

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

**Grand Tracadie School**  
**November 21, 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 October board meeting were read and accepted.

**3. Business arising from minutes**

John te Raa sent more recent data to board members. The water monitoring he did this year seems to be much lower than the 10 year average data that he got from the federal government monitoring station nearby. He also sent a letter to Minister Sherry about his work.

There was an article in the Guardian this week, with the title "Surface conditions appear dry on Winter River".

**4. Chair's Report (Don)**

Meeting with our local MLAs on November 18 was attended by almost all board members. Rob Vessey is going to ask the Department/Minister of Environment some questions and then set up another meeting with us.

However the policy is interpreted, we still think they are taking too much water and there are negative impacts. We need to clarify whether the streams can go dry under the new policy. We thought the new policy was to reduce stream flow by only a certain percent and always have some flow, but we seem to keep getting conflicting information about this new policy.

Having streams going dry is destructive of aquatic life, but it is also a dramatic symptom of the situation in the aquifer. It takes a long time for the water table to fall so low that streams go dry. We want a new policy implemented, which doesn't allow streams to go dry.

Dave Stewart at the Guardian seems to be following our story to some extent. He might do another longer story soon. We need to make it clear in the article which people in government are trying to help us, and which people are making our work harder.

Some people think we should be focusing on the water extraction issue now, and doing it in a very public way. We need to give our MLAs an opportunity to help out, but not leave all our hopes with them, to proceed carefully with other avenues as well.

**5. Letter and article**

Discussed wording of some parts of the article. How do we accurately portray the situation of our group and the discouragement we are feeling?

The main people who are letting us down are the environmental officials, not the City (because the City does what the province allows). It is good that the City reduced extraction from Brackley by quite a bit this

year, partly by using Malpeque during the summer. They made an effort, but it wasn't enough. They did take extra from Suffolk though.

**6. Treasurer's Report**

This report was emailed to board members after the meeting.

**7. Coordinator's Report**

This report was distributed to board members prior to meeting.

We have some data from Suffolk. Bruce asked for historical flow data from the federal government. There is 30 or 40 years of data at this location. We wanted to use this data to compare to the data that we have been collecting this year.

The water extraction policy/permits seem to be based only on models right now - but models can be inaccurate sometimes. We offered to collect actual data and provide it to Department of Environment to improve their models, but they didn't want it.

**8. Committee Reports**

Field work – John is trying to collect all the equipment for winter storage, but is having difficulty getting all the gear from a couple employees.

Social - We should have a social event, including past board members like John Dalziel, Rod Dempsey, have a meal somewhere together. Cathy will organize this.

Communications – The new website is almost ready. We should think about getting stories ready for our next newsletter.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is TBD.