

Minutes

Winter River - Tracadie Bay Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting

Corran Ban Parish House

November 18, 2014

7-9 pm

1. Board meeting welcome

Meeting called to order at 7:02 by George. Welcomed back Don, who had been out of province.

2. Review of minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted.

3. Business arising from minutes

- Meeting with Department of Environment is Dec 1.
- Luke, Scott were at Fisheries meeting, also 5 people from Souris
- Todd Dupuis is the Assistant DM of Environment
- GIS meeting in Emerald – George & Luke went. Email came today wondering if anyone missed the training and wanted to attend. Bruce suggested Sarah might want to attend.
- Luke also has a copy of the software.
- Bruce went to a social hosted by Aquaculture Alliance and suggested that Parks, WRTBWA and Aquaculture Alliance get together to organize a beach cleanup for next spring. Planning should start two months in advance.
- Bruce has applications for funding in a binder.
- Don suggested it would be a good idea to send a letter of appreciation to the mayor for his recent re-election and commitment in water reduction from WRTBW on an ongoing basis. JP offered to draft the letter and run it by Don. Cc the rest of city council.
- It was moved by George that minutes be approved and 2nd by Bernie. Motion carried.
- Scott & JP attended meeting, which lasted several hours. Some mention of extending rainbow season to Nov 30 but nothing specific to our watershed. There is a concern that if the season or regulation is changed that it may be so disjointed that anglers won't know the rules, conservation will be sending out confusing messages. Zones open for early and late seasons are not clearly defined. There was strong support for extending the season to Nov 30, climate change – rainbows are coming up earlier. Trout didn't come up until the end of Oct in Gowan Brae this year. Neither Scott nor JP felt comfortable bringing forward the idea of closed season on part of the Winter River. JP chatted with Daryl and Roseanne after the meeting. They said if we think a section of the river should be closed (i.e. after July 1) it is entirely possible. Parts of the Morell system did get closed. Discussion needs to happen here before we bring it forward to govt.
- Bruce talked to Fish & Wildlife Division, who needed to collect 6 fish from Winter River and agreed not to take any females.
- Last night was the annual meeting of the Haviland Club, they reported that the fish taken was down 73% over 2013 in Officer's Pond and not one fish was caught after June 23. Need to get increased volume and cooler water.

4. Report from Chair

- George went through some of the correspondence he receives. Garry Gregory, the new Wildlife Biologists with Fish & Wildlife, sent an email to introduce himself.
- Annual meeting for Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bays is this evening, and we got an invite.
- George pointed out that Watershed Coordinator position is in the paper, and applications are coming in.
- Atlantic Salmon Forum and Workshop Nov 21 in Amherst NS, focussed on salmon, but Bruce suggests a lot of the info would be similar for trout, and we are applying for salmon funding. This meeting is worthwhile for Bruce to attend. There will be good information, contacts and the organizer is in charge of the Adopt a Stream program in NS. Bruce and Dominic would be attending. Bruce will forward registration info to Dominic.
- Atlantic Urban Forest workshop is scheduled for Nov 27 in Moncton. George will forward info for anyone who wants to see it. George, Bruce & JP will meet with Todd Dupuis on Dec 1, good info to have.

- Angling Regulations Meeting – any proposed changes are in fishing guidebook. Attend meetings to make recommendations.
- Note from Della Perry-Skinner to acknowledge our Eco-Action application.
- Nutrient Management software training to be hosted by PEI Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry on Wed Nov 26. Bruce will ask if there will be additional training sessions. Primarily oriented to development of advanced farm plans. Bruce will look at it again tonight. Bruce has taken a weeklong course, which allowed him to qualify for funding. George asked if new coordinator should also take the course, Bruce said yes.
- Lastly, Bedeque Bay Environmental Management Association will be holding a social Dec 2nd or Dec 4th, and George has the invite if anyone would like to attend

5. Treasurer/Finance Report

Scott asked that as we complete projects, do we assess the projects by what we have achieved and what we thought we would complete for the money that was earmarked for the project. Funding is often attached to staffing and not all of the money that comes in is specifically allocated to one specific project. If we start to measure at what we accomplished, vs the cost then we may need to restructure do to time requirements and staffing. George has reconciled the cheques written with the Credit Union statements to date.

6. Committee Reports

a) Communications

Nothing to report.

b) Field

There has not been a meeting since our last monthly meeting.

