

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting

Thursday, September 5th, 2024

4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via In-person/Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: Sherry Pelkey, Andrew Lush, Dale McIsaac, Virginia Everett, Jake MacKinnon, Dawn McInnis

Staff Members in Attendance: Heather Laiskonis, Nathan LaCroix, Charlotte Large, Rebecca Ramos

Observers: Lawrence Millar, Raena Parent, Victoria Hawkins, John Lane

1) Call to Order

Meeting Called to order at 4:02 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Jake Mackinnon, seconded by Sherry Pelkey
- Passed Unanimously

3) Approval of Minutes from July 4th, 2024

- Moved by Jake MacKinnon, Seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

a) budget committee

- Andrew and Sherry have joined the budget committee along with Dale and Dawn.
- Motion to have a subcommittee created to review and view the budget documents with the executive director.
- Moved by Dawn McInnis, seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed unanimously

b) Ribbon cutting at the nursery

- The province that administers the federal 2 Billion Trees funds has asked the alliance not to proceed with the event.

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c) Future funding for the nursery

- There is federal funding through ECCC for seed collectors; however, it's not a lot. The maximum is only up to \$15,000. An expression of interest was submitted for this funding.
- Initial conversations with individuals from FLPP were had regarding funding for Mellissa's position.

5) Discussion items:

a) Financial Training for Watershed Groups

- Andrew Lush brought up the point that there is a lack of knowledge among new coordinators when it comes to basic accounting. He recommended that the PEIWA should have a resource for new coordinators, whether it be a document or a workshop.
- Heather will reach out to Emma Fugate for E-accounting services to see what this resource may look like, whether it be a presentation or a document with basic accounting definitions.
- Nathan is working on a single PEI Watershed Alliance Resource spreadsheet with all the resources that watershed groups need.

b) Watersheds Canada Package

- Watersheds Canada has a program similar to the 2BIL Trees program that they offer to land owners and is looking for partners on the ground to administer the program.
- Landowners will have access to an app along with shrubs, pollinators and trees.
- The PEIWA does not have the capacity to take this on and would like to pass it on to the watershed groups.
- Sherry brought up the point that she thinks some watershed groups won't be able to keep up with the program.
- Virginia brought up the point that it's a good opportunity for some groups to connect with landowners directly.
- If the groups decide to take up the Watersheds Canada program, the PEIWA will hold an information session.

c) 2 million Fund 2.0

- From the institutional 2 million fund, there is \$700,000 left over from groups that were not able to complete projects. The alliance would like to redistribute these funds for projects in the upcoming year.
- The timeline for groups to apply for the redistribution of the 700k fund is September 15, 2024- January 15th, 2025.
- Motion that the 700k fund be open from September 15, 2024, to January 15, 2025.
- Moved by Jake MacKinnon seconded Dawn McInnis.
- Passed unanimously.

d) AERF Updates

- Over the summer, all the agreements have been signed.
- All groups have a watershed management template that they can essentially use to take whatever data and surveys they see fit in one spot. This can be applied to future aquatic restoration projects.
- Each group gets \$16,200.
- All but four groups have signed an MOU. Groups that have signed their MOU have received their funding. Charlotte Large will be hosting writing workshops, which are opportunities for groups to ask questions and get together as a collective rather than individually.

e) Letter to Minister Myers

- Dale and Heather have been working on a letter to the minister encouraging him to revisit the buffer zone legislation.

- Sherry brought up the point that the wording should read all watersheds instead of critical watersheds.
- Motion to approve sending the letter to Minister Myers
- Moved by Sherry Pelkey, seconded by Dawn McInnis
- Passed unanimously

f) DHI ESA proposal approved

- The PEIWA partnered with DHI a few months back about a European space agency grant to get PEI mapped by doing a trial. They were offering about \$20,000 for the entire island to do some ground truthing. The only request that Heather made was for the watershed groups and the PEIWA to get access to these maps when they are completed.

g) HSP Salmon Update

- There was a temperature pilot project that was originally supposed to be done next summer, but it ended up happening this summer (2024).
- The other component of the project was hiring a salmon project coordinator to take point on all salmon initiatives that the alliance has been talking about, but no one has had the capacity to take on. This person is now fully funded for next year's fiscal year; however, the alliance would like to start before the field season to make connections.
- Charlotte will be applying to the Wildlife Conservation Fund, etc., to get wage funding so the salmon project coordinator can start earlier.
- The Salmon Technical Committee met and hammered out the goals and adjectives for this initiative, and based on that; Charlotte Large was able to make a job description for the salmon project coordinator.

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h) Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy

- Nathan Wilbur, who is director at Atlantic Salmon Federation, just put together a letter to send to the minister and DFO, saying you need to not only have Salmon's strategy in place, you need to have the money to back it up the Maritimes.

i) Strategy Update

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6) Reports

a) Financial Update

- See folder for update.

b) Project Manager/ED Update

- See folder for update.

c) Equipment Manager Update

- See folder for update.

d) 2BT Coordinator Update

- See folder for update.

e) Review Forward Agenda

- See folder for update.

f) Other

