

Woodens River Watershed Environmental Organization
2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2015
Tantallon Public Library, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Present: 25 people in attendance (list available on request)

Agenda:

1. General welcome and introductions
2. Approval of the March 12, 2014 minutes
3. Approval of reports:
 - a. Chairs' report – Nanci Lee and David Patriquin
 - b. Treasurer's report – Joan Warren
4. Special resolution to accept revised WRWEO by-laws
5. Election of new board
6. Thanks to outgoing co-chair David Patriquin – Richmond Campbell
7. AOB
8. Anniversary Poem
9. Adjournment
10. Anniversary Celebration

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm

1. **Welcome:** Nanci Lee welcomed all attendees.
2. **Poem:** "In Trust" read by Nanci Lee, dedicated to Richmond Campbell. Text attached to the end of the minutes.
3. **Introductions** of board members by Paul Berry.
4. **Approval of agenda:** Moved by Rich Campbell, seconded by Rich Campbell. CARRIED
5. **Approval of minutes:** Moved by Kim Berry, seconded by Nanci Lee. CARRIED
6. **Approval of reports:**
 - a. **Chairs' report:** Nanci Lee explained the report is organized around four strategic priorities:
 - i. **Wilderness preservation and stewardship of the trail** – Nanci explained that the board decided this year to prioritize the maintenance of the trail. Majority of traffic for hiking purposes is on first loop. Applied Lifetime on the boardwalks on the first loop. Addressed parking issues – Kim painted parking lines to encourage sideways parking. Issues with firepits on trails. Some members attended trail workshops.
 - ii. **Woodens Watershed and Woodens River** – Participated in supporting the monitoring of the river system. Collaboration with SMU to video trout migrations. Letter of advocacy in support of the river.
 - iii. **Family and youth engagement** – There are youth members as well as on the board. For example, Jessi Fillmore (not present at AGM) encouraged to take leadership in board. A biocaching event for boy scouts and girl guides was held. A number of videos on using map and compass were made in preparation for the workshop.
 - iv. **Collaboration in trails and environmental community** - David co-authored report on the plant communities of the Williams Lake Backlands which highlighted the significance of the globally rare Jack Pine-Broom Crowberry barrens. Actively participated in HRTA and Our HRM Alliance – providing feedback on greenbelt and strategy. Also provided feedback on the database project. Letter to government regarding clearcutting and the impacts of the Otter Lake landfill on the trail. Monitoring of exotics and invasive plants in 2013 and 2015.

- v. Not a strategic priority but becoming a priority – board operations. Developed board manual and set up online procedures. Committee was set up and provided bylaw revisions.
- vi. Paul Berry moved acceptance of the co-chairs’ report, seconded by Hildi Konok.
CARRIED

- b. **Treasurer’s report:** Paul Berry thanked the current but outgoing treasurer Joan Warren, and reviewed the highlights in the report and stated the net asset balance at the end of the year is \$9,324. Trail maintenance was the biggest cost this year. Training was another expense – Canadian Freshwater Alliance training attended by both Paul Berry and Jessi Fillmore. Total deficiency of \$1,817 for the year. Kim Berry moved acceptance of the Treasurer's report, seconded by Barb Klass. CARRIED

7. Comments from attendees:

- a. St. Margaret’s Bay Stewardship Association – Jim Cawardine -clearcutting, Ingram river. DNR backed away from original plan. The Woodens river is one of five major rivers that flow into Saint Margaret’s bay, Ingram river watershed is the only pristine watershed that empties into Saint Margaret’s bay (no development in that watershed, roughly equivalent to Woodens river). Connector road on hwy 103 goes along Ingram river. Has vestigial population of trout. Ongoing battle to preserve pristineness until we can get base data, which we don’t have.
- b. Peter Lund provided an update on backlands issue – HRM staff have been instructed by Council to look into the issue, thanked the thorough efforts of WRWEO and other organizations on the issue, WRWEO has made an impression on Council with its efforts.

8. **Special resolution to accept revised WRWEO by-laws:** introduced by Kim. It is good practice to review bylaws frequently. Current bylaws are several years old. Prompt for review was desire to increase youth engagement, have more flexibility with membership (e.g. allow family memberships). A bylaw team of Hildi, Linda and Kim met to review the bylaws and made one significant change to membership – removed age requirement of 16 years and removed requirement to own property in NS. Other changes include restructuring clauses, added definitions, and some changed language. All bylaws were sent to members on March 1st, no changes were received. Board voted on revisions, and sent to Joint Stocks. Bylaws are available online. In order for this resolution to carry, $\frac{3}{4}$ of present members and those present must vote for acceptance of the resolution. There are 19 current members, so need 14 to vote for. Hildi moved acceptance of the resolution, seconded by Rich. Open for questions. One question – is there a residential requirement? No. Age requirement – how to handle voting with children under a certain age – define membership as youth, family, individual, etc. There may be a “child” membership that is not a voting membership. Question – how does a family get a vote? Does it get one group vote or individual votes? Currently the board has the power to specify that structure during the year. It is perhaps a loophole to be addressed by the board. Hildi stated that within the year there will be a booklet to specify best practices and these types of issues. Nanci gave an example of environmental clubs – could have a representative of a club as a voting member to represent the larger body. Clarification – anyone over 16 would not be restricted to be a voting member. Vote: 19 for – unanimous. CARRIED

9. **Election of New Board:** Jim facilitated, Paul noted that Reg Rankin sent regrets. Nominations are for 2015/16 board:

- a. Nanci Lee and Kimberly Berry – co-chairs
- b. Diana Jeliaskova – secretary
- c. Paul Berry – treasurer
- d. General board members: Dave Patriquin, Linda Moxom-Skinner, Tim McGee, Jessi Fillmore (in absentia), Hildi Konok, Moe Abdo, Troy Nauffts
- e. Jim Cawardine conducted the election. All nominations accepted. Nanci called up Rich Campbell, who is stepping down from the board. Rich thanked departing board members – Lynne Kovan was a member for two years and this past year a secretary. Joan Warren has been a member for two years and this past year was treasurer. Jim Muir (in absentia) – has been a board member

at least 10 years – had great interest in learning about river system and did a lot of repair work on trail and attended many HRTA meetings.

