

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting

Wednesday April 7th, 2021

4pm – 6pm

Milton Community Hall

Mike Durant, Dale McIsaac, Andrew Lush, Nicolas Bergeron, Angela Banks, Mary Finch, Rebecca Ramos, Kate McQuarrie

Teleconference: Scott Roloson, Johanna Kelly, Jason Campbell, Dale Cameron, Karen Rank

Meeting begins: 4:06pm

Approval of minutes, March 3rd: Approved by Dale C, seconded by Karen

Financial update:

See attached

Project Manager Update:

See attached

Ecologist Update:

See attached

Equipment Manager Update:

See attached

Discussion items:

Discussion with Kate M:

Stratford Area Watershed Improvement Group Disjoins Hillsborough Area Watershed Co-op

- SAWIG is planning to separate from HAWC, this decision is supported by the other groups that make up HAWC
- Urban vs rural, the group currently operates differently than the other groups
- Province asked groups to amalgamate in 2011 to ease WMF process, but it is not working out
- This is recognized by Kate and the board as a unique situation – possibly a precedent / procedure for future occurrences
- Motion to approve SAWIG's request to separate from HAWC: motion moved by Nic, seconded by Dale M – motion carried

Savage Harbor allocated to Hillsborough River Association

- HRA sent a letter to Kate requesting the Savage Harbor area be added to their watershed management boundary – WRTBWA (adjacent watershed) in agreement

Considerations on dealing with unallocated land going forward:

- Presently there are two steps taken:
  - o 1 – Kate facilitates a conversation with group(s) involved, if a decision cannot be made;

- 2 – Kate communicates with deputy minister to make a decision
- There are 3 major considerations with groups claiming unallocated areas:
  - Group's history of work in the area
  - Capacity of working in area
  - Group's relationship with community
- Board considers undertaking Step 1 (facilitating discussions) either from within, or an independent professional facilitator – this would allow Kate to look at these situations with “fresh eyes” in Step 2
- Motion that PEIWA provides facilitation role in Step 1 of the dispute process for watershed groups: moved by Dale M and seconded by Nic – motion approved

#### WMF

- Groups that sent Kate their work plans have been sent contribution agreements – currently, in order to distribute funds all groups need to complete these papers, to avoid delays Kate suggests the possibility of changing to a “pay as you go” method
- Kate can assess both 2020 and 20219 workplans this year, as covid may have interfered with groups' 2020 work season, and affirms FFW staff are available to visit project sites
- Mary will share this with groups in an WMF update email

#### Richmond Bay letter

- Mike will be in discussion with president and coordinator
- Would like an official response letter – a full paper trail for clarity

#### Request form Holland College re Centre of Excellence in Watershed Management report:

- Meet w/ Sandy and JP to clarify some points but would like member groups' input first
- Uncertain about the long term purpose – will there be enough jobs available for graduates annually? (Page 22 – job projections)
- Data reporting/storing; does HC have the resources to do this? One goal of the program is to carry out research
- Will share the proposal with watershed groups, set up a meeting to discuss with groups and invite HC

#### Environmental Advisory Council – new PEIWA representative:

- No volunteers from board
- Could send an ask out to groups – the expectation being they report to the alliance on council actions
- Are there any terms?
- Mary will respond to Debbie Macrae and send out an ask for groups nominations

#### Proposed Irrigation Committee:

- Follow up with deputy minister – “What is being done this year to prevent situations like last year, August 2020 in Dunk River?”
- Mike is waiting for a response on this meeting

- Holding ponds – Andrew is anticipating a lot will be built before the Water Act is put into effect
  - o Is there a possible middle ground? Send an ask to the minister to use due cautions, and express PEIWA's concerns on how this offsets the Water Act
  - o Legislator agreed to the ban last year, if this ban is enacted now, it will put a stop to any new construction
  - o Minister has the ability to make an executive decision
- This is a time sensitive issue – is there enough time to draft a letter and get feedback from groups? It would be nice to have groups individually sign letter in support
- Letter needs to be sent to minister ASAP – Andrew will draft a response and share with board for approval before sending to minister, groups will be included in this email and encouraged to send their own letter in support

#### Feedback on Water Withdrawal Regulations:

- Previous response letter is on PEIWA website
- Mary/Angela will refurbish the letter and send to board for approval before forwarding to committee (deadline April 17<sup>th</sup>)

#### Equipment Bank Storage:

- Would it be beneficial to look for a space that can be used for both office space and storage?
- Angela is in discussions w/ Randy Angus about renting out office space in the new building on the Charlottetown Harbor (~\$11-13K)

#### Spring AGM

- Planning for May / June 2021
- Could use the same space as last AGM (Rodd Royalty)
- Considering an evening or a Saturday morning meeting
- Mary will look for availabilities

Karen thanks Mary and Angela for the countless hours spent with the bookkeeper to settle financials/banking changes

**Next Meeting scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>, 4PM**

Meeting adjourned

