

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

Board Members: Kris Hunter, Sherry Pelkey, Jake Mackinnon, Virginia Everett, Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Dawn Mcinnis

Staff Members: Nathan Lacroix, Heather Laiskonis,

Observers: Sarah Wray

1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:02 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda
- Moved by **Juliana** seconded by Dawn
- Passed Unanimously

3) Approval of Minutes from February 6, 2025

- Motion to approved February 6th meeting minutes
- Moved by Sherry seconded by **Virginia**

4) Business arising from the minutes

a)

5) Discussion items:

a) AGM 2025-elections, location,time change

- Heather proposed moving the AGM for this year to Summerside instead of the usual location in Charlottetown at the farm center and changing the AGM time to an earlier slot in May to better suit attendees' schedules
- The move aims to accommodate western and central groups, making attendance easier for them.
- Potential venues in Summerside, such as the Credit Union, have been identified for hosting the AGM.
- Election in the East is necessary due to Jake stepping down, with plans for nominations and voting at the upcoming AGM.
- Potential guest speakers discussed include researchers from the Saprolegnia project and invasive species work, with a call for additional suggestions from board members.
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b) WMF students

- [Explanation of historical student allocation to watershed groups\(See folder for details\)](#)
- Mary called Juliana over the summer to ask if she would be willing to share her student (yes).Ginny and Sherry would, however, the central doesn't want to weigh in on student assignment.. Dawn shares in the west currently.

- Motion that the PEIWA take no action because it is not the PEIWA program and will inform Forest Fish and Wildlife of the decision and will follow up with the conversation in the future.

- Moved by **Juliana** seconded by **Virginia**

- Passed unanimously

c) Climatatlantic Project

- Request for alliance to administer \$20,000 for Climatatlantic project
- The funds will be used to support climate adaptation initiatives in Charlottetown.
- The alliance will handle the administrative tasks associated with the funding, ensuring timely payments to project partners.
- This collaboration aims to strengthen partnerships and enhance the effectiveness of climate adaptation efforts in the region.
- Motion for the PEIWA to act as the administration of the funds for the Climatatlantic project.

- Moved by Kris and Seconded by Juliana

- Passed unanimously

d) PEI Environmental Assessment and a potential new environmental impact fund

- Discussion on PEI's lack of defined environmental assessment process
 - PEI currently lacks a formal environmental assessment process that outlines what projects require assessment and the procedures involved.
 - This absence can lead to inconsistencies in project approvals and potential environmental impacts being overlooked.
- Proposal to engage with province on environmental assessment policy
 - Encourage the establishment of clear definitions and guidelines for what constitutes an environmental impact assessment in P.E.I.
 - Facilitate public and stakeholder involvement in the assessment process to ensure transparency and accountability.
 - Explore potential funding opportunities or offsetting mechanisms to support environmental restoration efforts related to development projects.
 - Add PEI Environmental Assessment and a potential new environmental impact fund to forward agenda

e) US citizenship/PEI WA signing officer status

- Kris hunter is requesting that he can disclose that he is a signing officer for the PEIWA, along with the PEIWA bank account number and the maximum amount of funds that was in the account when he was a signing officer.
- This is for a F-bar document that he has to submit to the IRS
- Motion for The PEIWA to disclose to the IRS that Kris Hunter is the signing officer for the PEIWA, the PEIWA bank account number and the maximum amount of funds that was in the account while Kris Hunter was a signing officer.
- Moved by **Juliana** and seconded by **Virginia**
- Passed Unanimously

f) Culvert maintenance

- Discussion on allowing watershed groups to maintain culverts
 - Watershed groups may be allowed to perform low-level maintenance on provincially owned culverts to improve fish passage and address minor issues.
 - This approach could help alleviate delays in maintenance and repairs caused by provincial bureaucracy.
 - Collaboration with the Department of Transportation is essential to establish guidelines and ensure compliance with regulations.
- Add culvert maintenance to forward agenda for further discussion

g) PEIWA 15th Anniversary

- Board members were encouraged to brainstorm creative ideas for giveaways and events to mark the milestone.
- There will be a social media post on the day of the anniversary to highlight this milestone.

h) PEIWA Truck Use - Pride PEI

- The board approves letting Nathan use the truck to transport items for the Pride PEI polar pride event on March 15th, 2025.

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 5:58 PM