

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 from 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 4th, 4PM – though board will leave until end of month to decide. Play by ear.