

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

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

Present: John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Clare Martin, George Coade, Scott Stevens, Lowell Vessey, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Matt Steeves, Esther Currie, and Ryan Winters

Absent: Cathy Corrigan

George called the meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

1. Minutes from the September 19, 2018 meeting

Minutes from the September 19, 2018 were read and discussed. JP moved to approve the minutes from September 19th. John seconded. All were in favour and the minutes were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report – George

- George asked if we put a sign up for forest enhancement project on the Winter River trail. Sarah said yes.
- Request for Stream Alteration Permit for bridge - Letter has not been sent out to landowners yet. George first wanted to get deeds to ensure who owned the land, since there are some discrepancies on property boundaries between sources. The trail on the east side of the river in this area is a private trail, not officially part of the Island Trails system, which could be relevant. George will include any confirmed details in the letter to the landowners.
- Request came in for proposals from the Atlantic Salmon Federation. Sarah filed this away since we don't have any salmon.
- George asked if someone else would put their email forward and volunteer to sit in on the Coalition for Protection of PEI Water. JP volunteered to replace Meghan on the email list.
- George will not be present at Nov 21st meeting. Clare will chair the meeting in George's place.
- Abegweit Conservation Society is a not for profit organization formed by Abegweit First Nation. There is some concern that ACS has been nominally linked with the PEI Watershed Alliance and watershed projects, without being truly consulted or included. WRTBRA is tied into this through the Coastal Restoration Fund projects – which encouraged partnerships with First Nations to receive project funding.
- Sarah made changes to the address on file with Revenue Canada.
- George asked the Board to think of simple tasks for a current employee hired through the Special Projects Program and run these ideas by Sarah. Scott suggested reaching out to people who know the employee, to seek advice on tasks appropriate to their skill level. Some of the suggested ideas were to work on bird boxes, wood piles, paint benches, build bridges, pile firewood for ski/snowshoe outings.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey.

Opening Balance: September 1, 2018	\$150,071.73
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$5,370.43
Plus deposits	\$10,489.00
Less expenses	\$19,593.19
Plus o/s cheques	\$5,725.94
Closing balance/September 30/18	\$141,323.05

- Lowell moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Matt seconded. All were in favour and the motion was passed.

4. Committees

- **Field Committee – J.P. Arsenault (Committee Chair) reported**
 - J.P. and Sarah will get together to discuss
- No other Committee Reports.

5. Coordinator's Report – Sarah Wheatley reported (see report)

- Most funding received for this year; starting to think about next year now (e.g., EcoAction)
- Still have three core field staff (plus Drew for another week); most projects are winding down
- Analysing bathymetry data

- Water makeover program – doing follow-up surveys now; Sarah needs to remind people to send in their data
- Working on wetland assessments
- Doing work in Pater branch; straw used for erosion control
- Working on culvert surveys
- We've been retrieving loggers (UPEI will assist with their boat next week)
- DFO came for a field trip

6. Watershed Property Report

- Clare explained that email update was circulated prior to the meeting
- Used Vanessa's inventory to help decide what to do with the property. 5 ideas were proposed for the Board to review.
- Shed/play house has been partially removed; two of the walls are gone now and there's a bunch of bags with insulation inside; this task has proven more difficult than originally thought.
- John suggested getting a topographical map and mapping out a trail optimized to the typography. John suggested getting a map printed out.
- Scott suggested cutting a trail for fishers and that we could eventually be part of parent/child fishing weekend.
- If creating a trail for kids, there's money we could tap into for publicly accessible areas.
- Scott suggested creating a trail on our own property before trying to link it to any neighbouring properties.
- Board agreed to marking a proposed trail and then invite the members to walk through and provide feedback.

7. DU Letter and Fishway Status

- Board reviewed the letter from DU
- Citing (1) the lack of commitment from DU which is required in order to get landowner approval, (2) uncertainty around project costs, and (3) uncertainty around the fishway design, JP raised a motion to not go forward with the plan to construct a new fishway to improve connectivity between Officer's Pond and the rest of Winter River, at least at this time, and start looking at other options that still meet the objectives of the Coastal Restoration Fund. Clare seconded the motion. The Board discussed. All were in favour of the motion and the motion was carried.

8. East Royalty Subdivision

- Board discussed the impacts of the new subdivision and the City's possible annexation of other nearby land. The Board was well-informed on the topic

9. Watershed Management Fund

- Our work was scored by the provincial government and it met their expectations. Since we scored better than last year, this merited increase funding according to the existing funding model. We should recognize this as a success as we move forward.

10. Other

- Scott asked that we create a backup plan in case we are ever given notice to vacate our rented office location.

11. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:53 Next meeting: November 21, 2018

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