

PEI Watershed Alliance
Annual General Meeting Minutes 2016

Call to Order

9:05 AM Welcome and Summary of 2015 Activities from Chairperson

- Dale discussed signing of watershed strategy, water act, switchover of WMF to FFW decision, insurance for watershed groups, training for groups on stream enhancement including field tours, upcoming form to function course with TUC, tree charge is being covered by the PEIWA for this year bc it wasn't budgeted for this year,

9:15 AM Greetings from Hon. Robert Mitchell, Minister of Communities, Land and Environment (CLE)

- 1.1 million dollars for PEI Watershed groups was just approved in the budget, Funding formula that is fair and benefits all groups to assist groups in getting predictable and fair funding, FFW division. Water act- tabling the EAC report and drafting of legislation over the next few months, he got out into many of the watersheds and will be back as it is the most favorite part of his job.

9:25 AM Reading/approval: AGM 2015 Minutes

- -Angela reviewed the minutes from 2015. It was noted that it would be good to have a DFO person at the meeting to discuss the RFCPP, we will look at this for the next meeting.
- Jim made a motion to pass the minutes as read, seconded by Verner , all in favor,

9:35 AM 2015-2016 Financial Review

- Mike gave a financial review including funds for the training course, insurance and funding coming in from the West Prince Council.
- Angela moved a motion to approve the financial statements as read, seconded by Fred, all in favor, so moved.

9:45 AM Watershed Ecologist Report

- Mary gave her report, 6 months into her job, copies of a survey to ask groups what government agencies they are dealing with, also a master list of the work being completed by watershed groups for forum planning. Estuary watch has been re-vamped this year with training in late May, nature tracker training in June including native and invasive species identification, and form-function course coming up.

9:55 AM Change of division within CLE for Watershed Management Fund –Kate MacQuarrie, Director of Forests, Fish and Wildlife

- Kate noted that there won't be much change in day to day activities. Kate will be administering the program directly to look at funding formula and water act and to see that work on the ground. She wants to have a firm handle on the program herself and will be directly involved for the first year at least. She wants to reduce red tape including streamlining the permitting process- can we have open-ended permits, or 5-10 year permits, can we have a permit for silt traps that could be for more than one year? All things that will be looked into.

10:05 AM COFFEE BREAK

10:20 AM Board Elections

We broke out into regions. Dale Cameron was nominated from the West (another term), Hillary Shea representing Hunter River (the Central groups), Jackie Bourgeois has reoffered for a second term. We thanked Cathy for her work with the board over the last three years.

10:40 AM Review and Discussion of By-law Changes

Jim went over the bylaws- recommended changes. Question on why we are trying to get charitable status-for applications for funding for the PEIWA as a collective. There was a motion from the board to apply for charitable status and for Jim to edit the bylaws. Jim suggests that we hire someone to guide the process. One vote on all the amendments with the exception of charitable status, do we have agreement that we support these changes? Dale moves that the bylaw amendments brought forward by Jim be accepted as presented, seconded by Fred, those contrary minded (6). Motion was passed.

11:00 AM

Open Discussion

Collin suggested that the alliance lobby for an increase in funding for students and to remove the restriction in terms of students who are or aren't returning to studies. Skill PEI is now open again for non-profits (graduate mentorship plan).

- Watershed Alliance application for charitable status? Priority.

- Other subject areas TBD by membership

11:45 AM LUNCH

12:15 PM Wildlife Conservation Fund (WCF) Update – Megan Harris, Island Nature Trust

- Megan reviewed the committee members.
- As only about half the money comes from angling, hunting and fishing licenses it doesn't make much sense to have 9 members on the committee from these groups.
- Megan suggests this comment and any suggestions be brought forward to the board prior to the January meeting.

- Nature PEI survey- determine who was contributing to conservation plate \$ and what they preferred the funds be spent on- habitat enhancement, conservation of wetlands and forests were the top priorities.
- Groups got roughly 78% of the funding in 2015.
- Always a year behind in funding pot.
- Ask from WCF has increased dramatically.
- In the interest of transparency, the construction of a stand-alone website for the WCF has been factored into this years' budget.
- Jackie had a question about permitting and Megan clarified that you will not get your funding until you have your permit in hand (mainly for sediment traps).
- Glen Kelly brought forward a concern about urban watersheds and the sense of frustration from the letter sent to Wright's Creek about the potential to stop funding this group as their sediment control issues have not been resolved after years of funding. Megan said that the province needs to come on board as a partner to establish some firm land use parameters going forward as much funding is spent to deal with sediment issues.

12:30 PM

Watershed Group Short Presentations (10 minutes each, question period at the end)

Colin Jeffrey from Trout River Environmental Committee – “Battling Alders”

Norman Dewar from Ellen's Creek Watershed Group – “What's happening in Ellen's Creek”

Angela Douglas - “Hillsborough Area Watershed Cooperative (HAWC)”

Kelley Arnold from Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group – “Urban Watersheds in a Rural Province”

Jackie Bourgeois from Southeast Environmental Association (SEA) – “SEA Change! SEA Solutions! SEA the Future!”

1: 40 PM Clonal Plant Project Overview – Derek Ellis, UPEI Climate Lab

1:55 PM Closing Remarks/Adjournment