10. **Thanks to outgoing co-chair David Patriquin:** Dave Patriquin (in absentia – conducting conservation research in Caribbean) is stepping down from executive but not stepping down from the board. Rich spoke about David’s significant contribution over the years and in recognition of his influence has collected 18 letters of appreciation from leaders of the community honoring Dave’s work. Some of the many examples include: Chebucto Wilderness Coalition – Dave was research scientist and made a significant difference to organization’s credibility: Peter Labor – Director of Protected Areas Branch of Department of Environment at NS government. Dave has been a leader in the creation of more than a dozen environmental community organizations – contributions in many organizations, committees, media stories and news, and has been instrumental in achieving protection.

11. AOB:

- a. Nanci welcomed Heather Olivella replacing Peter Bush.
- b. NS Power has approved the building of a fish ladder over the next three years at the Department of Environment, Protected Areas Branch. The water in the lakes is now sufficient to support a migratory fish population. Encountered difficulties in trying to run studies on water quality due to insurance. Suggestion was made to come up with ways to collect insurance to enable water work in the future. One issue with introducing migratory fish – small fish can’t survive the effects of acid rain on the surface water, but the change from coal to natural gas in industries has resulted in much improved ph levels and improved water quality and may be the reason for investment by NS Power into building fish bridges.
- c. Beth McGee - Western Crown Land block – meeting called last Thursday in Chester Basin – have to reactivate connectivity in the Western Crown Lands.
- d. Tom Musial - FBLWA - attended a meeting a year ago with Beth, then another meeting was held in July, and another again in December – personnel change in HRM Planning resulted in new person appointed for overseeing parks development. Reg approached Brad Anguish. Brad has said there is a role for community advisory committee – he’s putting a report together within the month. A community group may be named in the report. So Tom may be calling a meeting of the coalition soon of the five main groups to determine involvement.

12. **Adjournment:** Paul moved the meeting to adjourn at 7:38pm.

POEM:

“In Trust”

<p>The watershed waters shedding shifting stretching from Five Island Lake to Seabright offering emptying into the Bay the marshes bogs below barrens thick and wet with life brackish smells as a child I remember the roar of the Woodens the stumps, blackest</p>	<p>scat piles signs of watchful eyes tracks small followed by bigger followed by bigger still tracks of fishers, and hunters of decades past two old friends trading tales sharing berries and bannock like the</p>	<p>two first roads mingling overlapping awhile before setting out into their own burst of trails Granite & root, root & rock Rock and river Trails inspiring silence but wait I hear the year’s first insect buzz, The warbler’s wind chimes the Kinglets & Juncos</p>
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I see a Broad-winged Hawk
Its Slow circled trance

In the wild
we hear with our eyes,
green and rust,
a still lake.

we hear with our feet,
swoosh and glop
What's a little mud?

The river is patient.
The forest, full of
compensations.

Moss cascades
and ancient settlings.

Canopies shade
and death nestles

under the
trembling big-tooth
aspen

the elderly oak
and the warbled
knobbly-kneed beech

Specks of green bud
nub along branches of
slim tamaracks

The air is so clear
You can see right through the
rocks
Breathe the granite in

Forest, you're a
languid, lichen-draped
beguiling old man.

But there are small creatures
clamouring at your ankles.

still some fern-flirting left in
you.

Sunlight danced on the Bluff &
I felt the heartbeat of a birch

Earth, roots, rocks carry me
Back into my sleeping self
Preverbal

Take me to the erratics
Remind me that this is life
We are residuals of history
and lovely natural forces
wild and erratic,
here in our bodies.

how I love the frog songs
the larch buds breaking
autumn blush of crowberry
spring velvet of the lady-
slipper

dragonflies mate tale to neck
invention saved for making
love

Black Felt Lichen sticks to
granite
like bits of burned maps

tree roots muscle
over muddy paths

Everything in proportion and
a space for us

On behalf of all the wild things
that make this
land their home and with
reverence for the First
Peoples
who preserved this land
before us, we dedicate
The Bluff Wilderness Hiking
Trail to wilderness
preservation.

And we can do it
we will work together to
protect this sacred heritage
we

passionate volunteers
we trail runners who come
here weekly to
run the four loops
we old friends making this
pilgrimage yearly
we family of four plus two
dogs
we Crew from England who
will definitely be back
we friends from Quebec and
BC and Spain and Minnesota
We 10 hiking babes
Troops of scouts and girl
guides
We 2 fat guys doing our best

We couple reminding
ourselves
what love looks like
outside of the city

we can camp, fish, hike
run, mess around,
collect wild edibles

we can do this

skinny dip in a lake
run the river
paddle full moons

we can take the kids
from screen to green
occupy the forest
the river
keep their secrets

We can do this in trust
we can learn its deep beauty
delight in the wildness
in ourselves
that we share
with the rocks, the earth,
the water, the
teeming life and the spirits
that surround us

We do this for all
that is true and wild

We do this forever
We do this in trust

For Rich Campbell whose
vision and passion led the way