

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting  
Wednesday July 7th, 2021  
4pm – 6pm  
Teleconference

Present: Mike Durant, Dale McIsaac, Andrew Lush, Nicolas Bergeron, Johanna Kelly, Jason Campbell, Dale Cameron, Scott Roloson, Karen Rank, Angela Banks, Mary Finch, Rebecca Ramos, Kris Hunter  
Meeting begins: 4:06pm

Approval of minutes, June 2nd 2021

Mary - Message to groups re Holland College committee was delayed until today

Motion for approval: Moved by Karen, seconded by Dale M

EAC candidates:

- 3 nominations were put forward, board voted online
- Spoke with Debbie Macrae – Fred C was determined as PEIWA's candidate and other candidates were notified

Financial update:

- Batch limit of \$10K and 3 signatures are needed right now, Karen and Dale M propose this be lowered to 2
- Currently there are 4 signing authorities right now (Karen, Johanna, Mike, Dale M)
- Motion to go forward with recommendation from finance committee to change policy on electronic release to 2 signatures – moved by Mike, seconded by Dale C – motion approved

Project Manager Update:

See attached

Ecologist Update:

See attached

Funds for analysis work until Christmas – Rural Jobs Initiative, \$16/hr

Equipment Manager Update:

See attached

Discussion items:

Holland College Centre of Excellence in Watershed Management Program:

- Mary sent out a call to groups earlier today, deadline next Friday
- Alliance has equal representation as HC and HC will be reaching out to other partners as well (e.g. Parks Canada, UPEI Climate, indigenous partners, etc.)

- Mary will reach out for more info about commitments

#### Irrigation Research Committee:

- Mike has not been contacted but is expecting a meeting with deputy minister and has asked what the minister meant by comments on moratorium
  - o Response: Comments do not mean they will be lifting moratorium; the focus is on strategy – irrigation research
- Mike will Follow up

#### Request from Standing Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability – creation of sustainable irrigation strategies:

- Angela will find presentation form 2014 and share with board, all information is still valid – may be possible to use the same slideshow
- Dale M: Different audience this time?
  - o Yes – every gov't is different audience, but using the same presentation will speak on the effectiveness (or ineffectiveness) of gov't processes
- Board accepts the invite to present – Mike points out PEI Potato and FED Ag will be presenting too, and PEIWA should have a separate presentation

#### Richmond Bay:

- Mike asked deputy minister to contact Richmond to help bring back to table and will follow up soon if no response
- Johanna – Leonard (chair) is not doing very well, but believes they did sign the commitment agreement

#### Staff job duties:

- Mike notes staff job duties are maxed out – administrative jobs tasks are shared between the current 3 employees, and this time commitment is enough for another full-time position
  - o Board agrees
  - o Dale C suggests WA needs 1, maybe 2 more employees and that it is hard to entice workers when there is no job security (where do these funds come from?)
  - o Andrew notes that groups have this same problem, but if groups want to be bigger, WA needs to be bigger as well if WA is to be there to support groups
- Dale M was amazed when he first joined the WA board that there is no executive director and thinks WA needs a face
- Scott suggests board should have an agreement with gov't for more positions like Mary's / Watershed Ecologist (i.e. gov't supported, permanent)
- Karen suggests groups have an option for an annual donation back to WA – e.g. "\$1500-2000 given back to PEIWA for the supports that it provides"
  - o Scott agrees with this, but still thinks board should go to gov't first as the alliance has grown as well as the resources they provide
- Mike asks Dale C (since Dale was on the board when they were setting up the Watershed Ecologist position) – Dale C will do some digging to refresh his memory – though can say it was very hard to convince the gov't as this was never done before, or after

- Mary notes that WA needs an admin ASAP is if we are going to survive this summer without Angela
- Dale M suggests board strikes an HR committee to get this done, and would be willing to sit on this committee
  - o Mike and Dale C also volunteer
  - o Dale C will create a job description and send to staff for feedback – Mary, Angela and Rebecca will be key when creating this description

#### Angela's Replacement:

- Job ad had gotten 1 applicant, support for 6-month contract (until March 2022)
- Motion to hire Charlotte Large: moved by Dale C, seconded by Karen
- Mary notes project management dollars need to be spent by 2022 and it may be possible to add an additional person to help write applications in fall – she had gotten responses from people who could not apply now but were interested in the position and can write applications
  - o Mike suggests contracting someone from a watershed group to write applications
- Angela will meet with Charlotte next Wednesday, along with Rebecca and Mary

