt Steeves, Cassandra Gautreau, Kelly Watson, and Jeff Bysterveldt

Guest: Nik Neitz

1. Minutes of the September 18 meeting

Draft minutes of the September 18 meeting were reviewed.

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

2. Report from the Chair

- Dwayne welcomed Nik Neitz who will attend Board meetings as part of the provincial Youth on Board Program.
- Members of the Board met following the AGM and appointed the following committees for 2024-2025:
 - Executive: Dwayne as Chair; Clare as Vice-Chair, Lowell as Treasurer, and Jean-Paul as Secretary
 - Communications and Outreach: Clare, Shauna and Cassandra
 - Field: Philip as Chair, Roger, Shauna, Cassandra, Matt and Jeff
 - HR: Clare, Philip and Jean-Paul
 - Water: Dwayne, Lowell, Kelly and Matt

3. Report from the Treasurer

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Sept. 1, 2024	\$112,663.72	\$86,399.25
Less o/s cheques	\$10,366.36	
Plus deposits	\$16,052.87	\$286.33 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$7,018.87	
Less expenses	<u>\$26,668.65</u>	
Closing balance: Sept. 30, 2024	\$98,700.45	\$86,685.58

Raena reviewed the monthly statement of revenues and expenditures but, since the Treasurer's report was not ready for presentation, the matter was carried forward to the next Board meeting.

- Raena reported that the WRTBWA 2023-2024 financial statement has been sent to the City with our request to release the annual grant. Lowell noted that the amount of the grant has not changed since 2011. Jean-Paul noted that the \$32,000 we received in 2024 is only worth \$24,000 in 2011 dollars, corrected for inflation.

4. Field Committee Report

- Raena reported that the Agri-Watershed Partnership project ended on September 30.
- Raena reported increased beaver activity on City wellfield land on the main stream between the Brackley and Union stations. The dams are affecting oxygen levels and should be removed. Raena was asked to find a person capable of trapping the beavers and to pay for the service if necessary.
- Raena suggested that the Committee needs to develop terms of reference for the following reasons: to help the Coordinator create a list of priorities for funding; to brainstorm and review potential project activities; to review and approve the annual workplan; to review equipment needs; and to enable the Coordinator to provide more frequent updates to the Board on field activities.

5. HR Committee Report

- There was nothing to report.

6. Communications and Outreach Committee Report

- Raena reported that the Trees Canada planting event went off very well with 75 Grade 5 and 6 students participating from L.M Montgomery. Mayor Phillip Brown attended the event.
- Birds of Glenaladale took place on September 28 at Tracadie Harbour with 12 participants.
- The Seniors College event was held on October 8. Seventeen people registered and we received very positive feedback from participants.
- Curriculum development for the Grade 6 watershed course continues. Raena reported that staff will present the proposed curriculum to the Communications and Outreach Committee for review and feedback.

7. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- Raena reported that there is nothing new on the status of our grant applications.
- The grant from the Watershed Management Fund is lower than last year (\$81,000 vs. \$92,000), and the difference is due to post-Fiona grants that increased other watershed group's WMF scores. Raena reported that the WMF scorecard will be reviewed prior to the 2025 field season.
- A new volunteer is working with us 1-2 days per week to gain field experience before entering Holland College's Watershed Conservation Technology Program, and a co-op student from Charlottetown Rural High School will be with us until December.
- Raena reported that she has submitted our request for a development permit for the Suffolk Rd. property; we should know by mid-November. It was mentioned that we need to have a percolation test done before installing a septic system.
- We have been approved as an eligible recipient under the Ecological Gifts Program.
- The Water Committee will meet with the City and the Province in November

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Raena reported that all goals are on target or have been surpassed, except for the estuary watch goal which will not likely be met due to the colder weather.

9. Other Business

- Raena reported that a 100-meter section of a branch stream between the Brackley and Union pumping stations went dry for a period of time. Staff were able to save some brook trout and sticklebacks, but there was some mortality. 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.

10. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, at 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date