

**PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting  
Thursday, April 6th, 2023  
4- 6 pm via Zoom**

**Board Members in Attendance: Juliana Granzoti, Andrew Lush, Nic Bergeron, Sherry Pelkey, Kris Hunter, Dale McIsaac, Dawn McInnis**

**Staff Members in Attendance: Heather Laiskonis, Nathan LaCroix**

**1) Call to Order**

The meeting called to order at 4:01 PM

**2) Approval of Agenda**

- Motion to approve agenda as amended
- Moved by Juliana Granzoti, Seconded by Sherry Pelkey
- Passed unanimously

**3) Approval of Minutes from March 2nd, 2023**

- Motioned by Andrew Lush and Seconded by Juliana Granzoti
- Passed unanimously

**Business arising from the minutes**

**4) Discussion items:**

**a) Finances-Accountant procedures-which level of protection:**

- An email was sent out to the board by Heather in regards to three levels of procedures in terms of financial protection provided to us by the Alliance's current Accountant.
- Andrew Lush expressed that he thinks these services are quite expensive.
- Kris Hunter mentioned that a level three audit is needed seeing that a full audit hasn't been done for the alliance in a few years.
- Andrew Lush recommends that the Alliance gets a level three audit
- Heather recommends that the alliance stays with its current accountant for the audit due to their working together for several years.
- Andrew Lush recommends getting quotes from two other accountants.
- Heather to reach out and get a quote on the accountants-will email the board.

**b) May 11th-AGM-speaker [ideas](#)**

- i) Heather will plan the AGM and will require additional help from the Board.

**c) Conference Budget for Charlotte and Heather**

- Charlotte will be attending the RE3 Conference-a four-day conference being put on jointly by the Society for Ecological Restoration (Eastern Canada) and Canadian Land

Reclamation Association. The theme this year is “Reclaim, Restore, Rewild,” which focuses broadly on ecological restoration and specifically on the sustainability of wetlands with reference to forestry and agriculture. This conference is the only nature-based solution and climate change happening in our region. The cost of this conference is \$650.

- Heathers conference for Coastal Zone Canada in Victoria is \$650 which was covered by a sponsor. Travel and accommodation costs are an additional \$2k.
- Kris mentioned that a policy or guidance should be put in place to steer how much funds can be allocated toward professional development.
- Juliana mentioned that attending conferences is great visibility for watersheds on PEI to showcase the work done on the island.

**d) Haven Loft Donation of trees**

- Andrew Lush meets with Jesse from haven wood nursery, who is interested in donating bare-root trees to watershed groups.
- Andrew will find out whether Jessy will be looking for tax receipts for his donation.
- Kris mentioned that he thinks some groups won't plant the bare roots trees because they are non-native species.

**e) Forestry sub-committee update**

- There were 13 individuals and organizations interviewed in which positive feedback was given.
- Andrew has summarized all the interviews and will be compiling them into a document without any reference to who said what in hopes of making it public to give to the forestry committee and other groups.

**f) Sustainable Forest Alliance partnership**

- The Forest Alliance is aiming to get 20,000 acres of PEI under their management for two reasons: They want to be able to recommend contractors to do work under forest management plans. These contractors will focus on ecological biodiversity goals rather than financials. Secondly, they want to attain carbon credit status, which they will apply to the acres and give the land owners the carbon credit funds.
- The alliance will wait for a formal proposal from the Forest Alliance before moving forward with any more communication.

**g) Steering committee for data management**

- Heather thinks that it's a good idea to start a steering committee and invite stakeholders to discuss data management across sectors of PEI.
- Sherry mentioned that the government has a lot of things in place already and was wondering if the committee is something that should be worked through them.
- Heather mentioned that there was an issue with the government doing it because some of the data could not be shared. Will definitely invite the government to join the steering committee.

- Kris suggests that data standardization can be incorporated with the data management committee.
- Heather to start a steering committee with relevant island stakeholders
- h) Board of Director evaluation-what, if anything, would you like to see?**
- Heather suggests there be an exit interview whenever board members leave.
- Heather to work on a document that will be distributed to the board to inform what the evaluation process looks like, which will include a code of conduct, orientation (onboarding), job description and exit interview.
- Sherry asked Heather to look into Board Member classes through Holland College.
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- i) Should we include coastal zones in our mandate?**
- Heather recommended that the Alliance's mandate should be updated to include coastal zones, as there is an increase in funding for coastal zones and a lack of management on our coastlines.
- Kris suggested bringing it forward as an idea to the province and to our members at the AGM to let them know this is something the board discussed and was considering for inclusion as part of our mandate but that it would be voted upon by the members at a later date after we completed a strategic plan (after which we will have a slew of things for the membership to approve).
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- j) Additional Funds to be allocated.**
- Funds will continue to be held for Richmond Bay until proper paperwork is completed.
- k) Wild Atlantic Salmon Partnership for PEI-the Alliance has been asked to lead it; the draft document is found [here](#).**
- Stephen Chase has asked the Alliance to lead the Atlantic Salmon Partnership. The list of potential partners would be PEIWA, Abegweit First Nation, PEI Department of Environment, Energy and Climate, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and ASCF.
- Heather to get back to Stephen and inform him that the draft was presented to the board and inform him that the board would like to work on the draft, and that a formal resolution has not been met yet.
- l) Truck/2BT trees update**
- The alliance will receive \$172,000 from the 2B Tree funds. This will fund the following for 2023
  - Truck
  - Coordinator
  - Supplies
- m) The Alliance Received \$1.5 million in AERF funding for three years for capacity building. Funding begins in March 2024**
- n) Aquaculture Alliance-Beach Cleanup**
- All 24 watershed groups are signed on for the Beach Cleanup.

- An interactive map will be created for this initiative to get volunteers involved.

**5) Financial Update**

- See folder for Update

**6) Project Manager/ED Update**

See folder for Update

**7) Equipment Manager Update**

- See the folder for an update

**8) Review Forward Agenda-taxes**

- See the folder for an update

**9) Other**

**The meeting Adjourned at 5:58**