

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

Grand Tracadie School
July 19, 2012, 7:00 – 9:45 p.m.

Present:

Ben Hoteling
Bruce Smith
Cathy Corrigan
Chris Mutch
Don Mazer

George Coade
John Hughes
Lowell Vessey
Rod Dempsey
Sarah Wheatley

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened a majority of Board members present.

2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the June board meeting were read and after one small correction were accepted.

3. Chris's summer work report

Discussed work with students building brush mats and planting trees (2000 so far).
Discussed a possible change to the work schedule for the crew.

4. Nutrient Management Project (Bruce)

Extensive discussion regarding the EcoAction grant to do a nutrient management program with area farmers. Highlights of the discussion include:

- Original application was for \$110,000 (incl. \$86,000 for labour). Offer was for \$50,000. Since the project cannot be completed on the reduced budget, this money should be viewed as "seed money" to start the project. Further funding will need to be found from other sources (ex. RBC, Shell, TD, etc.)
- EcoAction is a difficult group to work with, some people advise against doing the project for that reason.
- Challenging to find the right person for the job – both personality and skills.
 - The ideal person has a strong farming background, local knowledge and is certified in nutrient management from NSAC
 - NSAC hasn't offered the course in a few years
 - Without certification, participating farmers do not qualify for all available programs
 - Looking into ways to certify someone new
 - Person needs to be friendly and non-confrontational, otherwise farmers might reject the plans
- There have been similar projects on PEI before, with mixed results. Can we learn enough from their successes and mistakes to make our project a success?
- Concerns arose about whether we would be able to get enough farmers to participate. Can we find out what participation level is acceptable?
- The entire project is under a time crunch, we need to start ASAP or else decide to decline the funding.

- Meeting on Monday July 23 with some board members and members of government and other environmental groups to learn more about other nutrient management projects.
 - After this meeting, participants will report back to the board and make a recommendation whether to proceed with project or not.

5. Chair Report (Don)

- Don, Cathy & Bruce met with Craig and Ramona (City) and finally got a response to the March letter.
 - Craig said City is moving toward accepting the guideline of extracting no more than 50% of recharge at each wellfield. No timeline was given for this, however, it would likely be sometime after the Milton wellfield comes online.
 - Discussed water reduction targets – but no specifics
 - Received data for City's 2011 water usage
 - Plan to have more regular meetings and less correspondence
- Don spoke with Rob Lance (former head of City council's sustainability committee)
 - Don will do a presentation for a new committee headed by mayor
- Dry river issue
 - A local resident has already contacted DFO to complain
 - We need to capitalize on the current media coverage around this issue
 - This issue needs further board discussion later.

6. Chair Report (Cathy)

- Save Some Water for Me, Please campaign is progressing
 - 80 11x17 posters were printed for distribution
 - News release sent to Ramona for release July 23(?)
 - Cable 10 (East Link) is airing our commercials for free as a public service
- Gold Cup Parade
 - Only \$25 to enter a float. Theme is "Country to City"
 - Students can help with creative ideas and labour

7. More ideas from Don

- Develop the concept of "Be a friend of the Winter River watershed" maybe involving larger companies and recognize positive changes made by companies.
- Idea of a YouTube video involving classic songs with new lyrics regarding water conservation. Might be a new avenue to reach people.

8. Treasurer's Report - George

- George reviewed the BDO audit report and found some minor discrepancies compared to his report. He met with auditors, made correction and is happy with results.
- Outlined sources of funding for this year and our major expenses.
- He noted that we have not yet received any money from the City and wondered if someone else could look into whether or not any money will be coming soon.
- Noted that even while Bruce was volunteering over the winter he was contributing many, many hours of his time. So a big Thank You to Bruce!

9. Watershed Management Plan

Don noted that during a meeting of the watershed management plan committee, a schedule was drafted and it will require the board to review the document a couple times and usually

with very short timelines. Unfortunately we must try to stick to all the deadlines to finish the entire project on time.

10. Coordinator's Report (Bruce)

Bruce had a meeting with George Sommers from Provincial Department of Environment

- George is the person who created the City's current water extraction permit
- He said that the City is within 50% recharge limits for the whole watershed, they are just not spreading the load out very much. The City had tried to buy more land in Suffolk to pump more from that area but wasn't successful.
- George Sommers reports that the department is developing a new policy specifying that the 50% of recharge measure should be on the sub-watershed where the pumping is occurring (similar to Yefang's work).
- Discussed some sort of limits based on stream flow – so if the stream is dry, pumping must be slowed.
- Also discussed adding a dimension of seasonal variation to the permit to allow more pumping in winter and less in summer.
- At the end of the discussion, Don asked if we could get these promises in writing

Issue of dry rivers

- Discussed meeting with Deli Keen from DFO
- Preparing letters to send to Province and DFO regarding dry river (thus loss of fish and fish habitat)
- Somehow need to get the City, Province and DFO to come to some agreement that would rectify the situation

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held August 23.