

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the WRTBWA

Held on January 16, 2018, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St. Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

Present: George Coade, John Hughes, Cathy Corrigan, Scott Stevens, Lowell Vessey, Ryan Winters, Sarah Wheatley, Clare Martin

Absent: J.P. Arsenault, Esther Currie, Meghan McCarthy, Matt Steeves

George called the meeting called to order at 7:03pm, George welcomed Clare Martin to the meeting.

1. Minutes from the November 21, 2017 meeting:

Minutes from November summarized by Sarah, but they were not edited enough for voting or distribution yet since Esther was sick.

2. Business arising from the minutes

3. Chairperson's Report from George

- Recreational Fisheries Advisory committee (Jan 18th meeting at Rodd Royalty)
 - Scott has attended this event each year. Review any new changes that have occurred. Talk about watershed success with rainbow trout and different things they've been doing. Dept. talks about any new regulations they plan on putting in - usually one year out so you get advanced notice. Certain areas they're talking about using circle hooks for conservation purposes.
- Everyone received insurance documents. No questions.
- George thanked Sarah for organizing Christmas meal.
- Amanda Wilson, who works with City of Charlottetown was advised not to sit on the WRTBWA Board due to a conflict of interest. Amanda will still be able to volunteer for the Watershed.
- Vanco projects
 - Drainage ditch off Union Road - George followed up with Josh Dillman (soil conservation engineer) to discuss and show Josh some pictures we had of the site. George explained why the measures they put in place to prevent siltation were not working. George wanted Josh to revisit this. George went out to look at this himself. A few hours later, George got a call from Vanco saying new measures were supposed to be implemented. Offered to set up a time to come and chat with the Board.
 - Another site of concern is on Hardy Mill Rd. where a hedgerow was removed. In George's conversation with Josh he brought this site to light and asked Josh to go out and have a look. Josh agreed to have a look at it and mentioned the owners are planning to do a project there in the spring. This has traditionally been one of the worst areas in the watershed for erosion.
 - If we're going to meet with Vanco, it could be at the start of one of our board meetings.
 - Action: obtain Vanco's plans and in return, share Watershed's observations and photos.
 - Lowell mentioned that 3 wells had been dug by Vanco south of the Confederation Trail (these are all in Hillsborough watershed). Sarah pinned approximate location of Vanco wells on Google Earth map.
- Fish Friends program at Abegweit First Nation. Becky Peterson was quite involved in it. Fish eggs (salmon) are put in a tank and schools try to raise the fish and then release the young fish into a local river. Then they have a celebratory BBQ. Is there anything we can be doing as a watershed to participate more in this program? George will discuss with Becky.
- 7th Annual PEI Winter Woodlot Tour on Saturday Jan 27th 9AM – 1PM in Strathgartney.
- Sackville River Association created a petition for DFO to extend the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnership Program which is supposed to end after this year. Petition has reached minimum number of signatures and will be presented, but they were still looking for more people to sign.

4. Treasurer's Report

- Sarah gave a financial report for Lowell.
- November: Opening balance: \$89,309.61 and Closing balance: \$77,819.92
- December: Opening balance: \$77,819.92 and Closing balance: \$75,164.59 with \$11,000 in outstanding cheques. Minimal income, minimal expenses in November. In December, Analytical lab and liability insurance only items besides routine payments.

- Sarah also put together a year to date Treasurer’s report. 75% of funding received for the year so far. Have only received half of the Federal dollars, but city and province are up to date. Are we on track for expenses? Payroll: yes. Spent our field supplies budget. Possibly over on equipment purchase. Office supplies slightly under. Insurance less because we changed policies. Land costs were slightly less than anticipated due to lower lawyer’s fees. Expenses for the rest of the year are predominantly salary. Water makeover project is the only thing that’s behind schedule.

5. Committees - Communications

- Sarah was emailing Don Mazer to provide him with some information he requested. When he learned about the City’s wellfield projects in Suffolk, he wanted to talk to the board about the issue.
- An extensive discussion ensued regarding possible ways to address communication issues with the City of Charlottetown; the new information sharing committee with members from the watershed group, water & sewer utility, and Dept. of Environment; the city’s water sustainability plan for Winter River; whether to invite local media to uncover and share information, possible community meetings, and water extraction data trends.
- In the end, it was decided to put together a list of good hard questions for the City and province to answer at the next committee meeting, to allow time to see if this new committee will function as intended.
- We may share public information on our website or Facebook page, so that more people will see this information.
- George will make contact with Don

6. Coordinator’s Report

- See attached report. Sarah read coordinator’s report. Sarah to follow up with Peter Warris at Aquaculture Alliance again. Matt finishes end of January. Sarah will be off payroll for the month of April. No questions on Sarah’s report.

7. Coastal Restoration Fund Project

- Huge amount of excavation required for Officer’s Pond fishway component. This makes it more expensive than other fishways Brian McCullough has worked on in the past. Preferred method is a natural channel fishway.
- Sarah had a meeting with Angela Douglas, the new coordinator for the Coastal Restoration Fund projects hired by Watershed Alliance. Angela thought the culvert estimate seemed too high. Angela recommended we approach Department of Transportation to see if they’ll give us a culvert or sell us a culvert at cost.
- Today we learned DFO won’t fund nutrient management component of CRF project without more detailed information from participating farmers. Option to drop this difficult task and move money into the fishway component to make sure it is well funded. DFO has agreed to pay Sarah’s salary to coordinate the project. Angela suggested smaller phases to shift some of the material costs to other fiscal years (i.e., spread it out a bit more).
- If Sarah changes budget, she’ll have to get Brian working on the next phase of engineering before the end of this year. Scott said it’s too early to call for tenders because we’re still figuring out what we want done. To get a tender, we’d need to send a surveyor out. Brian would then use the surveyor’s information to generate more detailed drawings.
- Sarah sent email to Frank Johnson and said we need to put soil on some part of his land (this avoids soil disposal fees). Landowner cooperation key to soil excavation costs. Sarah to ask Angela if we can test soil in advance to determine if there’s any contamination present.
- Sarah to check with DFO that we can move soil nutrient activities, and create a rough list of alternative projects (culverts).
- Need to determine what we’re prepared to spend as a watershed. Sarah to obtain risk analysis for similar projects from Angela. Ryan could generate a decision analysis to determine best direction for the watershed.

8. New Business

Winter River Snowshoe hike: Set date for February 10th. Alternate (no snow) date: Feb 17th. Cathy proposed looking into a different location, but it was decided that a tour of Glenaladale would be better as a separate event.

9. Next Meeting

Next meeting: February 20, 2018

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| _____ Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA | _____ Date |
| _____ Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA | _____ Date |