

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

Corran Ban Parish House

September 23, 2014, 7:00 – 9:20 P.M.

Present:

Ben Hoteling
Bernie Fitzpatrick
Bruce Smith
Don Mazer

Dominic Johnson
George Coade
Jean-Paul Arsenault
John Hughes

Lowell Vessey
Meghan McCarthy
Sarah Wheatley
Scott Stevens

1. Board meeting welcome

The meeting was convened with a majority of members present.

2. Review of Minutes from last board meeting

The minutes from the August 22 meeting were read and accepted with minor changes.

3. Business Arising from Minutes

Don asked for an update on the researcher at UPEI who was studying community adaptations to climate change. Our next meeting will be too busy to add her to the agenda, and she might be done with meetings now.

4. Report from Chair

George thanked Meghan for chairing the last meeting. Shared a newsletter from the Tracadie community center which mentioned our door to door campaign. Various meetings this month: City (with JP), John te Raa on irrigation, Meghan Harris (West River watershed group) about bridge construction, and with Bruce about finances.

5. Treasurer's Report

George is still acting treasurer, but Lowell will be taking over by next month. The monthly budget report was sent to board members for review. Excluding money to cover Bruce's salary for the rest of the year, and the \$15,000 we usually carry over for spring expenses, there is still at least \$9,000 left for additional project spending before March 31, plus additional money that is yet to come.

6. Coordinator's Report

The coordinator's report was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. Discussion points include:

- Meeting with a landowner who wants to fill in a pond, and Environment would not issue a permit until they knew that WRTBWA was happy with the situation.
- Things to do list – didn't include redd surveys, important to see new redds we have put in. (Note: redd = trout or salmon nests, indicate how many have spawned).
- Bruce put together a breakdown of what he does as coordinator. He made a new version that includes percentage of time spent on each task and this will be circulated later.

7. Committee Reports

a. Communications

Sarah gave an update on the communications projects. The "Save Some Water for Me, Please" videos have finished airing on CBC. The door-to-door campaign isn't going as well as hoped, so we will extend the time period for another month. No more money has been spent since the last meeting, because students were not able to spend more time on this project. Our community of interest is now 309 (up from 196 before campaign and 295 at last board meeting).

b. Field

John gave an update on field committee items. Joe and Darien helped us get the salmon and trout spawning areas completed and we have stored extra rock from this project in the pit on John Enman's property. Luke will give a presentation at the next board meeting of all the summer work. Plan to use some special project funds to hire some people to move rock to the banks on Tim's Creek (in Suffolk).

c. Government Liaison

JP, George, and Bruce, met with Richard McEwan and Craig Walker (City employees), and Eddie Rice (City councillor) on Sept 5 for 1.5 hours. Tried to discuss improving relationships and exchanging data.

The health of watershed is not on their radar. As engineers they are judged on ability to deliver water to residents.

- They are not interested in exchanging data.
- They will reduce draw from Brackley by 50%, by drawing more from Suffolk before Milton comes online.
- After Milton comes online there will be an initial 25% reduction from our watershed. But as the city grows, they will demand more from Winter River until eventually getting back up to current levels.
- The bottom line: there is no guarantee of long term reduction in extraction.
- The only area of common interest we seem to have with the city is water quality (both surface water and ground water). So if we want to improve our relationship, we have to look at areas of common interest.
- If we are to make any headway on this issue we need to turn our attention to the province, it is doubtful we will make any progress with the City.

8. Work Plans for Committees

Some committees haven't met yet, so we should establish timelines for establishing a work plan. We took all the strategies from the watershed management plan (WMP) and divided them up to committees. Each committee should look at items, see if any should be reassigned to a different committee. Meeting dates were set for committees that hadn't met yet (Finance on Tuesday September 30; Communications on Wednesday October 1; and Field on Tuesday October 14).

External Relations: JP noted that they decided to change the name of this committee and distributed their work plan for the 2014-15 year, which included twice-yearly meetings with City officials and provincial officials, preparing a submission for possible public hearings on the proposed Water Act, and lobbying the provincial government to reduce water demand on Winter River after Miltonvale Park is running in 2016. There was a suggestion from the board to include the Federal government in the plan.

9. Other Business

- a. Coordinator position - Bruce likes the idea of having the new person shadow him, but this is more useful at some times of the year than others. In the fall it is mostly funding applications. We want a lot of overlap between Bruce and the new person, so when spring comes the new person will be ready to work. Next steps: put together a more detailed job description to use for advertising. See if other watershed groups have a written job description for their watershed coordinator.
- b. Municipal elections - Discussed possible involvement with candidates for municipal elections this fall, but the project was deemed to be too large to take on right now. We can think about these ideas for the next provincial election.

10. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday October 21, 7 pm at Corran Ban Parish House.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.

12. Approval of Minutes

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Original copy signed and filed

Date

Signature – Sarah Wheatley, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date