

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA
held on 23 June 2015 at the office of the WRTBWA 13977 St Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI at 7:00 pm.

Present: George Coade, Meghan McCarthy, Bruce Smith, John Hughes, Ben Hoteling, JP Arsenault, Dominique Johnson, Scott Stevens, Bernie Fitzpatrick, Sarah Wheatley
Regrets: Lowell Vessey, Matt Steeves, Will Horne, David Thompson

1. George Coade was Chairperson of the meeting as previously appointed and Bernie Fitzpatrick was appointed Secretary for 2015. The Chairman declared the meeting open.

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 21 April 2015, 19 May 2015 and 9 June 2015.

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 21 April 2015, 19 May 2015 and 9 June 2015 had been circulated and each member of the Board had had the opportunity to comment.

IT WAS MOVED BY John and **SECONDED BY** Scott that the minutes of the meeting held on 21 April 2015 be and is hereby approved.

IT WAS MOVED BY John and **SECONDED BY** Scott that the minutes of the meeting held on 19 May 2015 be and is hereby approved.

IT WAS MOVED BY J.P and **SECONDED BY** Ben that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015 be and is hereby approved.

3. Chairperson's Report

George reported that the Habitat Stewardship application has been denied. The Watershed Strategy Report that has been in the works for three years has been approved by the provincial government and copies are available.

He received a letter from Cathy Corrigan inviting the watershed to look at a project that Glenaladale Heritage Trust is proposing as it is in our watershed and we may be interested to join in. This has been tabled to the next meeting as not everyone had a chance to read it.

4. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for May 2015 was presented by Sarah in Lowell's absence. It was noted that Bank balance at the beginning of May was approximately \$25,000 and at the end of May was \$35,000.

Monies received:

- first instalment of funds for Watershed Management Fund from the province

- Walmart Evergreen Fund
- Wildlife Conservation Fund

It was noted that \$7k of cheques remain outstanding at month end for equipment and wages. It was also noted that the certificates for toilet rebates had been located and passed on to Sarah for distribution.

5. Field Committee's Report

The Field Committee's Report was presented by John Hughes, Chair. John reported that they took an excursion through the watershed to see the previous work and determine the future needs. He gave a presentation on the planting and protection of trees. He was in contact with Shelly Cole-Arbing to see when the Union Road Culvert is to be replaced this summer. She was not able to give a firm date.

The committee has some concerns about the fish ladder at Officers Pond as our working group has spent a considerable amount of time moving the gaspereau through the structure. Points considered were: Is this a good use of our time and resources? Are the modifications that were done to the ladder in the past working properly? Is Ducks Unlimited responsible for maintaining the structure?

After considerable discussion it was decided that we need to go on record with our concerns about the Fish ladder so Sarah will draft a letter to be reviewed by the committee then sent to Tom Duffy and Jonathan Platts, both from Ducks Unlimited.

6. External Relation Committee's Report

The External Relations Committee's Report was presented by Jean-Paul Arsenault, Chair. J.P reported that the committee prepared a presentation delivered by Sarah for Councillors Eddie Rice and Kevin Ramsey, engineer Craig Walker, and Betty Pryor. JP and George also discussed our concerns about over extraction and asked what we can expect when Miltonvale Park well-field comes online in late 2015/early 2016 (they continue to look for other water sources). They mentioned the letter sent to the mayor to which we have not yet received a response.

Province has yet to make an announcement on the proposed Water Act. No announcements yet of meetings for public consultation. There was a general discussion and J.P. agreed to contact the province, ADM Todd Dupuis, Department of Communities, Land and Environment to ask for an update on progress

7. Coordinator's Report

The Coordinator's Report was provided in writing and is attached forming part of these minutes. An overview of the Coordinator's report was presented by Sarah Wheatley, Coordinator. Sarah also reviewed with the board a more detailed report on the program, the 2015-16 budget forecast and a detailed summary of the Grant Applications. A general discussion was held and the following was noted:

Program Funding, staffing, reports and courses offered

Most of the grant money has been approved or denied. Still waiting on EDA from the Province, and to see what the second chunk of Watershed Management Fund will be. Noted that it will be prohibitively expensive to buy a docking station for data loggers.

Office hours, equipment needs etc.

Office is set up and online banking is set up. Tree plantings in Brackley Commons and Tracadie with the Walmart Evergreen Fund were completed June 13 and 20. Shoreline clean-up is June 25-27 – our crew will walk the shore from Corran Ban to Tracadie Beach. Regarding biochemical controls on farms will ask farmers if they are following protocols and follow up. Proposing office hours of Tues pm and Thurs am, or by chance. Noted will need computers for students for rainy days but hoping for donations to provide.

IT WAS MOVED BY JP and **SECONDED BY** Ben that office hours of Tues pm and Thurs am, or by chance be adopted and the budget be approved as presented by Sarah this evening.

8. Previous Coordinator's Report

The previous coordinator, Bruce Smith, provided the board with an update on several projects being completed from the time he was coordinator:

Beaver Management Plan

Bruce explained the importance of a Beaver Management Plan and noted that one has now been put together including listed tributaries. The board will need to decide where it is acceptable to allow beaver or trap the beaver out, if any. Bruce has permission for early fall permits. Information will be distributed to the board after this meeting in order for decisions to be made at future meetings.

Nitrate Report

Bruce gave an overview of a Nitrate Report including the scope and impact of the work, water safety and a general discussion was held on where we go from here. It was decided the Field Committee would review the report and provide the board with recommendations at a future meeting.

MacLauchlan Springs

In addition to the information provided in the Coordinator's detailed report, Bruce gave a brief overview on its status noting that the Fish & Wildlife Division are going to be sending a recommendation to the Department of Environment and that the application for MacLauchlan Springs is submitted, but there could be delays in approval.

9. Communications Committee Report

No formal report – see Coordinator's Report for information

10. Changes to By-Laws

It was agreed to defer this discussion to the next meeting

11. Any other Business

Nothing to note

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for 21 July 2015 at 7:00 pm at the offices of the WRTBWA.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 9:17pm

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Bernie Fitzpatrick, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date

**Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association
Matters Arising 23 June 2015**

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
June-1	Chairperson's report	Consider letter of support for Glenaladale Trust	Board	Open
June-2	Field Committee's report	Draft a letter to Ducks Unlimited regarding concerns	Sarah Wheatley	Open
June-3	External Relation Committee's report	Contact the province, ADM Todd Dupuis, Dept of Communities, Land and Environment re proposed Water Act	J.P. Arsenault	Open
June-4	Previous Coordinator's report	Provide information on Beaver Management Plan	Bruce Smith	Closed – 6 July
June-5	Previous Coordinator's report	Provide recommendation to board on Nitrate Report	Field Committee	Open
June-6	Changes to By-Laws	Discuss at next meeting	Board	Open