

Minutes
Annual General Meeting
Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association

Corran Ban Hall
May 27, 2009, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Present:

Doug Campbell	John Hughes	Anne Mazer
Cathy Corrigan	Gerda Klein	Don Mazer
Cindy Crane	John Klein	Norbert Morrison
Rod Dempsey	Eddie Lund	Devin Parkman
Darrell Evans	Allan MacCormac	Luke Peters
Brian Gauthier	Donna MacCormac	Verner Smitheram
Gary Griffin	Candy MacDonald	Buck Watts
Wanson Hemphill	Mark MacNeil	

1. Welcome

Luke Peters opened the meeting by welcoming all present and reviewing the agenda.

2. Business

- a. Cathy Corrigan presented the Chairperson's Report which included the following highlights.
- Funding has been obtained through the Watershed Management Fund administered by the P.E.I. Department of the Environment. The funding will be used for stream enhancement activities and the development of a community-based watershed management plan.
 - Candidates for the position of watershed coordinator have been shortlisted.
 - Funding has been approved from the City of Charlottetown to complete a survey of the Winter River. The survey was recently completed by Brian Gauthier and Devin Parkman.
 - The Association has been attending meetings of the newly formed P.E.I. Watershed Alliance.
 - Allan MacCormac has attended a three-week long watershed management course at UPEI.
 - We have met with provincial officials regarding the proposed dredging project at the Corran Ban Bridge.
 - A letter has been written to the P.E.I. Department of Transportation and Public Works regarding erosion occurring toward the north end of the Suffolk Road.
 - We have met with the Tracadie Area Residents for Resource Protection (TARRP) on two occasions to review how we can work to benefit the watershed.
 - We have attended two watershed planning conferences sponsored by the P.E.I. Watershed Alliance.

- b. Allan MacCormac presented the Treasurer's Report. Last fall, a \$1,200 grant was received from the Department of the Environment to help start our organization. To date, expenditures have covered costs relating to administration, promotion, and advertising. A balance of approximately \$570 remains.
- c. Rod Dempsey presented the following proposed amendments to the Bylaws.
- It was moved by John Klein and seconded by Donna MacCormac that Article III (Board of Directors), Clause 2, which now reads "Only members who are permanent or seasonal residents in the watershed may serve on the Board" be amended to read "All members in good standing are eligible to serve on the Board." The motion was carried.
 - It was moved by John Hughes and seconded by Anne Mazer that Article III (Board of Directors), Clause 10, which now reads "A majority of the Board shall be 50% plus one" be amended to read "A quorum of 50 percent of Board members plus one is necessary to conduct the business of the Board." The motion was carried.
 - It was moved by Don Mazer and seconded by Luke Peters that Article V (Fiscal Responsibility), Clause 1, which now reads "Financial records and funds of the Association shall be reported at the Annual Meeting" be amended to read "Financial records and funds of the Association shall be reported at the Annual General Meeting." The motion was carried.
 - It was moved by Allan MacCormac and seconded by John Hughes to add a clause to Article VI (Amendment of Bylaws). Clause 2 would therefore read "Proposed amendments must be received by the Board not less than 28 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting." The motion was carried.
 - It was moved by Anne Mazer and seconded by Luke Peters to add another clause to Article VI (Amendment of Bylaws). Clause 3 would therefore read "Proposed amendments will be distributed to the membership not less than 7 days in advance of the Annual General Meeting." The motion was carried.
- d. Cathy Corrigan presided over the election of Board members for the upcoming year. By acclamation, the following people will serve as Board members.
- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Doug Campbell | Allan MacCormac |
| Cathy Corrigan | Don Mazer |
| Rod Dempsey | Luke Peters |
| John Hughes | Lowell or Michael Vessey |
- e. Note: Although it was not a point of discussion, the Board had decided that, effective immediately, an annual membership fee (\$10.00 for regular, \$5.00 for youth) would be instituted to help cover the cost of administration.

3. Presentation: Results of River Survey

With funding provided by the City of Charlottetown, the Association was able to engage Brian Gauthier and Devin Parkman to complete a survey of the Winter River from the "head of the tide" up to the river's origin in Brackley. Brian Gauthier is a recent graduate

of the Maritime College of Forest Technology and Devin Parkman has extensive experience in stream enhancement work, most recently with the Trout River Environmental Committee.

The presentation made by Brian and Devin provided an overview of the survey. The survey criteria included: fish habitat, fish spawning areas, impediments to fish passage, springs, blockages to flow, silt & runoff areas, brush mat areas, planting areas, and danger trees. A rating scale (minor, moderate, major) was used to identify 201 points of interest relating to the criteria. General recommendations included addressing the siltation problem on the Suffolk Road at Tim's Creek, fixing culvert problems, removing brush in selected areas, and planting appropriate tree species in specified areas.

4. Presentation: A Community Centered Approach to Watershed Planning

Vern Smitheram, Co-Chair of the watershed group Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bays, spoke on how to engage the community in developing a watershed management plan.

Several of the points from his presentation are listed below.

- Watershed work helps bring communities together.
- A list of issues and concerns can be used as a framework for action.
- It is necessary to have representation from across the entire watershed.
- The Board can be augmented with "Associates" – people with specific skills and interests working on clearly defined tasks.
- The addition of a watershed coordinator is an immense step in building the capacity of a watershed organization.
- Forming stakeholder groups based on interest (e.g., farmers, fishers, and tourist operators) is an excellent way to foster interest and involvement in the development of a watershed management plan.
- Various methods are available for reaching the public (e.g., website, clinics, newsletters, and volunteer days).

5. Presentation: Watershed Issues and Challenges

Cindy Crane, Surface Water Biologist with the P.E.I. Department of the Environment spoke to the conditions of selected Prince Edward Island estuaries subject to the occurrence of excessive nutrient loading. This process, known as eutrophication, leads to an increase in plant growth (such as sea lettuce) and may, in turn, lead to decreased oxygen levels (anoxic events).

6. Presentation: Proposed Dredging at the Corran Ban Bridge

Darrell Evans, Manager of Design & Bridge Maintenance with the P.E.I. Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Mark MacNeil, an oceanographic consultant from Halifax, spoke on the proposed dredging project at the Corran Ban Bridge. Studies have indicated that the upstream tidal range is not being restricted by the bridge. However, there is an area of deep water (up to 4 meters deep) immediately upstream of the bridge that appears to be stagnating due to a lack of tidal flushing/mixing. This situation could

be improved by dredging the channel to a depth of 3 meters on both sides of the bridge to promote better vertical mixing.

Through an indication of support from Association members, the Board will respond to a request by the Department to provide them with a letter of support. It will be mentioned in the letter, however, that the project's focus on potential water quality improvements in the estuary immediately above the bridge should not be seen to detract from the need to implement better land management practices in upstream regions of the watershed.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.