

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
Wednesday June 2nd, 2021
4pm – 6pm
Teleconference

Present: Mike Durant, Dale Mclsaac, Andrew Lush, Nicolas Bergeron, Johanna Kelly, Jason Campbell, Dale Cameron, Karen Rank, Angela Banks, Mary Finch, Rebecca Ramos

Regrets: Scott Roloson

Meeting starts 4:03pm

Approval of minutes, May 2021: Approved by Dale C, seconded by Andrew

Financial update:

See attached

Project Manager Update:

See attached

Ecologist Update:

See attached

Equipment Manager Update:

See attached

Discussion items:

PEIWA Environmental Advisory Committee Representation:

- Board will vote by the end of the week

Irrigation Research Committee:

- Johanna and Mike were notified that collection of baseline data will begin in June
- NSARC application will be sent in support of research
- Board will review terms of reference and provide feedback (questions / suggestions)
 - o Who will be chair?
 - o Replacing 8 low-capacity wells with 1-2 high-capacity wells considerations, as well as surface water extraction considerations
 - o Possibly 2 representatives from PEIWA
 - Johanna volunteers
 - Mike will email Scott see if he may be interested in the second seat
 - o Andrew suggests wording in the terms of reference is far from scientific (opinion)
 - o Johanna recommends asking what questions the research committee would like answered

- The board will share comments via Google drive by the end of the week before sending to the deputy minister

Holland College Centre of Excellence in Watershed Management Program:

- Holland College wants watershed groups actively involved and offered PEIWA equal representation on committee (3 – Holland College, 3 – PEIWA)
- Seats will be open to watershed groups
 - There is a long list documented of committees the board is currently sitting on, though the list likely needs updating
 - Johanna notes watershed groups will really need full time coordinators if the list of committees keeps growing
 - Mary possible candidate – also Tracy B (who is on the HC Wildlife Conservation board)
 - Mary will put a call out to groups and board will identify representatives at the next meeting

Blue Economy:

- No direct funding opportunities for watershed work
- Board was invited to sit in on a round table discussion / focus group re job creation (federal)
- Sectors focusing on aquaculture – investing in growth of salmon farms
 - Concerns re sustainable fish farm – disease, land and water issues, etc.
- Mike is interested in sending a letter to minister on broad concerns
- There were a few discussions prior, and Mary has provided feedback in the past
- Angela will be going to the virtual round table and will report back to the board, who will then provide a written submission
- Angela will reach out to Kris with ASF – he may already have something drafted

Financial update:

- Payroll is set up for direct deposit
- Motion for approval of financial statement as provided, moved by Karen and seconded by Dale M

PM update:

See attached

- Motion to change website providers to Ellen (Hi There Designs), moved by Johanna and seconded by Karen

EBM update:

See attached

Ecologist update:

- Motion to approve using PEIWA's account to channel funds between Parks Canada and PEI Invasive Species Council (job positions) – moved by Karen, seconded by Johanna

- Still looking for a field technician for the bat project – Mary asks if the board knows of anyone who may be interested?

Living Labs – Media Interview opportunity:

- Johanna (KNWA) is in support of Frances (SAB) speaking on behalf of watershed groups – Mike agrees
- Board is in agreement with Francis as spokesperson, Mary will send some notes to Francis re PEIWA's stance

Watershed Training monies:

- Although PEIWA was able to pay for a lot of training in the past, these are not permanent funds and watersheds will need to be prepared to pay for training going forward if need be
 - o Karen is in support and is open to paying for training opportunities for employees
 - o Dale C comments groups may be more considerate about who they send to which training if they are required to pay
 - o Johanna will find an example of a proposed budget similar to PEIWA to serve as a reference to vote on next year – a proposed annual budget for groups
- 2021 Training
 - o Macphail's ~ \$1K
 - o First Aid ~ \$4K
 - o Considering partial subsidy (1 employee per group), Mary will inquire with groups re number of attendees
- Board to make an executive decision asap (next board meeting is too late in the season)
- Mary will provide more information to the board in the next few days to make a decision

Nature Conservancy Canada – PEI Natural Heritage Plan request:

- Provides compensation
- 6 meetings (~2hr) over the next 18 months

AgriWatershed Partnership:

- Sending final report to ministers next week (M. Agriculture and M. Environment)

Richmond Bay update from Kate M:

- Kate has Richmond's work plan, but has not received a signed contribution agreement
 - o Kate cannot approve funds until she has confirmation that they are under PEIWA membership
 - o WMF allocation is only provided to PEI watershed members
- No update from Richmond directly

Mike moves motion to adjourn, Johanna seconds - **Meeting adjourned 5:58pm**

Next Meeting scheduled for July 7th, 4PM

***Note to organize / review the forward agenda**

May 31, 2021

Summary of Watershed Ecologist Activities (Highlighted points are questions for board)

Projects underway:

Forested Landscape Priority Places:

Project in cooperation with PEI Invasive Species Council: Invasive Species Coordinator and Technician hired and start May 31st, 2021. Using the PEI Watershed Alliance Payroll.