In progress: Finish up this year's tasks in terms of stream work. The whole river needs to be walked where water is flowing, to identify issues, such as beaver dams, waterway obstructions and Redds. The need to get this work done will be achieved by asking for volunteer help or seek out other groups to see if they could recommend someone to hire.

John also said that we need an inventory of equipment/supplies purchased this year to add to our present inventory. John is waiting on a key to the storage building and will follow up with an inventory.

c) External Relations

Meeting with Sean Casey, who is pretty well informed on water issues. Mr. Casey is familiar with the watershed issues. We showed him the pumping station on Union Rd, branch of Brackley that runs dry, then Hardy's Pond and showed him the fish ladder, explained about WRTBWA organization, operations last summer and meeting with the city and discussing objectives for reducing demand on watershed. Mayor Lee is willing to honor commitment to reduce extraction by 25% when Miltonvale comes on line.

7. Coordinator's Report

Bruce's report was distributed by email before the meeting. (Attached). Added that we have 3 applications which are due between Dec 12 and 19th. Sarah and Bruce were on a conference call today which looked at Federal Fisheries program which we got funding for this year. Bruce compiled data such as water flow rates, water quality, soil tests, maps and GPS locations for sites with information recorded. Intro...

8. Other Business

- Business from 2013, Home Hardware certificates, Island Coastal, Lab analysis soil sampling
 - i. George still has the \$125 (4) certificates towards Home Hardware.
 - ii. Bill outstanding at Island Coastal and Lab analysis /soil sampling will be paid by end of month
- Staffing: field position, Coordinators Position (work term, pay rate, interview time frame and process), Secretarial duties
 - i. Sarah resigned from the board and was asked to fill a field position for 6 weeks as unsuccessful attempts were made to hire someone. She started work Nov 10, helping with data collection, data summarization and presentation of data in graph form. Sarah position was partially funded at an hourly rate but topped up with funding from WRTBWA with a motion that was moved by Scott and seconded by John and agreed by the board.
 - ii. Coordinator position is advertised until Nov 28. Three applications have been received to date. Work term advertised from May to December 31. Interview timeframe and process has to be established. Applications will be reviewed/screened after the Nov 28 deadline. Applicants will

all be sent a letter to inform them of their status of their application and if they were chosen to be interviewed. Interviews were set up for the week of the 15th. Selection Committee will come back with the top 3 names to the board and their recommendation for coordinator at the January board meeting. Interview questions will be circulated to the board before the interviews take place for any edits.

- iii. Secretarial duties- Meghan has agreed to take the minutes for this evening. Sarah's other duties were primarily related to Communications.
- Officers Pond
 - i. Scott suggested we look at springs at the top of Officers Pond and see if they can be dug out. Bruce said he'd be happy to show Scott what's there, and mentioned the process that was undertaken at Andrews Pond and he would organize a field committee meeting to do a tour – Scott, David, Bruce, John.
 - ii. Dominic suggested that Officers Pond because of the water temperature, be proposed as a special project and consult the stake holders, Haviland Club who lease the pond, land owners and Duck Unlimited and consider the options to restore the pond as done in other ponds.
- Field data summary timeline was established and was to be available prior to meeting with provincial Government representative
- Meeting with Todd Dupuis on Dec 1 - Bruce, JP and George will meet to discuss info on water flow, temps, and nitrates which will be data that is to be presented at the meeting. Overview of field operations last year, water demand on Winter River and discuss our objective of permanent reduction in water extraction and that the present permitting system be changed so that draw on the watershed cannot be increased once reduced by 25%. Also we want to talk about the Water Act, when we can expect it and the need for our watershed to be consulted. What happens to the permit for Winter River watershed once Miltonvale well field comes online? Ours is the only river that has a fish kill every year.
- Applications for Project funding – in progress, see coordinator report.
- Data collectors for watershed - George was given Rick Hawkins name, with Parks Canada, as someone who may be able to help out with that information.
- Email from Jeannette Acorn, teacher at Charlottetown Rural who is looking for a field trip opportunity for two Agriscience classes. George suggested touching base with Fish & Wildlife.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 16, (decision will be made on Dec 9).

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28pm.

11. Approval of Minutes

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED

Signature – Meghan McCarthy, Acting secretary of WRTBWA

Date