

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on April 17, 2018, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St, Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

Present: John Hughes, Lowell Vessey, Ryan Winters, Sarah Wheatley, Meghan McCarthy, J.P. Arsenault

Absent: Clare Martin, Scott Stevens, George Coade, Cathy Corrigan, Esther Currie, Matt Steeves

Meghan called the meeting called to order.

1. Minutes from the March 27, 2018 meeting:

Minutes from March meeting were reviewed, but could not approve them because we did not have a quorum.

2. Chairperson's Report – Given by Meghan:

- Letter to Ducks Unlimited:
 - Sarah was going to request extra money and propose shared management schemes but decides to wait until we get tenders out and firmer cost estimates for fishway construction. Then, see if we actually need more money. If so, then go to Ducks Unlimited.
 - During low flow, water would have to go through new fishway (Engineer's recommendation). Don't decommission old fishway, just block it off. Can we use old one just for high flow? No. When it stops flowing, you'd have to do fish rescue to save fish stuck in the middle. Engineer proposed putting a wall at the END of the fishway. This would mean concrete stays covered in water and doesn't dry out.
 - One of the concerns they had was how would the fish find the entrance to the fishway.
- Sean Landsman's report
 - Sarah sent to field committee people. Good recommendations, but also stuff that couldn't be done.
- Dept. of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy (TIE) proposals
 - Pilot project where one watershed group from each county would work closely with TIE on fish passage and sedimentation issues resulting from public roadways. Sarah expressed interest for WRTBWA and requested more information. JP asked if this could improve Tim's creek problem culvert? Sarah said maybe. TIE said if this was a high priority area, then maybe we can do only that culvert. But if we want many culverts repaired, this can't be one.
- Atlantic Data Stream Project
 - Large collaborative project including Hillsborough watershed group (Angela Douglas), copying the MacKenzie DataStream project up north. Open source platform to share water data. Sarah sent our water quality information to Angela so the site would have some data when it's launched in June. Is this going to be an ongoing thing? Yes. All watershed groups, universities, etc., can put their information there (to avoid duplicate efforts).
- Funding application for Canada Summer Jobs: Disclaimer in application that your organization's core mandate supports everything in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, plus other rights. You just had to attest money would not be used to protest these rights.
- Newsletter: Sarah hasn't had time to work on it this month. Meghan has pictures from the hike and a blurb to send. JP asked if newsletter was still the best way of communicating to our community of interest. Sarah said our newsletter is the only way to reach a certain (older) demographic.
- CBC: Sarah was interviewed for an article on CBC and put it on Facebook. Story about less snowfall this winter. Reporter asked Sarah to comment on this fact. The story was on the radio too. Sarah sent a picture of a spring we measured last winter compared to a picture of the same spring from the same time the previous year.
- Fisheries biologist invited Sarah to prepare a presentation next Friday in Sackville (Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists). Theme of conference is urban influences on wildlife. Urban area is sucking the river dry and trying to do fish management in these conditions is challenging. Sarah has a good draft put together. Emphasizing fish since they're all biologists. Photos from the fish rescue that we conducted.
- Aquaculture Alliance - we met with staff member a week ago. Talking about a meeting with fishers in Tracadie Bay. Talking about better communication and how to make things better. Aquaculture Alliance thinking about paying students to go around all summer and clean up garbage in PEI bays. The update Sarah sent out recently is fairly positive. We do have EcoAction funding and our target is to collect 3 tons of waste in three years. Where do we go from here? The Chair had some ideas they're kicking around at the meeting. WRTBWA will try to coordinate with Aquaculture Alliance for the Spring

shoreline Cleanup. Scheduled after Women's Institute roadside cleanup. Aquaculture operators not buying Styrofoam buoys anymore, but they still have massive stockpiles. A.A. trying to get a project where you can bring in your old styrofoam and replace them with plastic buoys. Plastic buoys are worth enough to go chasing after and don't break up the way Styrofoam buoys do.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

- March 1, 2018: Opening balance: \$39,231.14 (less o/s cheques of \$1,665.87 = \$37,565.27)
- Revenue of \$10,073.76 (Clean Tech, HST rebate, water makeover participation fees).
- Expenses total \$30,742.76 (most weren't cashed yet – lots of late March cheques)
- March 31, 2018 closing balance: \$43,014.58
- To the best of our knowledge, we won't have a cashflow issue this year

4. Committees

- Field Committee: John recommended that this committee meet soon. Sarah reported we will have trees available to plant as usual, there was a miscommunication within the forestry department when we were told there weren't many trees.

5. Coordinator's Report – Sarah Wheatley

- Communications
 - Newsletter one article.
 - Sarah put a post on Facebook asking people where people want trees planted
- Funding
 - Most donations from Stantec and landowners who appreciated tree planting.
 - Four multi-year projects in progress
 - New grant that Sarah will use for Matt to come back. Clean Tech grant will be used for Emma to come back.
 - Wildlife conservation fund – more than usual contribution.
 - Canada summer jobs coming any day now.
 - Watershed Management Fund contract ready to sign. They'll review our report and decide how much we really get
- Staff: Emma, Trent, Sarah M., Matt, Vanessa coming back. Sarah W has built in raises for returning staff
- Water makeover projects: This was the month of toilets and rain barrels! Plan is to be done in April because Matt and Emma are coming back in May. Meghan has a friend who just won a journalism award (she previously interned with the Guardian). It may be an idea to get an article published on the water conservation reno's.
- Nutrient management: Sarah to talk to 4-5 farmers and test a few of their fields.
- Sarah bought the camera and GPS and getting those set up. Need to buy some more data loggers.

6. New Business

- AGM
 - No guest speaker so far.
 - John to book Coran Ban hall.
 - Any nominees for the board of directors. Meghan recommended Joe Doran. Vice Chair spot will need to be filled
- Wellfield protection plan
 - Discussed this at the second meeting of WR committee. Sarah looked at the map and saw she's in zone 2. Requirements to check with owners about oil tanks, septic tanks. In other words, they have a plan but haven't done anything about the plan.
 - JP asked if wellfield protection plans will be referenced in the new Water Act.
 - Summerside concerned about wellfield protection because they've had to replace wells due to nitrate contamination.
- Fish Friends: No Update.
- John followed up on recognition of past board members. Sarah and Cathy came up with 11 names.

7. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:32. Next meeting: May 15, 2018

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date