

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
Thursday, April 3rd, 2025
4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via Zoom

Board Members: Kris Hunter, Andrew Lush , Juliana Fernandes Granzoti, Sherry Pelkey, Jake Mackinnon, Dale McIsaac

Staff: Heather Laiskonis, Nathan Lacroix

Observers: Kim Curran, Lawrence Millar, John Lane

1) Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 4:03 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Sherry seconded by Andrew
- Passed Unanimously

3) Approval of [Minutes from March 6th, 2025](#)

- Moved by Juliana and seconded by Jake
- Passed Unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

a) AGM update

- AGM will be held in Summerside, providing easier access for Western groups.
- The meeting is scheduled for May 8th at 2:30 PM, allowing for afternoon participation.
- Light snacks and coffee will be provided during the AGM for attendees.
- Heather is seeking speaker suggestions for the upcoming AGM to enhance the event's content.
- The deadline for submitting ideas is next Thursday, allowing time for planning and outreach.
- Western seat is vacant, with Kim considering stepping in as a representative. Jake is exiting the board, while Sherry and Kris are up for re-election
- Presentation at AGM will include alliance history and story maps

b) Pond maintenance letter response?

- Pond maintenance letter was sent to the relevant authorities.
- No formal response has been received regarding the letter.
- Kate from the government is developing a priority list for ponds to enhance management strategies.
- The priority list aims to identify which ponds require immediate attention for restoration or conservation efforts.

c) PEIWA 15 anniversary

- The P.E.I. Watershed Alliance is planning a celebration for its 15th anniversary.

- A giveaway is being considered as part of the celebration, with suggestions including loggers as a potential item.

5) Discussion items:

a) WGIS support

- Motion for the PEIWA pay 1800 dollars for WGIS and WGIS support.
- Moved by Sherry and seconded by Jake
- Abstain - Andrew
- Passed
- Transitioning from WGIS to ArcGIS is recommended due to the following reasons:
- WGIS is an aging platform that may not be compatible with future software updates, leading to potential data access issues.
- ArcGIS offers more advanced features and tools for data management and analysis, enhancing the capabilities of watershed groups.

b) Credit card motion from March 17 email thread

- The increase in Heather's credit card limit to \$5,000 was approved by the executive committee.
- This adjustment aims to improve administrative efficiency for larger expenses, such as equipment purchases.

c) Forestry Commission Final Report.

- Andrew summarized the Forestry Commission's final report 'Towards a New Forest Policy
- Key recommendations include: maintaining forest area, improving reporting, expanding protected areas, supporting woodlot owners.
- Motion: The PEIWA requests that our Provincial Government fully implements all the recommendations in the final report of the PEI Forestry Commission: 'Towards a New Forest Policy'
- Moved by Andrew seconded by Sherry
- Passed unanimously
- Heather is to draft a response addressing the government's intention to cherry-pick recommendations from the Forestry Commission report.
- The response should emphasize the importance of implementing all recommendations for effective forest management.

6) Reports

a) Financial Update (audit status)

- See folder for Update

b) ED Update

- See folder for Update
- Concerns about groups not submitting required AERF reports on time include:
- Failure to submit reports can lead to funding complications for future projects, affecting the financial stability of both the groups and the alliance. Suggestion to have Dale and Heather draft a firm but polite letter to non-compliant groups

c) Monitoring Specialist Update

See folder for Update

- d) [2BT Coordinator Update](#)
- See folder for Update
 - e) [Review Forward Agenda](#)
 - f) See folder for update
 - g) Staffing updates
 - h) Other
 - i)

Be it resolved that the PEIWA credit card issued to Heather Laiskonis, Executive Director, be approved for an increase in limit to \$5000. This increase will be accompanied by appropriate oversight regulations to be developed among the PEIWA executive, Emma Fugate from the accounting firm E Accounting, and Ms. Laiskonis.

Moved by Dale McIsaac

Seconded by Sherry Pelkey