

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

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

Held on September 18, 2019, 7:00 pm at the WRTBWA office at 13977 St. Peters Road, Marshfield, PE

Present: John Hughes, Sarah Wheatley, Clare Martin, Ryan Winters, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Lowell Vessey, George Coade, Scott Stevens, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill

Absent: Sarah Donald, Matt Steeves

Clare called the meeting called to order at 7:01PM

1. Minutes from the Aug 21, 2019 meeting

Minutes from the Aug 21, 2019 meeting were circulated by Ryan prior to the meeting. Clare motioned to accept the minutes. All were in favour, none opposed. Minutes were approved.

2. Chairperson's Report – Clare Martin

- City of Charlottetown
 - Reviewed and discussed letter from Richard McEwan.
- Staff Fun Day
 - Clare thanked Sarah for organizing the Fun Day. Clare also thanked John for using his canoe and being a great guide.
- Coalition for the Protection of PEI Water
 - A member of the Coalition sent an email to Meghan McCarthy. The email included an invitation to a meeting on the water extraction regulations. Sarah attended the meeting and said there were a few good takeaways. The Coalition was going to try to get in touch with Brad Trivers as a next step.
 - Sarah W. agreed to stay on top of what the Coalition is doing via WRTBWA's info email. If there's an event of interest, she will bring it to the Board's attention.
- Staff Code of Conduct
 - Dwayne offered to provide an example for the Board to review.

3. Treasurer's Report – Lowell Vessey

	<i>Chequing account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>
Opening Balance: Aug 1, 2019	\$33,822.90	\$70,588.27
Less o/s cheques clearing	\$6,048.95	-
Plus deposits	\$26,275.83	\$59.95
Less expenses	\$32,391.23	-
Plus o/s cheques	\$10,182.61	-
Closing balance: Aug 31, 2019	\$31,842.16	\$70,648.22

4. Committees: Field Committee – Vacant (Committee Chair)

- Next meeting will be scheduled in the Fall. Committee Chair will be elected at that meeting.

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

- Tim's Creek culvert replacement tentatively scheduled for Aug/Sep 2020 (lowest water flow months). Sarah W. to seek formal commitment from the PEI Department of Transportation. The public should be notified in early 2020.
- Approx. \$20,000 in grants should be received shortly.
- We should also be getting \$500 from Stantec for shore clean-up (lots of garbage after Hurricane Dorian).
- Sarah W. spent a lot of time working on the presentation for the MLAs.
- Set up iNaturalist account.
- WRTBWA ended up co-hosting the Culvert Restoration Workshop.
- Completed electrofishing course – going out to a stream near Milton.
- Organizing field trip for Board members.
- There may be an opportunity to submit a claim for downed trees from the hurricane that are now blocking fish passage. Sarah W. to investigate. Scott suggested leveraging UPEI drone footage to provide evidence downed trees.

6. Presentation for Local Representatives

- Attendees included:
 - PEI Minister of the Environment, Brad Trivers (Progressive Conservative)

- PEI Deputy Minister of the Environment, Brad Colwill
- PEI MLAs
 - Lynne (Green Party Environment Critic)
 - Hal Perry (Liberal Party Environment Critic)
 - Gord McNeilly (Liberal MLA in Charlottetown)
- City of Charlottetown
 - Philip Brown (Mayor)
 - Richard McEwan
- Key discussion topics:
 - Land use changes – increasing acreage of potato production
 - Concerns about water extraction regulations
 - Green party has a strong interest in this
 - Green party will carry our concerns forward
 - Mayor explained why grant dropped (Water and Sewer utility has been operating at a deficit and they need to get their spending under control)
 - \$10,000 they took from us will likely go to other watershed groups supporting the city
 - Jean-Paul emphasized the importance of stable funding so we can plan our budget in advance
 - Talked about the property of concern
- Overall, it was a very successful afternoon. Politicians were very interested and engaged
- Board would like to publicize the fact that the meeting occurred
 - Social media post:
 - Suggested message: “If you’re concerned about these issues, please contact your local MLA or Minister of the Environment”
 - link back to original Facebook post that went viral?
 - Include as many facts as possible
 - Email update to our community of interest of 1400 people
- Sarah W. to write a letter to the City of Charlottetown seeking untapped grant money. The letter will include specific examples of things we weren’t able to do when the City cut our funding.

7. Water Committee

George trying to establish a date to hold the next meeting.

8. WRTBWA Property

- George inspected the wood chips and they were not suitable for our trail. Jeff offered to ask someone at Maritime Electric. Frank Johnson may also have a few ideas. Sarah W. just has three crew members left for the season, but if we can’t move it all now, we can put a tarp over it until next spring.

9. Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:04

Next meeting: Oct 16, 2019

Signature – Clare Martin, Chair of WRTBWA

Date

Signature – Ryan Winters, Secretary of WRTBWA

Date