

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

Grand Tracadie School
June 20, 2013, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Present:

Bruce Smith
Cathy Corrigan
Don Mazer

John Hughes
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 May board meeting were read and accepted.

3. Business arising from minutes

The spring hike and tree planting event had to be cancelled due to rain.

4. Co-chair Reports

- Bruce and Don created a presentation for the Heritage Rivers conference in Charlottetown recently. There were some interesting discussions during the question and answer period after the presentation.
- The school tree planting events were held earlier this month
- Cathy gave a presentation at a council meeting for the Community of Union which is part of our watershed. They seemed very supportive of our work and had some good suggestions.

5. Coordinators Report

Highlights of Bruce's report include:

- Nitrate sampling of water is now underway
- Tree planting continues as long as weather permits
- Working on Nutrient Management project
- Need to finalize our Beaver Management plan, to define how to deal with beavers in different areas
- Still working on getting charitable status for our group, because some donors have asked for tax receipts for donations.
- Looking at our Watershed Management Plan for guidance in setting work goals for this season

There was also a discussion of the possible options for what we should do if we discover things like buffer zone violations or flagrant disregard of crop rotation rules during the course of field work.

6. Field Work Committee

John Hughes gave a detailed report of the two meetings held by this committee in the past month. Meetings were held on May 21 and June 6. At the first meeting some topics covered were tree survival data, flow meters in the springs, temperature recorders in ponds, GPS units for each work crew, and a spreadsheet to record equipment purchases. At the second meeting there was discussion of summer staff after MLAs were contacted, daily field work log sheets, weekly timesheets for student workers, tree guards for some tree species, and producing very large maps of the watershed.

7. **Communications Committee**

- Discussed having media do a follow-up story on the streams this summer, especially if they go dry again this year, which is a distinct possibility following a winter with less snow and hence less recharge of the aquifer.
- Look into airing our “Save some water for me, please” commercials during Compass this summer.
- The idea of a float in the Gold Cup and Saucer parade was brought up again for this year.
- The process of updating our website is underway

8. **City/Province Water Extraction Committee**

There was extensive discussion about possible courses of action in future, and the issue of communication/cooperation between our group and the different levels of government.

9. **Executive Positions**

George Coade has agreed to continue doing many of the tasks of the treasurer, coordinating with Sarah Wheatley who will act as the Secretary/Treasurer in board meetings.

10. **Nutrient Management Project**

Planning for the project is underway and it is expected to occupy about 75% of Bruce’s time once started.

11. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be July 18.