

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 January 15, 2025, at 7:05 pm

Present: Dwayne McNeill, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Philip Murphy, Roger Roy, Cassandra Gautreau, Shauna Barry, Jeff Bysterveldt, Raena Parent, and Clare Martin

Absent: Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves, Kelly Watson, and Nik Neitz

1. Minutes of the November 20 meeting

Draft minutes of the November 20 meeting were reviewed.

Moved by Jeff, seconded by Roger, that the minutes of the meeting be adopted. Motion carried.

2. Report from the Chair

- Dwayne reported that the City has indicated, through the Utility Manager and Superintendent, that they don't believe it's necessary to move forward with the removal of beaver dams within the wellfield area.
- Regarding the annual grant from the City, members discussed what the best approach would be to bring the issue to the attention of City decision makers. It was decided that the Chair will write to the Mayor.
- Members discussed whether we should simply give up on the City grant since it has become so problematic over the years. Raena was asked to prepare a projected budget for FY 2025-2026 with and without the grant for review at the next Board meeting.
- The Chair reported that we have been approached by the Watershed Alliance and provincial officials to determine if the WRTBWA might be interested in merging with Friends of Covehead-Brackley Bay.
- It was agreed that we would entertain a proposal, but we will not take the lead. Raena was asked to contact the Watershed Alliance and provincial officials and make it clear that any proposal will have to include a clear picture of the FCBB, including financial statements, staffing, annual reports, and any other documentation that might help the WRTBWA to assess the proposal.

3. Report from the Treasurer

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Nov. 1, 2024	\$82,316.81	\$86,981.45
Less o/s cheques	\$2,719.90	
Plus deposits	\$23,461.96	\$582.21 (Interest)
Plus o/s cheques	\$1,777.80	
Less expenses	<u>\$42,491.04</u>	
Closing balance: Dec. 31, 2024	\$62,345.63	\$87,563.66

In the Treasurer's absence, it was decided to defer approval of the report to the February meeting.

4. Field Committee Report

- Raena reported that we will respond to an expression of interest for funding under the Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Fund (AERF) and that we are considering projects at Officer's Pond, the Winter River estuary, and DeRoche Pond.
- Raena met with Paul Strain of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to identify potential culvert replacements for the 2025 field season. Mr. Strain made it clear that the province does not expect us to pay for culverts.
- DFO has reported that they are detecting "nutrients" in groundwater in our watershed and that this may be contributing to eutrophication in the estuary. Raena was asked to obtain data regarding this from DFO.
- It was suggested that Raena approach former Board member Scott Stevens to determine what the Haviland Club's position is regarding Officer's Pond.

5. HR Committee Report

- Clare reported that she and Jean-Paul conducted an exit interview with Jess Dewey and that Jess' comments about her experience with the WRTBWA were very favourable.
- Jess suggested that Supervisors be invited to meetings of the Field and Communications and Outreach Committees. Members supported this suggestion.

- Raena reported that Alexa MacPhail has been hired to replace Jess and began working on with us on January 6. She reported that several qualified candidates applied for the position, but not all had the required writing skills. Some candidates were encouraged to apply for summer positions.

6. Communications and Outreach Committee Report

- Raena reported that we have yet to hear from the Department of Education's Curriculum Lead regarding the lesson plan for the Grade 6 watershed course. It was decided not to pursue the matter until we have more staff on to properly run the workshop.
- The Winter Hike is scheduled for February 8 at 10:00 am and, as in 2024, it will be held in collaboration with the City.
- An Invasive Species talk will take place on January 28 at 7:00 pm at Glenaladale.

7. Coordinator's Report (sent in advance)

- Members discussed the report, but no specific actions were identified.

8. Review of the Scorecard

- Raena reported that we will not reach the target for km of stream improved. It was decided that the Field Committee will review this goal for 2025-2026, in the light of new information on requirements for fish passage.
- Water extraction from our watershed by the City 39% higher than it should be according to the province's policy; that Suffolk is very low while Brackley is very high; and that Miltonvale Park is producing less than forecast in the City's water supply plan.

9. Review of the WRTBWA Management Plan

- Raena presented a table showing results compared to the 11 goals contained in the current plan.
- After discussion, Members agreed that we should look at the possibility of starting from scratch to develop a new plan. Raena was asked to contact the Watershed Alliance and the province to determine if there is a guide for the development of watershed management plans. She was also asked to contact the Belfast Watershed Association to check on their progress in developing a new plan.
- The issue will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Board.

10. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 19, at 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date