

**PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting**  
**Thursday, December 5th, 2024**  
**4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via Zoom**

**Board Members: Andrew Lush, Kris Hunter, Sherry Pelkey, Jake Mackinnon, Virginia Everett, Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Dawn McInnis**  
**Staff Members: Nathan Lacroix, Heather Laiskonis**

**1) Call to Order**

- Meeting Called to order at 4:12 PM

**2) Approval of Agenda**

- Moved by Jake Mackinnon
- Seconded by Dawn McInnis
- Passed Unanimously

**3) Approval of Minutes from November 7th, 2024**

- Moved by Sherry Pelkey
- Seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed Unanimously

**4) Business arising from the minutes**

**5) Discussion items:**

**a) GIC - Expiring**

- GIC is Expiring on December 8th
- The PEIWA is currently undergoing audits for the past two years, which will provide clarity on financial status before reinvesting.
- There is an emphasis on ensuring that funds are invested quickly once the audit process is completed to support upcoming projects.
- Once it expires the funds will be placed back into the account which should be reinvested as soon as possible.

**b) Petition in support of the South Coast Fjords NMCA**

- The South Coast Fjords NMCA petition aims to establish a National Marine Conservation Area to protect pristine marine environments in South Newfoundland.
- The petition has garnered support from local communities and environmental organizations, emphasizing the importance of preserving marine biodiversity and preventing agricultural expansion in sensitive areas.
- As an organization the PEIWA can send a letter of support to the Minister of Fisheries in Newfoundland and also to Parks Canada saying that the alliances A65 in support of the NMCA.
- Andrew Recommend that the letters go out separately from the online portal petition.
- Motion for Heather to write a letter of support for the South Coast Fjords NMCA.
- Moved by Andrew Lush Seconded by Juliana Fernandes Granzoti
- Passed Unanimously.

**c) Possibly funding Phd research on Striped Bass \$3750 + hst for minimum 3 years (2 payments a year) =\$22,500 (mitacs program). See Board folder**

- The funding request is for 3,750 per semester for a minimum of three years, totaling approximately 22,000.
- The research aims to understand the population dynamics and ecological impact of striped bass in relation to other species in the same ecosystem.
- Research would aim to understand the ecological dynamics of headwaters and their influence on fish populations, particularly striped bass.
- The study would investigate how changes in headwater conditions affect the habitat and spawning behavior of both declining and recovering fish species.
- More details on the specific research questions and objectives of the PhD project are required.
- Clarification on the funding structure and financial commitments from other partners is necessary.
- Input from other watershed groups and stakeholders should be gathered to assess their interest and involvement.

**d) Strategic Plan Approval Review**

- Motion to finish off the approval process for the strategic plan.
- Moved by Sherry Pelkey seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed Unanimously

**6) Reports**

**a) Financial Update**

- See Folder for Update

**b) 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) Staffing updates**

- Funding secured to keep Melissa on
- Funding has been secured through the 2 Billion Trees program.
- Melissa will continue her role during the off-season to support the program's activities.
- New project manager to be hired in January
- The new project manager will oversee equipment management and project coordination.

**g) Other**