

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on January 16, 2019, 7:00 pm at the office of the WRTBWA at 13977 St. Peters Road, Marshfield, PEI

Present: George Coade, John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Lowell Vessey, Esther Currie, Scott Stevens, Matt Steeves, and Cathy Corrigan

Absent: Ryan Winters, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin

George called the meeting called to order at 7:08 PM

1. Minutes from the November 21, 2018 meeting

Minutes from the November 21, 2018 were read and discussed. Esther read the minutes, Scott moved to approve the minutes. John seconded. Discussion: Sarah mentioned she has received approval for the TIE project, Scott suggested we determine who our contact person is at TIE. George mentioned the Agriculture Stewardship Program. Sarah explained the potential Styrofoam Take Back program is stalled. All were in favour and the minutes were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report – George

- Christmas outing had a good turnout, Sarah did a good job.
- Fishway information - Alaskan Fish Pass, the groups in Souris and Wheatley River built some already. They are happy with how they turned out. Are they satisfied in the performance, and has this been measured with trapping and tagging fish? Parks Canada "Fish X-ing" is very detailed methodology for determining the performance of culverts for fish passage.
- Glenaladale snowshoeing - lots of people out, there was positive feedback and donations made to Glenaladale.
- Winter River Trail snowshoe event (or walk) is set for February 23.
- High capacity wells - George sent information for us to follow.
- Winter River Water Committee Meeting – WRTBWA met again with the City and Province on December 20, 2018. Two new members will be on this committee - Todd Dupuis, Executive Director of Climate Change and Environment and Jason Cody, new Chair of Water and Sewer Committee. Miltonvale wellfield still not working yet. All five pumps have malfunctioned due to burned out motors. There is another meeting of this committee planned for March. George would like our members of this committee to meet before the next main meeting to formulate our questions and send them to city and provincial members in advance, so that the answers could be ready for the meeting. Sarah discussed the project for new wells at Suffolk and that they are working to get a project tendered that will meet their budget, so it may have to be a smaller project than anticipated.
- Watershed Alliance - Mary Finch is back from maternity leave and Derek Ellis is stepping down.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

Opening Balance: November 1	\$138,253.00
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$2,286.38
Plus deposits	\$3,696.39
Less (invested)	\$70,000.00
Less expenses	\$45,383.88
Plus o/s cheques	\$10,013.41
Closing balance: December 31, 18	\$34,292.50 in chequing account, plus \$70,000 in savings account

- Scott asked when we would expect to receive the rest of our funding for this year.
- Sarah mentioned that she is the only staff member currently, so expenses are lower now. Sarah assumes she will need to transfer money from savings to chequing in spring, until funding for new year arrives, then return money back to savings.

4. Committees

- **Field Committee** – Nothing reported

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

- Most projects for 2018-19 winding down with final reports submitted and most funding received.
- Watershed Management Fund - Sarah needs to complete that year-end report.
- Staff - Vanessa doing a job in Montague until May, then she wants to come back. Emma and Matt are done.
- Pellet stove in office is not working at present.
- Redd surveying was a bust as a result of all the heavy rain this year. Other groups had the same problem.
- Planning to build rain gardens next year, if EcoAction project is approved.

6. North Shore Municipality Request - John

- John reporting that he received a note from Nancy MacKinnon, a councillor with the municipality. They are interested in doing trails in the Tracadie Commons which is owned by the community of Grand Tracadie. They are also looking to see if we are interested in using Grand Tracadie School as an office space.
- Sarah explained that EcoAction will not pay for recreational trails but may fund an “access trail” to do a garbage cleanup or forest enhancement in the commons. Discussion had - if we are interested in creating trails on the Commons, and who would be funding this. Would the municipality be helping and provide funding?
- We will consider the option of renting new office space, but we must factor in the increased mileage costs for staff, and less convenient location for board members and visitors.
- We have not yet sent out our letter for our request for funding, George will respond by letter to the North Shore Municipality.

7. Letter for Funding to the City - George

Sarah has created a draft letter. We have been receiving \$32,000 a year since 2011. We are requesting an increase to \$36,000 due to inflation.

8. Watershed Management Plan

George explained that Sarah wanted to add some new content to the plan. This is a good time to look at the plan and possibly form a small committee to review it. It is on our website for us to review. Could everyone look at Sarah’s email sent out November 23 and see how it fits into the picture and will discuss at the next meeting. There should also be some consideration to the timelines set for the various objectives, there are a huge number that are set as Immediate Priorities, but many should be shifted to Long Term for practicality.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:59

Next meeting: February 20, 2019

Signature – George Coade, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Esther Currie, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date