

Minutes
Annual General Meeting
Winter River-Tracadie Bay Watershed Association

Grand Tracadie School
May 29, 2014, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Present:

Bruce Smith	Lowell Vessey
Catherine Hughes	Luke Peters
Cathy Corrigan	Meghan McCarthy
Dale MacLeod	Marinus Bysterveldt
David Thompson	Noreen Hughes
Don Mazer	Patricia Bradley
Edward Rice	Paula Peters
George Coade	Rod Dempsey
Gerald Proctor	Sarah Wheatley
Gordon Vessey	Sister Wanda MacDonald
Jackie Olafson	Susan MacArthur
Jean-Paul Arsenault	Vera Hughes
John Hughes	

1. Welcome

Cathy Corrigan opened the meeting by welcoming all present and reviewing the agenda.

2. Business

- a. Sarah Wheatley presented the minutes of the 2013 annual general meeting for adoption. It was moved by John Hughes and seconded by Meghan McCarthy to adopt the minutes. Motion carried.
- b. Don Mazer presented the Chairperson's Report which mentioned some of the issues that we focused on over the past year, such as dry sections of streams, advocating for reductions in City water use, and clarification of the role of the Miltonvale park wellfield on water extraction from our watershed.

It was moved by Rod Dempsey and seconded by Sarah Wheatley to adopt the Chairperson's Report. Motion carried.
- c. Bruce Smith presented the Coordinator's Report which highlighted many of the river enhancement activities taking place in the watershed. The adoption of the report was moved by Don Mazer and seconded by Meghan McCarthy. Motion carried.
- d. Sarah Wheatley presented a summary of the Treasurer's Report. The adoption of the report was moved by Don Mazer and seconded by Lowell Vessey. Motion carried.
- e. John Hughes presided over the election of Board members for the upcoming year. It was moved by John Hughes and seconded by George Coade to accept the nomination of the following people as Board members for the upcoming year.

Ben Hoteling
Bernie Fitzpatrick
David Thompson
Dominic Johnston
Don Mazer
George Coade

Jean-Paul Arsenault
John Hughes
Lowell Vessey
Meghan McCarthy
Sarah Wheatley
Scott Stevens

Motion carried.

- f. A card and flowers were presented to Cathy Corrigan, who has decided to step down from the board next year. John and Don thanked her for her many years of hard work on the board since it began in 2008. A card was also presented to Don Mazer, who has decided to resign as co-chair of the board once a replacement chair has been selected and to continue on as a regular board member.

3. Presentations

Daryl Guignon gave a presentation titled "Watershed Challenges... and Opportunities." The presentation included many different issues, but below are some interesting points that were made:

- Streams in PEI have unusual gradients, so it is very hard to collect data from one river and apply the findings to other rivers.
- When deciduous trees start to leaf out, there can be a noticeable drop in the water table as trees use water
- It doesn't matter if you have a fish kill from pesticides or from a drained river system, it is still a fish kill
- A top USDA scientist reports that improving soils with higher levels of organic matter increases yields 23-51% and this can be a substitute for supplemental irrigation, as soil moisture stays higher in soils with more organic matter.
- The 15 meter buffer zone should be considered a bare minimum, and aim for an average of 30 meters by having much wider buffers in key areas.

The slides from this presentation are available as a PDF on our website.

4. Water Conservation Program

Rod Dempsey gave a demonstration on the use of the new low flow shower heads that the association is giving away as part of its water conservation program. He described the adjustable valve that determines the flow rate of the unit and outlined how individuals can measure the flow rate of their current shower head, and that of their new shower head to calculate the savings due to this change.

Don Mazer discussed the new program whereby people can install a new shower head provided by the association while supplies last, then be entered into a draw for a rebate on a low flow toilet, paid for by the association and Home Hardware in Sherwood. These two changes make the biggest impact on domestic water consumption. Further phases of our pilot program will be rolled out later.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.