

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

**Grand Tracadie School**  
**June 28, 2012, 7:00 – 9:25 p.m.**

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**Present:**

Cathy Corrigan  
Rod Dempsey  
Ben Hotelling  
John Hughes

Don Mazer  
Bruce Smith  
Lowell Vessey  
Sarah Wheatley

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was convened with a majority of Board members present. New board members Ben Hotelling and Jason Afflect were welcomed to the board.

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the April 19 meeting were read. Section 3d was amended to read “Bruce suggested asking about issue of the proposed relocation of Fish and Wildlife from Agriculture and Forestry to Environment, Justice and Labour.” Minutes approved.

**3. Business Arising from Previous Meeting**

- Bruce indicated we now have a space at Fish and Wildlife (on the Upton Road) to build nesting boxes. This space can also be used to store equipment. There is no rental charge.
- Some discussion occurred on the benefits of inviting Parks Canada to have a representative formally join our Board or at least attend our meetings.
- We decided not to pursue the communications/public relations position at this time due to shortage of funding.

**4. Selection of Executive until the Next Annual General Meeting**

The Board decided that the following people will serve on the Board’s Executive until the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

- Co-Chairs: Cathy Corrigan and Don Mazer
- Treasurer: George Coade
- Secretary: Sarah Wheatley
- We expressed our appreciation to Rod Dempsey for his valuable contribution as Secretary since 2008. Rod will continue his role as the Association Webmaster.

## 5. Co-Chair's Report (Don)

- The Annual General Meeting on May 24 was considered a success.
- There has been no response from the city to our March letter that raised several 'relationship' issues (e.g. access to information, ongoing funding) with the City of Charlottetown. There has also not been a response yet to our initiative to have the City adopt and follow water reduction targets. We discussed options for addressing these communication issues, and Don will ask for a meeting with Craig Walker and Ramona Doyle, with the possibility of proposing regular meetings with them.
- The City anticipates that the new wellfield in Milton may be developed around 2016 or 2017.
- Considerable discussion occurred on the current low water levels in the Winter River and the probability that parts of the river will run dry as the summer progresses (and as it did last year).
- Don suggested that Board members consider what would constitute a reasonable water reduction schedule for the City.

## 6. Co-Chair's Report (Cathy)

- Cathy will be meeting with Ramona Doyle regarding the distribution of the water conservation videos and posters which are part of the "Save Some Water for Me, Please" water conservation campaign
- Cathy showed the videos and posters to the Board.

## 7. EcoAction Grant (Bruce)

- Approval for 22 month long, \$50,000 project focused on nutrient management in the Winter River Watershed.
  - Must confirm if the project includes only Winter River, excluding Tracadie Bay, and other details.
- Need lots of advice from a diverse array of people and groups before undertaking this project.
- Must determine if we can manage such a large project and do it successfully. If it is too much for our group, we can decline to do the project.
- People to ask for advice:
  - Barry Murray – Kensington North watershed. Did similar project successfully last year. Perhaps invite him to speak to the whole board before many other steps are completed.

- Erica MacDonald – Government of PEI. Worked with groups doing similar projects last year. Erica’s supervisor, Barry Thompson is in charge of all nutrient management projects.
- Stephanie Veenhuis (pronounced Veinot) – PEI Federation of Agriculture. Works with farmers on nutrient management program.
- Michael van den Heuvel – UPEI
- Donna Giberson – UPEI
- Chin Lee – Federal Dept of Agriculture
- Cindy Crane – Provincial Dept of Agriculture
- Heather Gordon – EcoAction regional contact.
- Put together committee structures to offer advice on this project including different types of farmers (dairy, potato, mixed, etc.).
- After developing a clear outline of where this project should go, develop job description for a person to coordinate this project. Preliminary advice is for a person with a strong farming background rather than an academic. Farmers would be quicker to trust another farmer.

**8. Other Coordinator Updates (Bruce)**

- Watershed Management Plan – committee needs to meet again
- Need to assess financial situation to determine how much money can be contributed to “Save some water for me” campaign.
- Employees – student jobs have been a challenge, both getting funding, then filling some positions this late in the season.
- Chris just started for 14 weeks.
- Limited funding this year has caused cutbacks in some areas.

**9. Next meeting will be July 19**