

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

York Community Centre, York
July 29, 2010, 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.

Present:

George Coade
Cathy Corrigan
John Dalziel
Rod Dempsey
Chris Mutch

John Hughes
Don Mazer
Bruce Smith
Lowell Vessey

1. Welcome

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

2. Business

- a) Coordinator Bruce Smith reported to the Board. A summary of his report, in point form, is provided below.
- Where there have been major blockages in the river, Bruce and Chris have worked together. Some assistance has been provided by the Abegweit First Nation's workers. The Department of Fisheries would like to have this assistance continue.
 - The riparian zone inventory is almost complete. The use of GPS has been useful in accurately documenting areas requiring remedial work. It should be possible to have a map produced with these work areas highlighted.
 - Some water temperature measurements have been taken since our last meeting. The water temperature of the outflow at Hardy's Dam was 24.5 °C and the water temperature in Officer's Pond was 27 °C except where algae was present in which case it was 30 °C. These high temperatures would force fish to flee to areas with cooler water.
 - Bruce will solicit permission from the appropriate landowners and apply to the Province to remove one or a few of the beaver dams that are in the upper areas of the river.
 - Through the Federal Government, we have access to 30 years of data on Winter River water flow rates.
 - Two in-stream silt traps have been dug.
 - Bruce and Cathy attended a meeting of the Watershed Alliance at which a presentation was given on wildlife assessment. It was also reported that most people were not supportive of the Province's desire to reduce the number of watershed groups through affiliation or amalgamation.

- Bruce and Cathy also attended a meeting on “sea lettuce.”
 - The landowner permission forms (authorizing work to be performed this year) have generally been returning at an acceptable rate.
 - Bruce will put together a news release for the Guardian indicating our progress in stream enhancement activities and recognizing the support we’re receiving from the City of Charlottetown.
- b) Crew Supervisor Chris Mutch remains pleased with the performance of the summer work crew. He reported that the Brackley Road tributary of the Winter River has a beaver dam across it but since there is no fish habitat upstream of the dam, he will likely leave it in place. Also, a great part of the crew’s time has been spent in clearing areas of the stream that had become infested with alders.

Chris mentioned that he may put some information on facebook to help share with our membership and the public the work that is occurring in the watershed this summer.

- c) Bruce and Chris each delivered PowerPoint presentations on the work that has been completed in the river to date. The slides included documentation on tree planting, silt traps, blockages and wildlife.
- d) Cathy remains interested in attending an “Action H₂O Summit on Water Quality and Conservation” to be held at Acadia University on August 14 and 15. The event is sponsored by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club.
- e) Don is interested in working on public relations as they pertain to the relationship the water users in the City of Charlottetown have with the watershed. A brochure could be developed that would target corporate water users and that may also be useful for fundraising. Don and Cathy will pursue this.
- f) It would certainly be easy to recognize corporate donors on our website. It might also be appropriate to develop an Association “stamp of approval” for water users who have taken action to reduce their water consumption.
- g) Don will work on the preparations for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup that will be held on the morning of Saturday, September 25. This is a national event that the TD Bank sponsors every fall. We will plan on coordinating the event with TARRP as was done last year.
- h) Bruce will begin making plans for a volunteer river work day on September 11.
- i) In his capacity as Treasurer, George has been familiarizing himself with the Association’s finances. Overall, the situation is quite favorable.

3. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 26, at the Brackley Commons. Association members and the public are welcome to attend.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.