

# 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 May 21, 2025, at 6:00 pm

**Present:** Jean-Paul Arsenault, Kelly Watson, Philip Murphy, Lowell Vessey, Clare Martin, Raena Parent, Alexa MacPhail, Roger Roy and Shauna Barry

**Absent:** Dwayne McNeill, Matt Steeves, Cassandra Gautreau and Jeff Bysterveldt

## 1. Minutes of the April 16 meeting

Draft minutes of the April 16 meeting were reviewed.

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

## 2. Report from the Chair

- Clare reported in Dwayne's absence.
- The Winter River Water Committee met on May 13. The City reported that it has no long-term plan to change its water extraction approach. The Province reported that the City must have a drought plan in place to reduce consumption by 20% before it will be issued a new water extraction permit in 2026. The Province reported that water levels in 2024 were equal to the long-term average. There was discussion about beaver dams on the City's wellfield properties, but no decision was made. The WRTBWA will continue to monitor water levels and water quality to determine the impact of the beaver dams.
- Clare reported on an information session she attended organized by the Watershed Alliance on the establishment of a group RRSP for interested watershed associations. Raena was asked to consider whether she would be interested in participating in the group RRSP and to advise the HR Committee of her decision.

## 3. Report from the Treasurer

|                                | <i>Chequing account</i> | <i>Savings Account</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Opening Balance: Apr. 1, 2025  | \$56,301.32             | \$88,422.66            |
| Less o/s cheques               | \$31,852.42             |                        |
| Plus deposits                  | \$64.48                 | \$286.33 (Interest)    |
| Plus o/s cheques               | \$323.40                |                        |
| Less expenses                  | <u>\$7,739.89</u>       |                        |
| Closing balance: Apr. 30, 2025 | \$17,096.89             | \$88,708.99            |

**Moved by Lowell, seconded by Philip, that the Report from the Treasurer for the month of March be adopted. Motion carried.**

## 4. Field Committee Report

- The Suffolk pit has been sold to Chris Hucz, owner of Chris's Bobcat Services. A neighbour advised that the road into the pit has been treated with calcium chloride to control dust. It was decided that we will monitor water quality in the area.
- 18 bird boxes were handed out to landowners; 4 were purchased by the Fish and Wildlife Division (FFWD) at \$20 each; and 27 remain to be distributed. One was installed on our property.
- Raena gave an update on our depth loggers. All three require significant maintenance that would cost almost as much as new ones at a purchase price of \$536 each. Raena will consult with Kyle Knysh, Surface Water Biologist, regarding our needs before ordering new ones.

## 5. HR Committee Report

- Jean-Paul asked whether staff using their own vehicles are required to attest that they have third-party liability insurance. Raena replied that they are not. Jean-Paul will check with Cycling PEI and Kelly will share an example he has.
- The Board met *in camera* to hear the report of Raena's annual performance review conducted on April 30 by Philip, Shauna and Roger. It was agreed that she should move to Step 3 of the pay plan approved at the March 12 Board meeting retroactive to her anniversary date.

## 6. Communications and Outreach Committee Report

- Planned events include the Lady's Slipper Hike on June 14; Birds of Glenaladale on June 17 and 21; and Seniors College in early October.
- Clare and Shauna will represent the WRTBWA at the Island Nature Trust's DeRoche Land Celebration on May 31.
- Raena reported that 15 staff from Stantec will volunteer for a shoreside cleanup on June 18.

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

- Raena reported that David Carmichael is still interested in donating his property on the south side of the Winter River above the Corran Ban bridge. The Board was made aware of his offer to share use of a boat and dock on the property which are co-owned with Dwayne McNeill. It was agreed that we should use the dock when required for field operations.
- Raena reported that the Belfast Area Watershed Group hired a consulting firm, Volume 18, to help develop its watershed management plan at a cost of \$20,000. The work took approximately six months and involved input from public meetings, interviews with stakeholders and online surveys. Raena was asked to contact Volume 18 to determine what information they'd need from us in terms of scope of work to provide the WRTBWA with a quote to update our WMP.
- FFWD staff will electrofish for goldfish near the Hardy Mill Pond dam on May 22. Raena was invited to do an interview on the goldfish issue by CBC on May 23.
- A landowner in the Hunter-Clyde Watershed has offered to donate white spruce and white pine he has on his property. We will consider taking some.
- Raena met with Angela MacDonald who is interested in providing the WRTBWA with bookkeeping services. Raena will follow up with her and report to a future Board meeting.

## 8. Review of the Scorecard

- There wasn't much to report as the field season has not yet begun.

## 9. Other Business

- The WRTBWA is invited to attend a meeting organized by the Water Coalition on May 27 from 6:30 to 9:00 in Rm. 125 of the Royalty Center. Issues to be discussed are water governance and water filters in public schools.

## 10. Next Meeting

- The next regular Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18, at 6:00 pm at the WRTBWA office.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15

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Signature – Dwayne McNeill, Chair of WRTBWA

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Date

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Signature – Jean-Paul Arsenault, Secretary of WRTBWA

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Date