

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

Grand Tracadie School
September 20, 2012, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Present:

Ben Hoteling	George Coade
Bruce Smith	John Hughes
Cathy Corrigan	Lowell Vessey
Don Mazer	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 July board meeting were read and accepted.

3. Business Arising from Minutes

- a. No response from last letter to Janice Sherry yet, might re-send letter.
- b. DFO letter: It caused the City to take action but we don't know the contents of the letter that DFO sent to the City. DFO sent us a separate letter of response.
- c. George Webster: his staff members are apparently in the process of writing a letter of response to us.
- d. Request for extension to water conservation program: watershed area won't be included in any City programs, got a referral to Provincial office of energy efficiency.
- e. Malpeque pumping station is not currently online, but future use is being discussed.
- f. Brackley branch of river is still not flowing. There was some water in the stream right after some recent heavy rains, but that has drained out and there is still no flow from the spring.
- g. Board member updates:
 - i. Rod Dempsey is on leave for family reasons until approximately the end of 2012.
 - ii. Jason Affleck has planned to attend some meetings but hasn't made it yet.

4. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)

A draft of the WMP was distributed to all board members for review prior to this meeting and the WMP committee (Don, Cathy, Bruce, Sarah) were seeking input.

- a. Discussion about the document title – how to correctly reflect the geographic areas that the document focused on (mostly the Winter River sub watershed, and little regarding the areas east of Tracadie Bay). Eventually settled on an explanatory note in a preface that we will focus more on the eastern areas in future years and the following title: "A Watershed Management Plan for the Winter River and Tracadie Bay. Prepared by the Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association"
- b. George Coade made suggestions to list details of the geography of the streams, more information on tree species historically and currently present, and to add an operation plan to the document. He also asked if we could calculate the level of water extraction from local residents, but private wells on every property mean this information is unavailable.
- c. Lowell Vessey brought up the issue of which individuals we should be contacting in the next step, feedback from stakeholders.
- d. John Hughes thought there could be more content about salmon.
- e. Cathy Corrigan suggested adding details of the economic impact of the mussel industry

5. Meeting on September 19 between Don, Cathy, Bruce and Councilor Rice, Craig Walker, Richard MacEwen and Ramona Doyle.

- a. The format was a luncheon meeting that did not provide much opportunity for discussion
- b. Craig Walker discussed a meeting that they'd had with the Province related to water extraction, including different ideas about a new standard related to permits.
- c. There was a suggestion that we were too negative in our media interviews this summer regarding water extraction by the City. We informed them that some of their specific concerns related to statements that we had not actually made.
- d. They talked about drilling more wells in Suffolk to better balance water extraction across the watershed. We suggested that it was important that they get the Miltonvale wellfield online first. We indicated that watershed residents won't be receptive to more wells being drilled in Suffolk at the present time, regardless of the scientific and financial rationale, unless the Miltonvale well is already in place.
- e. The City was very anxious to receive a draft of the watershed management plan. We informed them they would have it in the next week. We also recently found out that the water extracted from the City wells is approaching nitrate levels of 5 mg/L¹. (Note: The current Canadian drinking water standard for nitrates is set at 10 mg/L, but there is/was talk of changing it to 5 mg/L like in some other countries).

6. Nutrient Management Project (Bruce)

EcoAction has made a last minute counter offer:

Fiscal Year	New Offer	Original Offer
2012/2013	\$50,000	\$30,000
2013/2014	\$20,000	\$20,000

The new issue still does not address the problems of having very little money next year when most of the work would need to take place. None of the 2012/2013 money can be held over for use the next year. And again we have the problem of having very, very little time to decide/plan. Could we constructively use all \$50,000 in the next 6 months if salary & travel costs are only about \$22,000?

While Bruce will look into the issue some more, the Board indicated its reluctance to pursue this project in its present form, and continued to support the idea of reapplying. .

7. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held October 25.

¹ <http://www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca/pdfs/2011-Water-Report.pdf>