

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
Thursday, February 6th, 2025
4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via Zoom

Board Members: Dale McIsaac, Andrew Lush, Kris Hunter, Sherry Pelkey, Jake Mackinnon, Virginia Everett, Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Anna Doran, Dawn Mcinnis
Staff Members: Nathan Lacroix, Heather Laiskonis, Sarah Wheatley
Observers: John Lane

1) Call to Order (welcome Sarah Wheatley)

- Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM.

2) Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Sherry Pelkey Seconded by Juliana Granzoti
- Passed unanimously

3) Approval of Minutes from December 5th, 2024

- Moved by Dawn seconded by Andrew Lush
- Passed unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

a) GIC reinvestment

- Heather had a meeting with the PEIWA accountant and the audit for the 2023-2024 year is expected to be completed shortly.
- The audit is being conducted internally at the request of the board, not due to external requirements.
- The executive committee is awaiting the completion of the audit to make informed decisions on GIC reinvestment.
- The committee plans to handle the decision via email to expedite the process while ensuring all members can weigh in.

b) Striped Bass research request

- The alliance had an opportunity to fund a PhD through partnerships.
- The board decided not to pursue the striped bass research request due to the following reasons: There was a lack of clarity regarding the specific research questions that needed to be addressed. The board felt that resources could be better allocated to projects with defined objectives and outcomes. Concerns were raised about the relevance and priority of the research in relation to the organization's overall goals.

5) Discussion items:

a) Data Committee: revisit conversation on data collection and storage

- There is an importance of aligning data collection methods across different watershed groups to enhance comparability and efficiency.
- There is a need for clear guidelines and standards to reduce redundancy and ensure that data collected serves specific watershed management goals.

- It was discussed that there is a necessity of engaging with stakeholders to clarify the purpose of data collection and to avoid unnecessary efforts that do not contribute to actionable outcomes.
- Workshops and one-on-one sessions will be offered to guide groups in developing tailored data strategies that meet their unique objectives and improve overall project outcomes. Discussion will highlight the importance of aligning data collection with specific goals and objectives to enhance decision-making processes.
- The presentation will cover best practices for data consistency, including recording methods and standardization to improve data quality and usability.

b) Meeting with the Minister

- Heather Laiskonis and Dale McIsaac meet with Minister Arsenault
- Deputy Minister Carpenter, and Director McQuarrie.
- The meeting provided an opportunity to introduce the Watershed Alliance and its ongoing projects to Minister Arsenault
- Minister Arsenault expressed interest in the work being done and received a briefing on the partnerships and initiatives of the Alliance.
- The meeting set the stage for future requests, including an invitation to the AGM and a potential budget increase in the fall.

c) Audit

- The audit for fiscal 2023 and 2024 is expected to be completed shortly.
- The audit is being conducted internally at the request of the board, not due to external requirements.
- No red flags have been reported during the audit process thus far.

d) Truck Cap

- Options presented: Contour 3 and Contour 4
- The Contour 3 is the more economical option, suitable for basic needs.
- The Contour 4 includes additional features like an interior fabric liner, a front tilt-down window, and a dome light.
- Motion to purchase the Contour 4 Cap for the alliance truck.
- Moved by Jake Mackinnon seconded by Virginia Everett
- Passed unanimously

e) Pond Dredging

- Lack of clear guidelines and communication from provincial and federal authorities leads to confusion and frustration among watershed groups regarding funding and project feasibility.
- Historical neglect of certain ponds results in environmental issues such as increased vegetation growth and anoxic events, complicating the decision-making process for maintenance or decommissioning.
- The high costs and short-term benefits of previous dredging projects raise concerns about the effectiveness and sustainability of such initiatives, prompting calls for better technical advice and planning.
- Motion for the PEIWA to write letters to the appropriate parties regarding policies or directions of dredging ponds.
- Moved by Dale McIsaac seconded by Shery Pelkey

- **PEIWA 15th Anniversary**
- If board members have any ideas to celebrate this anniversary send ideas to Heather, Nathan or Sarah.

f) Upcoming Events

- Soil and Crop event, AWP meeting in Montague
- AWP meeting in Montague will focus on collaboration between farmers and watershed groups to address environmental concerns.

6) Reports

- a) Financial Update (audit status)
 - See folder for Update
- b) ED Update
 - See folder for Update
- c) Monitoring Specialist Update
 - See folder for Update
- d) 2BT Coordinator Update
 - See folder for Update
- e) Review Forward Agenda
 - See folder for Update
- f) Staffing updates
 -
- g) Other

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM.