

PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting

Thursday, April 9th, 2026

4:00 PM- 6:00 PM via Zoom

Board Members: Kris Hunter, Dale McIsaac, Juliana Granzoti Fernandes, Sherry Pelkey, Sarah Wray, Virginia Everett

Staff: Nathan Lacroix, Sarah Wheatley

Guest: Lawrence Miller

1) Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:04 PM

2) Approval of Agenda

- Moved by Sherry and seconded by Virginia
- Passed unanimously

3) Approval of Minutes from [March 12th, 2026](#).

- Moved by Kris seconded by Juliana
- Passed unanimously

4) Business arising from the minutes

- a) AGM details update
 - Sean Ledgerwood has been confirmed as the guest speaker for the AGM.

5) Discussion items:

a) Update signing authority list

- Motion to add Heather Laiskonis as a signing officer for the PEIWA Royal Bank of Canada account.
- Moved by Dale Seconded by Kris
- Passed unanimously

b) AWP employee being housed at PEIWA

- AWP is looking to bring on an additional employee to support Gwen with her workload. The individual would be hired and paid through the PEI Watershed Alliance payroll, while working out of Kensington North Watershed Association and providing support as needed under the direction of Gwen Vessey.
- Sherry thought that this staff should be shared with all watershed groups and not just one watershed group.
- Financial administration by the Alliance for AWP includes handling payments and bookkeeping for Gwen's independent contractor role.
- **The program operates with an independent board, creating a "half in, half out" legal gray area that risks liability.**
- **Kris highlighted that this arrangement could lead to serious consequences if issues arise.**
- Board members agreed on the necessity to formalize the program's governance either by full ownership or establishing the AWP as a separate legal entity which would clarify accountability and reduce exposure to legal risk.
- The provincial government provides the funding for the AWP program.

c) Statement that PEIWA recently distributed

- A press release was issued to distance the Watershed Alliance from a controversial \$100,000 grant scandal linked to Minister Arsenault.
- Virginia and Heather will meet with Minister Compton and deputies on April 15 for introductions and potential dialogue on funding process integrity
- The board sees this as a chance to advocate for better communication and

d) Conference Budget

- Board members expressed concern about rising travel expenses and recommended setting a clear annual conference budget
- Proposals included delegating budget management to Heather with board oversight on exceptions. This approach aims to keep spending manageable while allowing strategic participation.
- Create a structured budget for conference and travel
- Board members agreed on the need to reference the strategic plan more regularly when approving expenditures and initiatives to ensure alignment and priority focus.
- Motion to approve The conference budget to send Heather and Sarah to CLIMAtlantic conference and Sarah alone to trans coastal adaptations conference.
- Moved by Dale and seconded by Virginia
- Passed unanimously

6) Reports

a) Financial Update

- See folder for update

b) ED Update

- See folder for update

c) Project Manager Update

- See folder for update

d) Monitoring Specialist Update

- See folder for update

e) 2BT Coordinator Update

- See folder for update

f) Review Forward Agenda

- See folder for update

g) Staffing updates

h) Other

Meeting closed at 4:56 PM.

In camera

- A) Staff Raises

Meeting adjourned at ??? PM.

Action Items

Heather

- Provide a summary explaining the relationship and funding flow between the Watershed Alliance and AWP for board distribution

Dale/Heather

- Review original paperwork that was signed with AWP to find out where the Alliance stands in the partnership.