Contribution agreement is sorted with the province, however, a sub-contract with PEI ISC for the non-payroll component of the grant. Will follow-up with bookkeeper and accountant regarding this contract and send to the board for review. Question for the board regarding Parks money and distribution to the PEI ISC.

No update at this time on the project in partnership with Federation of PEI Municipalities. Have been asked to sit on a subcommittee of the Core Advisory Team to develop key ecological attributes and indicators for riparian forests as this follows up with our project this past winter.

Habitat Stewardship Program – Bats

Met with Rebecca to discuss specifics of monitoring program this year

Hosting an information webinar on June 7th with watershed groups next week to answer questions related to monitoring this year.

Have not filled the Skills PEI job position - continuing to search for a candidate.

Living Labs

Amphibian surveys underway at wetlands constructed last year

Audrey Murray has designed VDD design details and final decision on locations will be made in the next week. (Likely all in Souris area this year, Kensington builds will be constructed next year).

Living lab video request - AAFC is proposing to produce a series of five videos to promote Living Lab – Atlantic activities featuring AAFC scientists and external partners including farmers, agriculture and watershed organizations and provincial government researchers. The objective of these videos is to build public trust among Canadians by showing them how Living Lab – Atlantic is resulting in a sustainable Canadian agriculture sector that is contributing to mitigating climate change. AAFC would like to have Mary participate in the wetlands video to recognize the PEI Watersheds Alliance as a major contributor to Living Lab – Atlantic and to environmental sustainability on farmland.

WMF/Communications with FFW

Main focus of my efforts this month will be completing the field assessment for WMF (I have 11 to complete).

Provided feedback and draft budget to Kate for PEIWA involvement in 2 Billion Tree program. FFW submitted the RFI last week.

Worked with Shawn Hill and environment on blanket permits stipulations. These permits were emailed to groups late last week and hard copies are being mailed this week. Permits are only for 1 year - can't have longer permits because of legislation. Will continue to work with government on making changes to blanket

5) Training

Planning for watershed worker training at the beginning of July including:

First Aid Training

Riparian planting with MacPhail Woods

Instream work

- Limited training budget in CRF this year - how many of these training costs would you like the Alliance's WMF to cover?

- Continuing to work with Forestry on chainsaw training - next course is June 8-10th in Brookvale.

6) Other

Conducting site visits and answering questions for watershed groups (considerable this time of year)

ClimateSense intern will be starting this month

Request from NCC for me to participate in PEI Natural Heritage Plan with Native Council of PEI, L'nuey and the Province. This plan will lay the foundation in designing a protected areas network in an interactive GIS platform to identify PEI's most important/valued areas for future conservation. Alliance will be compensated for participation. (6 meetings over 16 months)

7) On the horizon

Working on better documenting the projects and scope of work completed by Alliance employees so that capacity issues can be discussed with board.

PEI Watershed Alliance office space

Renewal of liability insurance (July)

PM UPDATE

June 2, 2021

Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) for Aquatic Species at Risk- "Atlantic Salmon Habitat Restoration in Prince Edward Island." Completed the final reports (see folder) and submitted to DFO. Still answering questions from Ottawa.

HSP Round 2- Applied for a SkillsPEI position to make up for this difference in funding so we could hire someone to work in the field with groups as required. Developed job ad, no qualified candidates applied so I amended contribution agreement again to remove the staff portion.

ECCC Climate Action and Awareness Fund

application- "Community-Based Climate Action on Prince Edward Island." I've met with project partners and contractors several times. Sites have been chosen and the Climate Sense interns are working on gathering site data for contractors. Call has gone out for the arts component.

Finalized budget and project details were sent to ECCC back in early April. Still waiting on ECCC on the contribution agreement. Funds from this will be used towards Rebecca's salary.

Agri-Watershed Partnership

Draft annual report has been completed as well as the terms of reference moving forward.

PEI Climate Challenge Fund, Round 2

Simon, Mary and I did a new application for the second round of the fund as the application form was completely changed from last December. Deliverables were adjusted based on feedback. No response yet.

Atlantic DataStream

Charlotte and Rebecca have been working to get historical water quality data on ADS. 44/49 folders have been uploaded.

Data Rescue Project (with FFW)

Charlotte has completed her contract. We are meeting with her and Brad, Rosie on Thursday to review.

