

Minutes
Winter River - Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting

Grand Tracadie School
February 16, 2012, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Present:

Cathy Corrigan
John Dalziel
Rod Dempsey
John Hughes

Don Mazer
Bruce Smith
Lowell Vessey
Sarah Wheatley

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened with a majority of Board members present.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes of the January 19 meeting were approved (following the addition of a few minor modifications).

3. Co-Chair's Report (Don)

- A meeting was held with Robert Vessey (Minister for Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal). One item of discussion was the availability of funding to develop the Miltonvale Park well field. We were told that existing funding has been allocated for the separation of storm sewer and sanitary systems in the City of Charlottetown. No funding is available for the well field until at least 2014 when a new Canada-PEI Infrastructure Agreement will come into effect.
- It would be worth considering a meeting with Sean Casey (MP, Charlottetown) regarding federal funding for the well field.
- Some discussion occurred on the infrastructure funding that will be available in relation to Prince Edward Island's 150th anniversary (in 2014) of the meeting of the Fathers of Confederation and whether some of this funding could be allocated for the well field development.
- Don proposed the development of a strategy to garner public support for the new well field, reduction in water extraction rates in the Winter River watershed to sustainable levels, and the development of extraction/consumption targets.
- On February, 22, the City of Charlottetown is celebrating National Heritage Day. Part of the activities will include recognition of the City's water service. We may have an opportunity to become involved in this event.

4. Coordinator's Report (Bruce)

Bruce provided a synopsis of his activities since the previous meeting. Several of these activities are listed below, in point form.

- Work has continued on the general aspects of the watershed management plan with some time spent on the introduction and on specific content areas.
- The Wildlife Conservation Fund funding application has been submitted.
- Information has been obtained on premiums to provide liability coverage for the members of the Board of Directors. The Board members approved of the premium and Bruce will proceed to secure the coverage.
- Bruce has met with officials regarding the possible drawdown of Hardy's Pond on March 1.
- Bruce has done some preliminary work concerning the acquisition of registered charity status for our Association.

5. Proposal for a Public Liaison/Recruitment Position

Discussion occurred on the need for, and the responsibilities of, a paid staff position within the Association that would be devoted to the promotion of the Association and the recruitment of volunteers. It was recognized that the Association could be providing even greater service to the watershed if it had more members and that being able to share the work load with new members will help prevent volunteer burnout (as has happened in other watershed groups).

Cathy will consider what content should be contained in a job description for the possible new staff position.

6. Watershed Survey

Sarah has compiled an on-line survey that addresses the vision and attitudes of property owners within the watershed. Board members were requested to review the survey and provide Sarah with feedback. Some discussion occurred on the best way to notify people of the survey (possibly by sending them a post card with a reference to our website where a link to the survey will be provided).

7. Showshoe Event

The Association's snowshoe event will go ahead, as planned, on Saturday, February 18, with a storm date of February 25.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.