

# Minutes

## Winter River/Tracadie Bay Watershed Association

Corran Ban Hall  
November 26, 2008, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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### Present:

Mark Arsenault  
Mark Ashley  
Ben Bain  
Cathy Corrigan  
Wayne Corrigan  
Rod Dempsey  
Maurice Fitzpatrick  
Stella Fitzpatrick

Daryl Guignon  
Catherine Hughes  
John Hughes  
Noreen Hughes  
Vera Hughes  
Sean Ledgerwood  
Allan MacCormac  
Sr. Wanda MacDonald

Mark MacLeod  
Roy MacNabb  
Don Mazer  
Luke Peters  
Darren Riggs  
Bruce Smith  
Mary Sullivan  
Jim Young

### 1. Welcome

Wayne Corrigan opened the meeting and recognized the presence of Mark Arsenault, Sean Ledgerwood and Jim Young, all from the P.E.I. Department of the Environment.

On behalf of the Department's Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division, which has jurisdiction over the natural areas property in the Deroche Pond area, Mark spoke in support of our Association's efforts and offered to provide technical assistance in our future work. He also indicated that labour may be able to be provided through the Environmental Futures Program.

### 2. Purpose of Meeting/Review of Agenda

In reviewing the agenda, Wayne explained that the primary purpose of the meeting was to approve bylaws for the Association and to elect a Board of Directors.

Everyone present at the meeting was invited to sign an attendance sheet.

### 3. Approval of Bylaws

Rod Dempsey began by emphasizing our reasons for attending the meeting – that we all share concerns for the health of the watershed and want to express those concerns in a positive and meaningful way. He then explained that the draft bylaws were developed by the Organizing Committee to serve as a framework for establishing the Association and that input from the members would certainly be welcomed in making minor changes at the meeting. He continued by saying that the bylaws should be considered as a working document in that they can be amended at each annual meeting in accordance with the wishes of the majority of members.

It was requested that the purpose/mandate of the Association be reviewed. Rod referred to Article I, Clause 2 of the draft bylaws which reads "The purpose of this Association is to protect and enhance the ecological health and aesthetic qualities of the Winter

River/Tracadie Bay watershed.” Some discussion ensued over the meaning of the word “aesthetic” and concerns were expressed that it could be interpreted to mean things not necessarily having an environmental context.

It was moved by Darren Riggs and seconded by another member to remove the words “aesthetic qualities” from the clause. The motion was not carried.

It was moved by Sr. Wanda MacDonald and seconded by Bruce Smith to add the word “staff” to Article III, Clause 8 so as to read “The Board of Directors shall have the power to employ staff for the purpose of furthering the objectives of the Association.” The motion was carried.

Article III, Clause 5, which states that “The Board of Directors shall have the duty of electing its officers from the Board” was then discussed. Concern was expressed as to why the Board would elect its own Executive instead of having the members electing the Executive. It was explained that because the Association was a new organization and that many members were not known to each other, that rather than having members potentially vote to elect “strangers” to the Executive, it might be more appropriate to simply elect members to the Board. Members of the Board could then discuss among themselves who would be the best fit for the Executive positions. It was also recognized that this system of electing the Executive could and may well be changed as the Association matures and members became more familiar with each other.

It was moved by Darren Riggs and seconded by Roy MacNabb to amend Article III, Clause 5 to allow for the election of the Executive by the members. The motion was not carried.

It was moved by Mark MacLeod and seconded by Ben Bain that to serve on the Board of Directors, a member must be a permanent or seasonal resident in the watershed. The motion was carried.

It was moved by John Hughes and seconded by Luke Peters to approve the bylaws subject to the resolutions previously carried. The motion was carried.

#### 4. Election of Board of Directors

Rod Dempsey explained that the bylaws allowed for between six and twelve members to serve on the Board of Directors. He then opened the floor for nominations. The following people accepted their nominations.

- Don Mazer, as nominated by Rod Dempsey and seconded by Sr. Wanda MacDonald.
- Rod Dempsey, as nominated by Don Mazer and seconded by Alan MacCormac.
- Cathy Corrigan, as nominated by Allan MacCormac and seconded by John Hughes.
- John Hughes, as nominated by Vera Hughes and seconded by Luke Peters.
- Allan MacCormac, as nominated by Rod Dempsey and seconded by Noreen Hughes
- Scott Lewis, as nominated by John Hughes and seconded by another member. (Note: Scott was not present but had previously agreed to serve as a Board member.)
- Luke Peters, as nominated by Darren Riggs and seconded by Ben Bain.
- Ben Bain, as nominated by Darren Riggs and seconded by Luke Peters.

Rod then issued three calls for any further nominations. It was then moved by Don Mazer and seconded by Vera Hughes to accept the nominations. The motion was carried.

5. Guest Speaker

Cathy Corrigan introduced the guest speaker – Daryl Guignion, a retired professor of biology from the University of Prince Edward Island. Daryl began by commenting on the decrease in natural diversity that was occurred over the several decades he has been observing the watershed. He then distributed and discussed a handout containing strategies that would be of particular use to a new watershed organization. Among the many points he addressed was the necessity to ensure that mitigation actions are taken in the right order and in consultation with mostly senior watershed residents who possess high levels of local ecological knowledge.

Wayne Corrigan thanked Daryl for his presentation.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.