*A broad thank you to Angela for making this project her own and really elevating alliance to what it is today.*

#### Office space:

- Consensus from board and staff to acquire an office space - is board willing to help find a space? Need office and storage space, parking space, and ideally access to a board meeting room – Dale C and Mike volunteer to help find a space
  - o Andrew suggests asking gov't if they have any available space (possibly covid restrictions – Mike will ask Kate)
- Angela suggests 12x12ft for storage

#### ClimateSense Intern:

- Mary recommends ClimateSense accepts new replacement for PEIWA intern, board agrees
- Mary will reach out to let CS hiring staff know

#### Bat Analysis Technician:

- Got a response from 1 applicant, though it is Rebecca's brother – is board okay with this?
- Dale C – Beggars can't be choosers
- Mike – though it is not generally a great practice for family to work together, if there is no one else we shouldn't miss this opportunity, as Rebecca needs the help

**Next Meeting penciled for August 4<sup>th</sup>, 4PM – though board will leave until end of month to decide. Play by ear.**

## PM UPDATE

July 7, 2021

**HSP Round 2-** We didn't receive any applications for the SkillsPEI position so I amended the contribution agreement again to remove the staff portion. After numerous questions from Ottawa the agreement is now at the last stage of approval in Ottawa. Funds should be going to groups in the next few weeks.

### **ECCC Climate Action and Awareness**

**Fund** "Community-Based Climate Action on Prince Edward Island." Contribution agreement has been finalized and signed. Funds from the project will go to fund Rebecca's position, extend the 4 climate sense interns by 3 months and help pay for an admin/pm person. The oyster reef project is underway and will be completed by July 12, 1/3 living shoreline projects will be completed on July 13 with the other 2/3 completed the week of July 19<sup>th</sup>. I have been organizing/ordering all the materials for the 3 projects and assisting the artists with their needs. The three associated art projects are underway and they have begun social media postings.

### **PEI Climate Challenge Fund, Round**

**2**  
yet.

No response

### **Atlantic**

#### **DataStream**

otte completed her work term and Rebecca is working to get the rest of the data on ADS.

Charl

### **Atlantic Ecosystems**

#### **Initiative**

Meet with groups and Mike Van den Heuval to discuss water sampling/runoff monitoring for 2021. MSc student is working with KNWA. Groups continue to do their water quality monitoring.

### **Sectoral Initiative**

#### **Funding**

The application was submitted March 3 for \$298,120 over three years with Holland College as a project partner. No response as of yet.

### **CRF Project**

#### **Updates**

Oyster Reef project (with DFO/MCPEI)-Loggers deployed, reef paste complete, gabions constructed and deployed. Dalhousie staff here this week doing drone and survey work. Construction to be completed July 12.

WRTBWA- 2 culverts will be replaced (TIE) and embedded culvert work will start July 12. Will Daniels at NS Adopt a Stream is doing a chute design for one of the sites.

KNWA- Submitted a detailed permit application for the larger-scale salt marsh creation project and met on site with a local dredging company, EcoTechnologies. Coir logs have been delivered for this coming field season with the plan to build large cells to be filled.

SABWF- Permit requested, should be here this week SMU will be assisting with field surveys later this month. May be an opportunity to bring KNWA dredge here so they can use two at once to increase productivity.

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- Second bridge structure will be completed this summer/fall.

**Storage/office Space-** has become a necessity. Options were sent to board previously.

**Website-** Worked with Ellen Andrews to migrate our website over to Hi There Designs. She has been very responsive and should assist with getting documents uploaded in a timely manner.

**Training**

GreenShores Level 2- Sept 1-2<sup>nd</sup>. In partnership with UPEI ClimateSense Program/SMU/UBC.

Rapid geomorphic assessment training with Ron Jenkins (week of Sept 13<sup>th</sup>).

Living Shorelines site at new Stratford Waterfront Park- July 13<sup>th</sup>- ½ day on site, ½ day in classroom with Rosemarie Lohnes at Helping Nature Heal.

PM Salary budget		(15 weeks)	(37 weeks)
	TOTAL	Angela (April 1- July 15)	New Employee(s) (July 16-March 31, 2021)
AEI	2000	0	2000
CRF (48 WEEKS)	46285	14035.95	32249.05
CAAF/EDF	33870	15788.0069	***18081.9931
HSP Round 2	2070	0	2070
Total	84225	29823.9569	54401.0431

\*\*\* Funds could be used for admin support instead of PM.

