

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

**Grand Tracadie School**  
**December 6, 2012, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

---

**Present:**

Bruce Smith  
Cathy Corrigan  
Don Mazer

John Hughes  
Lowell Vessey  
Sarah Wheatley

**1. Welcome**

The meeting was convened with a majority of board members present.

**2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting**

The minutes from the October board meeting were read and accepted.

**3. Business Arising from Minutes**

Received a letter from Janice Sherry regarding the change in water extraction policy, the new policy will be based on stream flows rather than recharge levels.

**4. Chairpersons and Coordinator's Report**

Don, Cathy and Bruce attended a meeting on December 5 with George Somers (Manager of Drinking Water, Land and Systems Protection), Qing Li (Hydrogeologist) and Bruce Raymond (Manager of Watershed and Subdivision Planning).

There was a discussion of the changing water extraction policy to one based on stream flows, similar to the existing policy applied to farmers who extract water for crop irrigation. They also talked about a redistribution of extraction so that less water would be extracted from Brackley (where extraction is way too high). It was not entirely clear where the new water production would come from, potentially from new wells in Suffolk. The timeline for this redistribution was also not clear – especially in relation to the development of the Miltonvale wellfield. There is another meeting scheduled for December 12 and hopefully there will be clarification on these issues.

The board discussed several issues of concern, including the methodology for developing the new extraction criteria, the potential for new wells in Suffolk without concurrent reductions from Brackley wells, and the lack of specific timelines for the Miltonvale wellfield development.

At the December 12 meeting, the objective will be to clarify the redistribution plans (including targets for each wellfield), define the term “sustainable extraction levels” in a way that is agreeable to both sides and set other common goals.

**5. Watershed Management Plan (WMP)**

The public meeting on November 15 was attended by Eddie Rice, Mitchell Tweel, Phillip Brown, Richard MacEwan, Ramona Doyle, Mike Redmond and a number of local residents. There was a very lively discussion about the issue of water extraction by the City.

The individuals with direct feedback about the document were supportive of it. Some sections might need to be adjusted in consideration of the new extraction policy, but rewrites will be delayed until we have a better understanding of the policy.

**6. Newsletter**

The next newsletter will include a summary of 2012 field work, progress made by the association such as updates on the WMP, a historical and educational article about wellfields. Ellen Andrews will be able to create the newsletter for us again. We hope for the newsletter to be sent to residents in January or February in coordination with the completion of the WMP.

**7. Coordinator's report**

A summary report was distributed to the board prior to the meeting outlining main activities of the past six weeks since our last board meeting. Additions to that report are outlined below.

City application for funding is in progress.

Nutrient management project application was received by EcoAction and it seems like we have a good chance of being approved again. So in anticipation of an approval, steps must be taken to be ready to start this project as soon as possible after EcoAction makes funding decisions. Other financial support must be secured for the project to be a success.

**8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held January 17.