Atlantic Ecosystems Initiative

Meet with groups and Mike Van den Heuval to discuss water sampling/runoff monitoring for 2021.

Sectoral Initiative Funding

The application was submitted March 3 for \$298,120 over three years. No response as of yet.

CRF Project Updates

Oyster Reef project (with DFO/MCPEI)-We did site selection last week as well as deployed the tide and RBR wave loggers for SMU/Dalhousie as they are unable to come to PEI. I will also be deploying two real-time wave buoys later this week. Construction is slated for mid-June. Been having weekly meetings to ensure we stay on track.

WRTBWA- Met to do site visits with Sarah and Paul Strain. Two of the culverts were completely falling apart and Paul has moved them up to the top of his list for replacement. Waiting on surveys from his crew and we will choose what other sites (besides the large embedded culvert) that will be done this year. Working on a document for Will Daniels at NS Adopt a Stream for design ideas re chutes.

KNWA- Submitted a detailed permit application for the larger-scale salt marsh creation project and spoke with a local dredging company. Waiting on permit and meeting with dredging company on site. Coir logs have been delivered for this coming field season.

SABWF- I've requested the permit for the salt marsh work in 2021. Will be meeting to assess how the site fared over the winter and what needs to be completed this year.

HCWG- Hilary has her antennas up and running and via electrofishing and the use of a fyke net, sufficient numbers of smelt were PIT tagged successfully navigated through the new nature-like fishway!

TUPCC- Permit applied for the second bridge structure. Materials have been sourced and purchased through funds from last fiscal.

Equipment Bank- I have purchased equipment and YSI calibration solutions/N probes based upon group feedback (spotter scope, HESS sampler, flow probe, dissecting scope, etc). A master list of all available equipment will be sent to groups in the next update email.

Storage/office Space- would be useful.

Website- Ellen Andrews- Hosting, annual \$350 + hst/ Domain, annual (unless you have one already) \$30 + hst/

"Updates needed, etc, I just bill those out at an hourly rate of \$50 + tax. I only charge the time it takes to do a task, so if it's 5 minutes, you're charged for 5 minutes, and I bulk various edits

together in invoices until it's a large enough amount of line items or a certain amount of time has gone by before I bill out. So if it's something you'd want to do, in order to migrate the site I'd just need the login details of your website. The current provider doesn't even need to know it's being moved at this point. Then, the domain would need to be sorted out and I can email back and forth with your site contact person to get that all taken care of.

Let me know if you have any other questions - it's really a smooth transition. Generally my turnaround time for small tasks like that can be within minutes or a few hours of a timeframe." - Ellen

Training

In partnership with UPEI ClimateSense Program and the CAAF there will be a second round of GreenShores level 2 training for watershed groups. I met with Peter Nishimura on Monday to discuss. Ron Jenkins will be doing rapid geomorphic assessment training and we will plan that once travelling from out of province is permitted.

Submitted the annual report and supporting documents to DFO (see google drive folder) and have been answering many questions as a new person is working on the file. .

A lot of my time has been spent on responding to federal government staff on questions around the final reports for HSP and CRF (new people on the files/questions from Ottawa) and contribution agreement questions from Ottawa on the new HSP and CAAF.

Equipment Manager Update

June 2nd, 2021

Habitat Stewardship Program – Bats:

Manually confirming auto ID files from 2020 monitoring

Forwarding data reports to groups for the GRTs completed

Met with Mary re allocating funds and reporting requirements for 2021 bat monitoring

A schedule for NA Bat stationary and mobile monitoring sites has been sent to groups, monitoring starts June 9th in Souris and ends July 23rd in Tignish

The last of the deployment gear has been purchased and I will be calibrating the monitors later this week

Will meet next week with groups to answer questions related to monitoring this year

Will be setting up a bat booth at WRIG's Environmental Fun Day on June 11th

DataStream data upload:

Charlotte completed two more batches of templates, they are now online:

<https://atlanticdatastream.ca/upload#/dataset/7e368f16-82bc-4400-abdc-95f0261644d9/?ref=search>

Met with BAWG and HCWG to assist in uploading their first templates

Equipment Bank:

Last of Hoskin order was delivered yesterday, will be distributing to groups asap

Have been loaning out / calibrating the alliance's YSIs weekly

Was calibrating for groups while waiting for the rest of the solutions to come in

Completed YSI calibration training sessions for groups with YSIs

CAWG, BAWG, BBEMA, CBWA

Most of the alliances water quality monitoring loggers have been loaned out / deployed (~10 temperature loggers still available)

Notes from Holland College "Centre of Excellence" meeting in drive:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/150zedl4iPwfRG1zbutegJsydA2EIVFGA/edit>