

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

Grand Tracadie School
August 17, 2011, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Present:

George Coade
Cathy Corrigan
John Hughes
Don Mazer
Chris Mutch
Bruce Smith
Sarah Wheatley

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened with half of the Board members present.

2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting - Don

It was noted that the membership of the newly formed committees was not entered into the minutes of the last meeting.

Also noted that Agenda item #8 for today's meeting references the minutes from last month.

3. Chairperson Report – Don

- a) Budget meeting was held (Don, Cathy, George, Bruce)
 - Sorting out inconsistencies in accounting. Realized that Bruce and funders calculate based on a fiscal year (April-March) year and the association is using a calendar year
- b) Sierra Club & Fracking
 - They are hosting a screening of the documentary "Gasland" on September 27 at the Murphy Center. Our group was requested to "sponsor" the event.
 - Some members questioned what sponsorship would entail and wondered if the Watershed Alliance was involved too.
- c) Letter to Minister of Environment (re: Yefang Jiang's research)
 - No response to letter after 10 days. There was a discussion of what to do to follow up on this letter. It was decided to contact the MLAs for the two ridings that the watershed falls in and see if they could expedite things.

4. Coordinator's Report - Bruce

Please see the report that was circulated by Bruce. Additional information as follows:

- a) Discussion on fish passage beneath the laneway to Union Road pumping station
 - There are numerous culverts that impede fish passage, should we push the issue on this one?

- Putting a small culvert upgrade is just a “band aid” solution. A bridge would really fix the problem but is very expensive now.
- Should we ask DFO to force the City to build the bridge as part of the fish habitat rules?
- Further meeting scheduled with Todd Dupuis to discuss issue

b) Liability Insurance issue:

- The paperwork for this insurance is very complicated
- The option of becoming a branch of the Wildlife Federation was brought up. This would allow us to get insurance under their plan for less money and also be able to issue charitable tax receipts for donations that we receive.

c) Upcoming meeting with Craig Walker (City of Charlottetown)

5. Chris's Report

a) Highlights of work completed to date:

- 12 springs cleaned
- 20+ brush mats constructed
- 1203 trees planted in July/August
- Stream maintenance work

b) National Forestry Week: we can get free trees to plant for National Tree Day (September 23) and the possibility of a school activity or a volunteer event for this day was discussed.

c) Fish ladders – vandalism has been an issue; lots of small fish but few large fish

d) Field crew hours and pay – rain days and other issues have led some of the field crew to be short up to 40 hours

- After a discussion it was decided to give the crew members the option: get paid for whatever hours they worked, or continue working past their originally defined end date to make up their missing hours and get their full pay.

6. Budget Update – George

Information was distributed for discussion. We have \$15,000 set aside for committee projects.

7. Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup

Discussion of whether we should do the cleanup on Sept 17/18 or 24/25. The 70 Mile Yard Sale is running on the 24-25 so we decided to avoid this weekend. Cathy, Bruce and John will coordinate event.

8. Meeting Extension

The 9pm meeting ending time has been reached and many agenda items have not been discussed yet. Agreed to continue the meeting and quickly cover some other items.

9. Anoxic conditions – John

The situation is improved this week. The anoxic events started to occur later this year. In recent years they have been starting earlier and earlier but this summer was unusually cold and wet.

10. Committee Reports:

a) Communication – Cathy and Sarah

- Ellen Andrews is willing to put together the newsletter for \$500. There will also be the cost for copying.

- We should start collecting articles now for the newsletter and try to make it shorter and more concise.
- Video project will go ahead with a focus on getting footage of field workers while they are all still on the job.
- b) City/Water (Cathy, Don)
 - Scheduled a meeting with Craig Walker from City
 - 2 main concerns – reduction of water extraction (firm targets, metering, conservation, education, etc) and development of second well field
 - We need good information on the impacts of excessive water extraction on the watershed
 - Extraction by the City has even larger impact because sewage systems all discharge to Hillsborough River so there is no return of water to the watershed from which it originated
- c) Activities/Events committee (John H.,
 - Will organize an end of season celebration for the field workers, possibly on August 30.
- d) Liaison with field crew committee
 - Planning a tour of stream work conducted this summer. Date later announced as August 23.

11. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, at the Grand Tracadie School. Association members and the public are welcome to attend.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.