PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting Thursday, June 5th, 2025 4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via Zoom

Board Members: Kris Hunter, Andrew Lush, Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Dale McIsaac,

Kim Curran, Sarah Wray, Dawn McInnis, Virginia Everett

Staff: Heather Laiskonis, Nathan Lacroix

1) Call to Order

Meeting Called to order at 5:03 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Addition to agenda for EAC discussion
- Moved by Kim, Seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed Unanimously

3) Approval of minutes from April 3rd

- Moved by Juliana and seconded by Dawn
- Passed unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

a)

5) Discussion items:

- a) Election of new executives
- Dale McIsaac re-elected as Chair for 2025-26 fiscal year
- Kris Hunter elected as Vice Chair
- Andrew Lush re-elected as Treasurer
- Juliana Fernandes Granzoti elected as Secretary
- Motion that for the P.E.I. Watershed Alliance executive for 2025 2026 year will be Dale McIsaac as chair, Kris Hunter as vice chair, Andrew Lush as treasurer, and Juliana Fernandes Granzot as secretary made by Dale McIsaac.
- Seconded by Juliana Fernandes Granzot
- Passed Unanimously

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b) WMF funding increase

- Current administrative allowance is \$45,000 deemed insufficient for work being done
- WMF overall fund has grown to \$2.185 million (nearly doubled in recent years)

- Board members support a proposed increase to \$65,000 to better reflect the value and impact of the Alliance's work.
- Dale and Heather to meet with Brad Potter to discuss request
- Dale moved that the watershed alliance request from the watershed management fund, \$65,000 per year as of April 1, 2025.
- Seconded by Virginia Everett
- Passed Unanimously

c) Span bridge permitting requirements

- Kim identified gap in standardized bridge designs and specifications
- The need for standardized bridge designs to ensure safety and compliance with current regulations
- Current process requires individual engineering drawings for each bridge project
- Need for standardized designs with load capacity specifications (2-axle, 3-axle trucks)
- Tyler Wright is an engineer who has experience designing bridges and has been consulted regarding standardized designs for span bridges.
- Paul is another contact who may have insights or resources related to bridge design and engineering standards.
- Department of Transportation may be appropriate department to develop standards
- Goal is to reduce costs and liability issues for watershed groups

d) Approval of financials for 2024

- Final figures presented at the AGM were not the final numbers, leading to discrepancies in retained earnings.
- The accountants recommended moving the AGM to a later date to ensure accurate financial reporting.
- Sarah has been working diligently on the updated financial statements.
- The financial statements are now finalized and available in the board folder for review.
- Andrew, Emma, Heather, and Dale will discuss the finalized financial statements for the Watershed Alliance.

e) October presentation from the board

- Heather aims to present a formal request to increase the Watershed Management Fund (WMF) funding based on the value provided by nonprofit organizations.
- The request will emphasize the cost-effectiveness of funding the Watershed Alliance compared to government-managed projects, highlighting the multiplier effect of nonprofit contributions.
- Research needed on "1 nonprofit dollar = 10 government dollars" concept
- Need concrete numbers showing value of watershed work vs. government in-house costs
- Board members are encouraged to gather historical data on the financial leveraging achieved by the Watershed Alliance and its member groups.
- This data should include specific examples of how funding from the Watershed Management Fund has been utilized to generate additional resources or partnerships.
- Sarah suggested using historic WMF reports showing group leveraging

f) Envir. Advisory Council-Andrew

- Andrew applied to the Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) in 2023.
- He has not received any communication regarding the status of his application.
- EAC hasn't published annual report in 8 years
- Andrew has been waiting for a response regarding his application to join the Environmental Advisory Council since 2023.
- He has not received any communication about the status of his application, including a denial.
- Due to time constraints and lack of follow-up from the council, he is no longer interested in pursuing this opportunity.
- Heather and Dale to investigate current EAC status
- g) In camera session request, see below

6) Reports

- a) Financial Update (audit status)
- See folder for Update
 - b) ED Update -verbal
 - c) Monitoring Specialist Update
- See folder for Update
 - d) 2BT Coordinator Update
- See folder for Update
 - e) Review Forward Agenda
- See folder for Update
 - f) Staffing updates
 - g) Other
 - h) Media

In camera session with Heather and the Executive Board

Meeting Adjourned at 6:08 PM