

**PEI Watershed Alliance Board Meeting
May 4, 2022
4- 6pm via Zoom**

Google Drive Link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W822OKVr2p-tcKdmdiCdWwU5gObPpj_B?usp=sharing

In Attendance

Board: Mike Durant, Nic Bergeron, Dale McIsaac, Andrew Lush, Juliana Granzoti, Scott Roloson, Dale Cameron

Staff: Mary Finch, Charlotte Large, Rebecca Ramos, Jolene Jackson, Simon Wilmot

Observers: John Lane, Kris Hunter, Sherry Pelkey

1. Call to Order: 4:02
2. Approval of Agenda – agm planning, training moved to Mary, adding WMF subcommittee
3. Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2021 – no changes motion to approve – Andrew Lush/ Nic motion carried
4. Discussion items:

Disinfection Kits – Mary

Background – we were invited to a call the was about disinfection protocols so we are not cross contaminating fields, or areas that we may have to get into.

Given the potato wart situation we do need to be cautious, kit has bin, scrubbers, other items to clean your gear before moving on.

Mary has done a quick look on pricing and it would be about \$160 per kit per group.

Question – does the board have interest in providing these kits to groups to encourage this protection to our agricultural neighbours.

- It is important, and a strong reminder at the very least, but not sure there is money in the budget.
- It would be close to \$4000. There may be subsidization later on, but nothing official, but it would have to come out of the wmf
- There was a supplemental wmf provided – groups might be willing to pay for the kits if someone else would assemble it.
- A communication could be sent out to groups to say that we will be assembling kits and the cost is \$160
- There will be more biosecurity info coming also in regards to invasive species.
- Decision – Norman provided a list a few years ago and we have a shopping list in the board meeting folder.
- Also a provide a document or webinar on training for it – will be part of watershed training
- It would be good to show a united front

- We would like groups to pay for it but how do we go about it. Do we just order enough kits for everyone?
- Staff should also have some?
- Suggested – buy 20 as some groups might have them. Also could buy from a supplier that we could return unused
- Motion for Proposed expenditure of funds ~ \$3600.00 Juliana/Andrew motion carried

Forest Loss Report - Simon

– Review of forest loss report uses a key classification that would leave a clear-cut space as still forest – land use hasn't changed BUT in reality, forest HABITAT has changed. The information can be presented in a way that makes it seem like we haven't lost that much forest when in reality we have. Should the board make a statement about this?

The report was released quietly so this could be our opportunity to get involved in the conversation and be able to simultaneously praise government while pointing out the finer detail differences. We could circulate thorough watershed groups and get their concerns where we could then move to writing a letter to the minister and release that to the media as well. INT NSCC are potential partners we could reach out to if we were to take a lead on this as well as indigenous groups.

- Sending to groups is a good idea. Possibly even holding a webinar to have a discussion where Simon could walk everyone through and good idea to partner with other groups.
- We need to be careful not to spin or use the numbers too far in the other direction.
- Carbon sequestration and carbon capture are two different things. US forest service video. Suggestion: Read the book "Finding the Mother Tree" by Suzanne Simard.
- Sending out the report as is to groups so they can absorb it on their own with out board/alliance influence and then have a group discussion to sort of come to a sense or even a consensus about what we think. Until then we can't speak for the groups.
- **Decision** = this is important information that we want to share with groups. Simon to get approval to distribute to groups and then we can send out to them. Leave it there for now and then revisit later in the summer. All agreed.
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WMF subcommittee

– only got feedback from 6 groups so wasn't enough to make any changes to formula. Could possibly be brought up at agm and also thought it would be a good idea for Brad to walk through the presentation Kate did a few years ago in case there are people not providing input because they don't understand it.

There is a bit of time before our recommendation is due but at this point the recommendation is to keep the formula the same. There is an extra \$250,000 so we

don't have to worry about groups being over or under where we can just absorb that which formula accounts for.

The area amount has been fixed and now equate about 1/3 performance is 31.5 % community and leveraging is _____?

Question to Board: Does the board support this recommendation to submit to Brad?

Motion to approve: Dale C/Nic B motion carried

The recommendation is approved by the board

AGM - May 28 - Draft Agenda - any changes / revisions? AGM Planning
Bylaw clarification

1. Financial Update

For AGM it would be great to see something that is based on projects. Groups would be keen to see that break down.

Petty Cash needs replenishment

1. Project Manager Update

LL signage is in the works and site assessments were done last week to see what is needed over the next year. Will also work on monitoring on oystery

How will we do the survey – got a proposal from them – link in the update something about the app – we could pay \$8000 for a rolling update, funding in FLPP, and then we could create our own survey's within the app including this riparian survey and if at the end of the 12 months we can just let go. Charlotte suggests it would be a good move to this version and it is in our budget and gets us in a good place to use other developers. Does the board approve this move or any questions: no questions, sounds like a good move.

FLPP – we've also hired invasive species supervisor – currently onboarding. The crew itself is currently at 1 but we should really have 2 at minimum. Does anyone have any suitable candidates in mind, do we need to go through another interview process?

- We could send emails to the next best candidates that groups weren't able to hire. So we could get referrals from them

WMF report has been submitted.

2. Equipment Manager Update

One monitor out for spring in tracadie for bats. Some communication has been lost with landowners but will continue and see about putting them in the fall. 14 groups will take part in summer monitoring.

Doing a presentation at Tignish Elementary on bats

YSI needs cable, still under warranty but we may need to pay for shipping there and back.

A lot of groups have been asking for more DO probes than we have so when we have budget would like to buy more of those.

3. Watershed Ecologist Update

Water temperature and how to better use the data that's out there. Thinking it might make sense to have a workshop this fall, bring in people from other provinces.

Question to Board: Wondering if this is something groups would be interested in? is this something the board is interested in?

Sounds like there is interest – Mary will continue the conversation with groups

Training – before creating a budget we are going to send out a survey to groups about their training needs and interest and then we can put together a budget based on that feedback. We will be sending out next week and there will be emphasis on disinfection. Chainsaw training is going on with forestry next week and June – one in the west in June and one in central.

4. Other

AL - Put something on the forward agenda – having a central financial system/program that groups can use to help with the reporting of WMF.

JG – SSWA asked me to bring this forward – we have a part of our area that is a government park and we are trying to get an answer about getting taxes back and wondering if there is anyone else in a similar situation or has a work around?

A language change by government would eliminate this pay/then get the money back steps. Would other groups in this situation want to make moves to petition the elimination of this added step for something that cancels it out. Board members expressed interest. DALE C will reach out to see who we might speak to about this.

Mike – 2M – brief convo with Brad about next steps. Funds are meant to help groups do projects that are large or other funding was not available for. Going to draw up an EOI to send out to groups to try to get some ideas from groups and would like to put together a technical working group and would like reps from each region and Mary will also sit on this. And this group would provide recs to steering committee. So far steering committee is Dale M Dale C Mike and Brad Potter. Probably look at scheduling a webinar and/or can bring it up at the AGM.

Goal is to spend money this year/next year and minister had indicated that if we do he is interested in seeking further funding for this. There is also an amount that the alliance is going to receive for administration and hoping this would cover a salary for an executive director.

No comments or questions

AGM – sharing the WMF reports question needs to be put to groups before the meeting so they can come with prepared questions along with the ByLaw clarification.

WMF – there is still funding gaps that are causing us to go into the hole while we wait for funding to come in. we have to pay salaries out of pocket which can add up. This is something all groups are feeling right now.

Meeting adjourned 5:55pm Dale M moves