

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
Thursday, February 1st, 2024
4-6 pm via Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Sherry Pelkey, Virginia Everett, Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Kris Hunter, Andrew Lush, Dawn McInnis, Dale McIsaac, Jake MacKinnon
Staff Members in Attendance: Heather Laiskonis, Nathan LaCroix, Charlotte Large

1) Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 4:01 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Kris Hunter and seconded by Dawn McInnis
- Passed unanimously

3) Approval of Minutes from December 7th, 2023

- Moved Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, second by Kris Hunter
- Passed Unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

- a) Kris' discussion with Aslan rep / Andrew Murray
 - A meeting was held where the company(ASLAN) discussed retrofitting existing dams on the island for power generation. Sites for this project have been scouted, and there are 19 potential sites.
- b) **Letter of support for ECOPEI**
 - The letter of support was posted to the alliance's social media accounts and LinkedIn. It was also sent to CBC and Saltwire, who did not pick up the story.
- c) **Data Steering Committee meeting with Josh Wry**
 - Heather spoke with Josh after the ESRI workshop, where they discussed general data back in October-no news since. Next Data Steering Committee meeting is Feb 5th
- d) **Feedback/results of letters to MPs re ACOA extension**
 - Most groups sent letters to their MPs.
 - The program officer for ACOA said that sending the letters for extensions seemed to be working; however, It was brought to Heather's attention that releasing the ACOA press release early may have put the extension in jeopardy.

5) Discussion items:

- a) **PEI Watershed Alliance nominee to ALUS PAC**
 - Jake MacKinnon was the Watersheds alliance representative on the ALUS PAC, but he is leaving the position.
 - Jake will help with the process of finding the replacement watershed representative.
- b) **PEIISC update**
 - The PEIISC no longer requires the alliance's help with being an admin. They will continue with the Canadian Center of Invasive Species for the administrative work.
- c) **AGM-speaker ideas, format, etc**

- For this year's AGM, the alliance will have a speaker from the DFO and also Adam Maclean, who will speak during the first portion of the meeting.
- Heather to send out an email to the board with info about board member terms.

d) Rec Fisheries Meeting: trapping and other items

- There is a group within the province who are trying to have an outright ban on trapping. They have a presence at the Charlottetown Farmers Market online, and they're being backed by the former leader of the Green party who is going to present a petition to the legislature this spring with the efforts to ban trapping altogether.

e) Salmon Meeting

- The meeting held was very informal and informative. The goal was to set up initial conversations with groups.

f) PEIWA beach clean-up; future

- The PEI government reached out to the alliance asking for a proposal regarding the running of the province beach cleanup program. Motion for the PEIWA staff to create a proposal for the provincial government/Michelle Hewitt to be reviewed and approved by the board before being presented.
- Moved by Juliana Fernandes Granzoti and seconded by **Sherry Pelkey**
- Passed unanimously

g) AEI Audit

- See the project manager update for details.
- As a result of the problems getting figures for the audit, we agreed to revisit the reporting requirements of groups on projects where the funding comes through the Alliance

h) Upcoming events and promotions

- i) Community Brew Launch: February 16th
- The PEI Brewing Company has launched a beer called 'Ripple Effect.' One dollar from each can sold will be donated to the alliance, which will go toward the equipment bank.
- ii) Potato Expo: Feb 22 and 23
- Gwen Vessey and Cassidy will be there for both days, promoting AWP and 2 Billion trees.
- iii) Soil and crop: March 6th and 7th
- Staff will cover the booth on both days, but board members are encouraged to come.

i) ATV club letter of support

- They approached the alliance regarding how they could get more trees along the trail.
- When meeting with the ATV club leaders, it was suggested that they go for a grant where they take a section of trail and do best management practices.
- If they were to do something like that, Heather would ask the board for a letter of support.

j) 2 Million Fund Deadlines

- Brad Potter would like the steering committee which Dale chaired for this fund to get back together and discuss whether new deadlines need to be put in place, review some of the projects that have not been completed and get an update on that.

- Heather and Dale will be meeting with Brad in the not-too-distant future to get an update on what the expectations are from the Department of Environment on that \$2 million fund that they sent to us two years ago.

k) Strategic Planning Update

- Motion to accept the proposal that Vicki Bryanton sent the Alliance and continue conversations with her down the strategic planning pathway.
- Moved by Andrew Lush and seconded by Virginia Everett.
- Passed unanimously

l) Conference budget: Nature-Based [Solutions](#)

- The budget for the conference is to be presented to the board at the next meeting.

m) Move the next Board meeting (March 8th)

- The next board meeting will be held on March 14th, 2024.

6) Reports

- a) Financial Update
 - See the folder for an update
- b) Project Manager/ED Update
 - See the folder for an update
- c) Equipment Manager Update
 - See the folder for an update
- d) 2BT Coordinator Update
 - See the folder for an update
- e) Review Forward Agenda
 - See the folder for an update
- f) Other