

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA

held on 21 July 2015 at the office of the WRTBWA 13977 St Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI at 7:00 pm.

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

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

2. Minutes of the meetings held on 23 June 2015.

Draft minutes of the meetings held on 23 June 2015 had been circulated and read at the meeting with each member of the Board having an opportunity to comment. **IT WAS MOVED BY** J.P and **SECONDED BY** Ben that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2015 be and is hereby approved.

3. Matters Arising From the Minutes

George informed the group that the MacLauchlan Springs Proposal has been denied by the Dept. of Environment. Sarah gave an overview of the meeting at the site with all interested parties as outlined extensively in last month's coordinators report. This was the second time we had submitted a proposal to do work at this site and was denied. The reasoning being that the introduction of heavy equipment might be detrimental to waterways and wetlands and may not achieve the results we were expecting. We will continue our work this year on the lower part of the MacLauchlan branch.

Glenaladale Trust

Meghan McCarthy reported on the scope of this project after an invitational letter for support came from Cathy Corrigan. She confirmed that the property in question does fall within our watershed. At this point it is unclear just what is being requested. After discussion the board decided that we would lend our support and Meghan would draft a letter on behalf the Communications Committee to be sent to Cathy Corrigan.

4. Chairperson's Report

George brought correspondence from Trout Unlimited about three workshops that the University of Guelph are hosting on stream rehabilitation. It is subsidized by Trout Unlimited. They are requesting information from the watersheds of the possible interest. If there is enough interest then these courses could be held in PEI. We will need to know if the province will sponsor it as well before we could proceed with our numbers.

The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation and the Canadian Rivers Institute are sponsoring a series of webinars on fish and freshwater issue. There is no cost.

Luke Peters has accepted a job with Holland College starting in August. We wish him well in his new position. Hilary Shea has joined the staff of the watershed, filling the grant funded position originally planned for Luke Peters, but not Luke's role as supervisor.

Previous Coordinator Bruce has submitted to the Board the following reports: Nutrient Management Initiatives 2013-2015, Water Quality and Water Flow Charts and The Beaver Management Plan.

Bio Security Training

Sarah attended a workshop put on by the Department of Agriculture to instruct the watersheds on the importance of not spreading potato wart from farmer's fields when they must cross over them. We discussed at length the many aspects of this important issue and it was decided that for the time being we would stay within the riparian zone and avoid crossing through agricultural fields. We may have to alter some work plans because of this.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for June was presented by Lowell Vessey.

Opening Balance \$35,000 Closing balance \$50,000

Lowell reported that recent deposits came from Canada Summer Jobs projects and Science Horizons, both federal government programs. There is outstanding funding of \$50,000 to come from various projects including EcoAction, RFCPP, Jobs for Youth, and YMCA.

6. Field Committee's Report

The Field Committee report was presented by John Hughes, Chair. John reported that they reviewed the Nutrient Management Report and discussed how to proceed into the future. After review it was felt that it would be best to contact the PEI Institute of Agrologists for input and possible direction. Dominic Johnston has agreed to draft the letter to be sent to Claude Gallant, President.

In light of the refusal of the MacLaughlan Springs Project it was decided to proceed with work on the lower part of the stream where there are four good springs. Sarah met with Rosie MacFarlane about work to enhance the stream. She is going to contact Daryl Guignon for advice on a work plan for 2016 regarding another spring in the area.

- The storage building that was situated on Luke Peters' parents' property will need to be removed and Sarah is looking for a place to house it.
- The Beaver Plan is tabled until sometime in the future.
- There are 1000 trees available for fall planting and sites are yet to be determined.

7. External Relation Committee's Report

No report (see Coordinators report for letter sent on behalf of committee)

8. Coordinator's Report

The Coordinator's report was provided in writing and is attached forming part of this minutes. An overview was presented by Sarah Wheatley, Coordinator. Sarah also reviewed with the Board the contract negotiations for employees as well as the status of grant applications that support the watershed. She gave a financial summary and we are on target for our budget.

A letter was sent to Tom Duffy of Ducks Unlimited concerning the fish way at Officer's Pond. We received a letter back and Jonathan Platts met with George and Sarah at Officer's Pond. Due to the complexity of the issue, a decision was made to refer this issue to Officer's Pond subcommittee as they have more functional knowledge of the fish way.

A letter was sent to Todd Dupuis, ADM Dept. of Community, Lands and Environment concerning the granting of a new water extraction permit to the City of Charlottetown. We would like to see a 25% decrease in extraction from the Winter River watershed. It was also stated that the reduction should be focussed on the Brackley area.

After discussion it was decided that we need to begin preparing for input into the new Water Act. Sarah has agreed to begin with the assistance from the students and the field committee.

9. Communications Committee Report

Sarah Wheatley reported on behalf on the committee. There is a volunteer going door to door in the Donaldston area on behalf of the WRTBWA soliciting for support. There is still 40 or so low flow showerheads available to the public and we hope to come up with a contest that will help distribute these in the area. Sarah to work on this.

10. Changes to By-Laws

It was agreed once again to defer this discussion to the next meeting

11. Any other Business

Nothing to note

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for August 19 2015 at 7:00 pm at the offices of the WRTBWA.

The Chairperson declared the meeting closed. Moved by Dominic Johnston. Seconded by Will Horne .

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Bernie Fitzpatrick, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date

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Matters Arising From the Minutes

	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION REQUIRED	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	STATUS
June-1	Chairperson's report	Consider letter of support for Glenaladale Trust	Board	Closed
June-2	Field Committee's report	Draft a letter to Ducks Unlimited regarding concerns	Sarah Wheatley	Closed
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	Closed
June-4	Previous Coordinator's report	Provide information on Beaver Management Plan	Bruce Smith	Closed
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
July-1	Glenaladale Letter	Meghan to write letter for George to approve	Meghan McCarthy	Open
July-2	Water Act	Begin work	Sarah Wheatley	Open
July-3	Beaver Management Plan	Begin a draft	Field Committee	Open
July-4	Nutrient Management Report	Draft a letter to PEI Institute of Agrologists	Dominic Johnston	Open