

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

Corran Ban Parish House

October 21, 2014, 7:00 – 9:20 P.M.

Present:

Ben Hoteling
Bernie Fitzpatrick
Bruce Smith

George Coade
Jean-Paul Arsenault
John Hughes

Lowell Vessey
Meghan McCarthy
Sarah Wheatley

1. Board meeting welcome

The meeting was convened with a majority of members present.

2. Summer Field Work Presentation

Luke Peters, field supervisor, gave a presentation on the field work completed this summer, such as the 2300 trees planted, installations to increase fish cover, and building bird nest boxes.

3. Review of Minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the September meeting were read and accepted.

4. Report from Chair

George outlined several meetings from the past month:

- a) Mayoral candidate meeting, we asked two questions. Candidates all responded that they will maintain the lower water levels for a longer period of time. Sent an email to chair of this event, and asked for a copy of the minutes/transcript from this meeting. All three parties recognized there is concerns over water extraction on the winter River. The current mayor was the first one to respond, and he had no reservations about a long term 25% reduction in extraction.
- b) GIS meeting in Emerald – Received our copy of WGIS, the software developed by the PEI Watershed Alliance. Access will be restricted to only a few members because of the data included, currently George and Sarah have the software. We can map properties where we are allowed to work, what crops are printed, etc. Maps can be printed off as needed by field supervisor for work.
- c) Hunter River community center – Watershed Alliance wanted input about applying for funding from Environment Canada, which approves province-wide projects and/or interprovincial projects. The funding would be \$200,000/3 years. Also talk about reduction in watershed management funding next year. Money from province is partially based on the land area of the watershed, but groups received between \$1.50 to \$10 per acre. Todd Dupuis thought that groups should receive a more similar amount per acre.
- d) Sean Casey will be making a follow-up visit to the watershed with Bruce, JP, John and George on Friday at 1pm. They will put together an agenda of what to cover with Sean, such as ways to deal with Charlottetown's over-extraction at the Federal level.
- e) Tree nursery – called to see what species will be available next year, to help with our operational planning.
- f) Parks Canada – Beach Cleanup. They sent an email asking for participation. Next spring we might meet with the shellfish alliance, so maybe all three parties can work together on one big cleanup.
- g) Upcoming meeting, November 13 with Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries and Oceans. Opportunities for groups to contribute input about recreational fisheries in the future. We can have two representatives. Scott and JP will go.

5. Treasurer's Report

George and Meghan reported that 70% of funding has been received thus far. We still have about \$10,000 to come. Current balance approximately \$37,000.

6. Committee Reports

a. Funding and Finance

Bruce provided the committee with a list of most of the programs where we applied for funds last year. George has a copy of all supporting files that go with these applications. This committee will work closely with the field

committee to match projects and finances. In the future we may also look at projects that don't take place in the summer, because we can only handle so many workers at once, or projects involving automated monitoring.

b. Communications

Sarah reported that most of the committee met on September 29 and assessed the items from the WMP and reprioritized some to have longer timelines. A number of items are ongoing projects that we will continue. We have yet to determine if any new projects can be taken on this year, and if so, which one(s). Our community of interest keeps growing, now at 309 (up from 196 before door-to-door campaign and 295 at last board meeting).

c. Field

John circulated a draft outline of the work plan the coming year which calls for a very structured plan including work zones, ongoing assessment of progress, new areas for restoration work, and reports that will be required to document the all aspects of field work.

It was suggested that next year we need a second qualified supervisor for the field team as one wasn't quite enough this year. Some discussion of possible long term projects for Officer's Pond and when we should extend our work area to other sub-watersheds. Overall things worked quite smoothly with the crew of workers this summer.

d. Government Liaison

JP reported that they requested a meeting with people from the provincial Department of Environment, and that a fisheries biologist be invited to the meeting.

7. Coordinator's Report

The coordinator's report was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Discussion points include:

- Surveys to do – redds and beavers
- Crunch time for soil sampling, so we will hire Stephen Bruce to help with this task for two weeks.
- Need help with data entry, before the meeting with Provincial Environment officials.

8. Other Business

- a. Coordinator position – Created a committee to decide on a new coordinator, including JP, Scott and Dominic with help from George.
- b. Industrial water users – Lowell suggested looking into whether some large industrial water users really need to be using potable water for their operations, or if they could drill their own wells to supply some of their needs, which would reduce the extraction from Winter River. The Energy from Waste plant was identified as one user that might benefit from such an arrangement. Will look into this more later.
- c. Bruce and Ben to meet John te Raa about recommendations for purchasing more automated water monitoring equipment.
- d. Due to time constraints all other agenda items for the evening will be tabled until the next meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday November 18, 7 pm at Corran Ban Parish House.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

11. Approval of Minutes

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Signature – Sarah Wheatley, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date