

Winter River – Tracadie Bay Watershed Association (WRTBWA)

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the WRTBWA
Held on May 26, 2021, 7:00 pm at the Tracadie Community Centre

Board Members Present: John Hughes, Lowell Vessey, Jean-Paul Arsenault, Clare Martin, George Coade, Matt Steeves, Jeff Bysterveldt, Dwayne McNeill, Jay Carr, Scott Stevens, Patrick Lévêque

Members and Guests: Hilary Shea, Aggie-Rose Reddin, Cathy Corrigan, Hon. Bloyce Thompson, Mayor Phillip Brown, Mayor Gerard Watts, David Morrow, Gwen Vessey, Jackie Olafson, John Rowe, Nancy MacKinnon, Raymundo Yu, Shawn Schofield, Susan Daley, Hélène Robichaud, Megan Glover, Marilyn Yu

Staff Present: Sarah Wheatley, Jennifer Woods

Board Member Absent: Roger Townshend

1. Clare called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

2. Opening Remarks from the Chair of the Board

Clare welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting, including board members, staff, and supporters. She introduced Board members and mentioned that an election would be held to replace retiring Board members.

3. Guest Speaker

Jay Carr introduced Shawn Schofield of the Agriculture Environmental Unit of the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action. He outlined the unit's risk-based approach with landowners, explaining that they try to strike a balance between education and enforcement. The unit responds to and investigates complaints related to the *Environmental Protection Act* (buffer zone regulations), the *Pesticides Control Act*, and the *Agricultural Crop Rotation Act*. Inspections can be scheduled or random. Farmers are increasingly approaching the unit for advice and guidance. Shawn explained the decision matrix used by the unit to assess risk versus likelihood of compliance as well as the options, including advice, a warning, an order, or charges under one of the Acts. Jay thanked Shawn and presented him with a gift.

4. AGM Minutes from 2020

Jean-Paul read the 2020 AGM minutes and moved their adoption. Motion seconded by Lowell. No changes or corrections were made. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

5. Report from the Treasurer

Lowell read the report prepared by our independent third-party auditor, BDO. Highlights included: receipts for 2021 of \$265,155 compared to \$188,261 for 2020; disbursements for 2021 of \$261,587 compared to \$189,269 for 2020; and year-end bank balance for 2021 of \$80,875 compared to \$77,307 for 2020. Sarah reviewed detail of wage subsidies (\$74,399 in 2021 compared to \$58,897 for 2020) and other receipts (\$109,140 in 2021 compared to \$66,590 in 2020). Lowell mentioned that the Board is working on a reserve policy to ensure that the WRTBWA can meet its cash flow requirements at times where receipt of funding from our partners is delayed.

There were no questions arising from the Treasurer's report. Lowell moved to accept the report. Motion seconded by Dwayne. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

6. Report from the Chair

Clare focused on partnerships in her remarks, highlighting the important roles of staff, volunteers, federal and provincial governments, the City of Charlottetown, the Rural Municipality of North Shore, other watershed groups and the Watershed Alliance, and schools. In closing, she encouraged the WRTBWA's community of interest to get involved and to make their thoughts and concerns known. She thanked members of the Board, the Coordinator, and staff for their hard work and dedication.

7. Report from the Coordinator

- Sarah illustrated her presentation with photos of field activities and staff

- She showed examples of stream work, shoreline clean-up, cleaning garbage in the vicinity of watercourses, tree pruning (no tree planting in 2020 due to COVID), data collection, e.g., crop mapping, culvert projects, and purchase of pipe for the project at Tim's Creek
- Sarah showed a pie chart detailing funding sources in 2020
- Plans for the 2021 field season: 8 summer staff now working; 1,500 trees have been planted so far (800 on City land near the Brackley wellfield); many brush mats planned to target a number of siltation issues; chainsaw work to clear obstructions in streams; and work on the WRTBWA property at the intersection of the Suffolk and East Suffolk Roads
- Sarah described a major project scheduled to take place beginning in June, the replacement of the culvert on the Suffolk Road at Tim's Creek. The goal of the project is to allow fish passage into the upper reaches of the creek, currently not possible through the existing culvert. The WRTBWA purchased the culvert with federal funding and it will be installed by the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Other possible culvert replacements for 2021 by the Department include MacAulay's Creek and Beaton's Creek
- Sarah outlined water monitoring activities (quality and quantity) and added that we will be participating in a regional microplastic sampling network, using Tracadie Bay as our location
- Mayor Brown noted that water extraction by the City has declined since the Miltonvale wellfield began supplying a portion of the City's water in 2018. He noted that total water consumption by City residents has declined over the past ten years despite an increase in the City's population of approximately 20%. He expressed the hope that the Greater Capital Region, including Charlottetown, Cornwall, and Stratford will develop a regional approach to water supply and use so that water extraction from the Winter River watershed can decline further. He thanked the WRTBWA for its efforts and encouraged further collaborative efforts between the two organizations.

8. Election of Board Members

Patrick reported that 10 Board members wish to return for another year and that two, Scott Stevens and Roger Townshend, are retiring. Jean-Paul nominated Hilary Shea and Dwayne nominated Tracey Bergman. Hilary was present at the meeting and accepted the nomination. Tracey was not present at the meeting but had previously indicated that she was willing to serve on the Board. Patrick called three times for nominations from the floor. There being none, he declared Hilary and Tracey elected and welcomed them to the Board.

9. Other Business

Lowell thanked Scott for his many years of service to the Board and presented him with a gift. Roger was absent and will receive his gift later.

10. Concluding Remarks

Clare thanked all for attending and declared the meeting adjourned at 8:22.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean-Paul Arsenault