

# Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA  
Held on June 20, 2017 at 7:00 pm at the Officer's Pond Club House, Suffolk PEI  
(WRTBWA office at 13977 St Peters Road, Marshfield, was not available)

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**Present:** John Hughes, J.P. Arsenault, Scott Stevens, Matt Steeves, Lowell Vessey, George Coade, Ryan Winters, and Esther Currie

**Absent:** Cathy Corrigan, Meghan McCarthy, Sarah Wheatley,

George Coade was Chairperson of the meeting and Esther Currie was Secretary of the meeting as previously appointed. The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 7:15pm.

## 1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on May 16, 2107.

Draft minutes of the meeting were previously emailed with each member of the Board having an opportunity to comment. It was moved by J.P. and seconded by Scott Stevens that the minutes be approved as read. **Motion carried.**

## 2. Chairperson's Report

George reported:

- George extended a thank you to the new members of the board, Ryan and Esther.
- Sarah notified George that she would be unable to make the meeting but would forward her Coordinator's Report.
- AGM – It was discussed and agreed that Todd Dupuis's talk was excellent, and that it would be good to have a copy.
- Inquire from Sarah on the need for First Aid training with staff and changes to the Water Course Alteration Permit.
- Did anyone volunteer for Estuary Watch Training?
- Nitrate Probe has been purchased. Will there be a need for replacement or purchase of other equipment for this season?
- Trail Discussion- Sarah received an email from Glen Kelly re a funding proposal by Cathy Schaap who is President of Island Trails Inc. The email was for our information and also asking for our support to an upgrade to a section of the Winter River Trail called Raspberry Row. Island Trails Inc. was submitting a service application to the Charlottetown Rotary Club and asking the watershed for our assessment of the project. We replied that we needed more information on the location and that \$20,000.00 for 300 meters of trail upgrade was too much money.  
It was discussed that it was unfortunate to recommend against the project, but because of information given, we could not support the project at this time.

## 3. Treasurer's Report

Lowell was not present and therefore there is no report. We will get an update from Lowell

- **Current balance** \$100,000.00 on April 30, 2017? Outstanding grants from RFCPP is \$31,750.00
- Approval from Recreation Fisheries Conservation for \$34,250.00 this year, and \$36,210.00 2018-2019

## 4. Coordinator's Report

The Coordinator's report was forwarded as Sarah was not attending this meeting.

- Staff – (Richard Redden) – **Action** to go ahead and raise the wage to \$15.00/hr
- Agricultural Canada Intern – deadline June 30, Unable to find a suitable candidate at this time.

## 5. Field Committee's Report

- John reported for the committee:
- It was discussed how the projects were being implemented and with the staff's inexperience, it would take more field time to get staff up to where they are more independent and should there be a training day? Sarah has to handle more as there is less staff this year with experience than other years. **Action** – John will talk with Sarah regarding this.

- Events – Stonepark Field Trip – Cathy, Sarah and 2 teachers were with the group to plant trees and perform garbage clean up on Tracadie Bay
- First Aid - is Sarah going to getting any of the staff trained?

**6. Other Business**

**a. Donation of Land to Watershed:**

- Ryan Winters presented the work he and Sarah completed. They created a decision analysis table as part of the management plan to select the best option for land that may be donated. They started with creating a list of ‘must haves and ‘wants’. Then they added weight to each to reach a score with relative weighting from the priority set by the Watershed Management Plan. They examined the Sterling Hardy property and set 3 decision options; A) accept with no designation, B) accept and designate as a natural area, or C) decline the donation. Sarah’s spreadsheet compared the relativity to Ryan’s decision analysis. Discussion was had, such as if the land was needed to be used in the future, it should not be designated as a natural area at this time because this will contradict usage. Ryan presented total scores - accepting the land without designating 616 points, designation as natural area 389 points, or not accepting the land 160 points. The question was asked by Scott, if the land was purchased, what will the expense and resource provided to maintain the cost of owning it? Sarah felt the cost would be offset by the benefits. The cost is a one-time price of \$2,129 and ongoing annual tax currently is \$403 because it is assessed at tax value of \$24,000 which is high now but this should decrease once WRTBWA owns it. The owner Sterling Hardy lives in the US.
- Accepting the land with no designation (4). Once the land was designated as natural area then this cannot be undone. Research is required to determine the cost of insurance of the land; will this be a liability for the WRTBWA? This will be tabled until the group talks with Sarah. Discussion was had that the land is an awkward piece of land, and difficult to work with, it is steep. **Action** – Ryan will send this out. This is **Tabled** until Sarah might research the liabilities, insurance, and a number of items. For the Agenda next meeting, it was acknowledged that Ryan’s work was valid. The owner is planning to travel to PEI this summer.
- Require a staffing update from Sarah.

**b. Update Officers Pond:**

Ducks Unlimited have tagged gaspereau below the dam, they will be tracked, but discussion regarding the condition of Officer’s Pond and what can be done to improve it, what is the solution? The lack of water flow and nitrates are some of the issue. They have done work on Wrights Bridge Water Area and Lake Phanuk in Halifax and the pond weed is interrupting the races and work has begun on managing the pond weed with the harvesting, mechanical cutting, lowering water and dredging. Which would help the most? Variables are depth, sediment type, and amount of vegetation, how is it affecting the sea life? Would it be possible to get a grant from Recreation and Fisheries? What is causing this and how can we stop it? As an association, we are putting resources towards this fish passage for the gaspereau. Fish ladder vs fish passage?

**7. New Business:**

Scott asked if the new crews are receiving the proper training, John thought so. **Action** - John will ask Sarah if more training is needed as we need to support Sarah so that we have a productive field year. Sarah’s evaluation will be completed next week.

**8. Next Meeting**

July 18, 2017 at 7:00 pm. at 13977 St. Peter’s Road.

**9. Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

*ORIGINAL COPY SIGNED*

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Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA	Date
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Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA	Date
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## Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association Matters Arising from the Minutes

<b>Item code</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>ACTION REQUIRED</b>	<b>PERSON RESPONSIBLE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>June-1</b>	<b>Previous Coordinator's report</b>	Provide recommendation to board on Nitrate Report	Committee: Dominic, Bruce and Matt	open
<b>Dec-8</b>	<b>Communications Committee</b>	Follow up on partnering with a business owner to for a television commercial		open
<b>Jan -11</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	Report from Officer's Pond Subcommittee	Sarah	open
<b>July-17</b>	<b>Field Report</b>	To investigate the best plan possible to deal with erosion issues	Sarah and Hilary	open
<b>Jan-17</b>	<b>Coordinator's Report</b>	Fish Management Plan	Hilary	open
<b>April-18</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	Upload Water Act Presentation to the website	Sarah	closed