I am starting my position with the province on July 15<sup>th</sup> but will volunteer a few hours per week going forward to assist with project deliverables/answer questions as required.

July 6, 2021

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

**Projects underway:**

**1. Forested Landscape Priority Places:**

- a. Project in cooperation with PEI Invasive Species Council:
  - Financial details have been sorted between PEI ISC and Alliance
  - Invasive species management/removal training days for watershed groups are being scheduled for this summer. Training will include spotting/identification of species and management/removal of bittersweet, wild cucumber and knotweed
- b. Federation of PEI Municipalities has hired their Conservation Specialist, Kathrin Munro. Asked by Federation to provide interview questions relating to watershed management for candidate selection process.  
Have provided Kathrin with reading materials related to watershed management. Will be meeting with her next week and have asked her to attend watershed worker training.

**2. Habitat Stewardship Program – Bats**

- Still trying to fill Skills PEI position
- Should we apply for a Rural Jobs Initiative position this fall to assist with data analyses?

**3. Living Labs**

- New Zealand site was selected for the vegetated drainage ditch site (Rollo Bay Holdings) this year. Permitting needs to be submitted soon to allow for construction this fall.
- Garry Gregory to assist with monitoring of last year's wetland sites using Wetland Ecosystem Services Protocol (WESP) so we can measure ecological impact.
- AAFC went a different direction with promotional videos, produced videos for social media, Souris Wildlife highlighted the wetlands for PEIWA.

**4. WMF assessments/ Communications with FFW**

- Completed 10 WMF group assessments as requested by Kate.
- Kelley Farrar is FFW's new information officer.
- Rosie has taken leave until September.

**5) Training Courses**

- Organized participants for 2 chainsaw courses offered by Forestry
- Between meetings, Alliance board approved budget for training courses including: full subsidization of MacPhail Woods Training, 1 participant per group for First Aid training and hall rental fees for First Aid/Watershed Worker Training, approximately \$2605
  - MacPhail Woods Training Courses
    - 2 offerings (July 5 and 6th), 32 participants, 8 groups
  - Watershed Worker Training
    - 3 offerings: July 5th in Freeland with support from Lot 11 and TUCPCC, Kris Hunter
    - July 8th in Souris with support from Souris Wildlife, Kris Hunter
    - July 15th in Hunter River with support from Central Queens

- First Aid Training: 2 offerings July 7 and 14th with help from Karalee McAskill

**6) Other**

- Conducting site visits and answering questions for watershed groups (considerable this time of year)
- Received updated Certificate of Liability Insurance, have not made any changes from last year.
- Attending NCC's PEI Natural Heritage Plan Meeting #1 today (July 7th)
- Have received DFO Fish Collection permit for the electrofisher

## **Equipment Manager Update**

July 7th, 2021

### **Habitat Stewardship Program – Bats:**

- Into week 3 of NA Bat monitoring
- Monitors deployed at 36 stationary sites
- Assisting groups with creating routes for driving transects, 2 have been completed and will have 3 more by the end of the week
  - Participating groups: SAB, BAWG, MPMC, PREP, HCWG, TREC, SSWA, BBEMA
- Set up a bat booth at WRIG's Environmental Fun Day with Charlotte (bilingual)
- Met with Tessa to do a colony count in Cavendish
  - Groups had opportunities to go out with Tessa as well
- Sent a list of potential colonies to groups to perform their own colony counts in July, and I can help groups that were not able to get training from Tessa
  - List was gathered from Bat Hotline reports and was used by CWHC in previous years (~60 sites)
- Manually confirming auto ID files from 2020 monitoring
  - Forwarding data reports to groups for the GRTs completed

### **DataStream data upload:**

- Analyzed and created a data report for SAB's Hay River temperature data (ASCF)
  - Formatting all SAB's data for Atlantic DataStream

### **Equipment Bank:**

- Calibration solutions were delivered to all groups with YSIs
- Calibration training with SAB, and meeting with BAWG next week
- Have been loaning out / calibrating the alliance's YSIs weekly
- Outreach materials have been in use regularly
- Troubleshoot HCWG's YSI (needs new DO) and programmed some of their old loggers for redeployment
- All of the alliance's water loggers have been loaned out for the season and I have now started a waiting list
- Calibration training with western groups today