

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

Grand Tracadie School
March 10, 2009, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Present:

Cathy Corrigan
Rod Dempsey
John Hughes

Allan MacCormac
Don Mazer
Luke Peters

1. Welcome

The meeting was convened with a majority of Board members present.

2. Previous Minutes

The minutes from the February 25 meeting of the Board of Directors were approved.

3. Business

- a) Some discussion occurred on the RBC Blue Water Grants Project – an initiative sponsored by the Royal Bank of Canada to “support charitable initiatives that foster a culture of water stewardship.” Due to the impending application deadline (March 6) and some concern over whether we are currently a charitable organization, it was decided not to apply for this round of funding.

ACTION: Cathy will look into the project a bit further for next year.

- b) It was decided to have staff job descriptions ready in advance of when WMF funding may be granted this spring.

ACTION: Cathy, Don and Alan will prepare a draft job description for the position of watershed coordinator.

ACTION: John will prepare a draft job description for the positions of supervisor and worker(s).

- c) Craig Walker (City of Charlottetown) has advised that our request for funding for a river survey has been received and has been included in a larger budget request submitted to City Council. Council will review the request and provide approval before the end of March after which time we should know the outcome.

In anticipation of a positive outcome, Rod will prepare a "terms of reference" document that we can provide to people interested in conducting the river survey. Also, it was decided that the river survey would begin in Brackley and proceed downstream as funds allowed. Some WMF funding could possibly be used to continue the survey downstream and in other tributaries of the Winter River watershed.

ACTION: Rod will prepare a "terms of reference" document to describe our criteria for the river survey.

ACTION: Luke will ask Rob Redmond (Charlottetown Rural High School) for information on stream/river surveys.

- d) In order to gain access to the Winter River to conduct the river survey, we will require a letter requesting permission from landowners. The letter should be part of a larger strategy that will help inform landowners of the role of the Association.
- e) No further action will be taken on incorporation for the Association until new funds are in place.
- f) The noontime meeting with Brian Thompson (P.E.I. Department of Transportation and Public Works) and Mark MacNeil (a Halifax-based consultant) regarding the study at the Corran Ban Bridge has been postponed until March 11.
- g) Luke has been in touch with June Sanderson at Charlottetown Rural High School regarding watershed activities for youth.
- h) UPEI will be conducting a three-week long watershed course beginning the first week in May. Some of the details are listed below.
 - It is an academic course, although it can be audited.
 - The course will include class and field work.
 - Class size is limited to 24 people of which 12 seats are reserved for watershed groups.
 - One seat is reserved for our Association.

ACTION: John and Alan will each give consideration to being our representative.

- i) Don was invited by Brenda Penak (Climate Change Coordinator, P.E.I. Dept. of Environment) to attend a meeting pertaining to a Regional Adaptation Collaborative regarding climate change. Don reported that there may be some potential for interaction or initiatives in the future.
- j) Some discussion occurred regarding public activities for this year including:
 - Roadside clean-up in the spring
 - Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up in the fall
 - A "Getting to Know Your Watershed" event
 - Interpretative walk(s)
 - Some activity actually occurring on the water
 - Watershed workshop

k) Discussion occurred on holding an annual general meeting this spring.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Grand Tracadie School on Tuesday, March 17. Association members and the public are welcome to attend.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.