

**WRWEO AGM**  
**Wednesday 28 April 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

Minutes

- At 6:03, Paul Berry opened with recognition that we are on Unceded and Unsurrendered Mi'kmaw Territory (Ancestral L'nu Lands)
- Approval of Agenda - Paul Berry
  - Approved as presented.
- [Approval of Minutes from AGM 2020](#) - Paul Berry
  - Approved as presented.
- Chair's Report - Paul Berry - Highlights read:
  - In this pandemic year, we've seen a 25% increase in users on the trail, and a huge increase in the number of campers on the trail. For the most part it's been good, but recent reports from last weekend included huge counts of toilet paper picked up on the trail.
  - Board of directors (all re-offering this year) & prospective new members offering this year acknowledged.
  - Maintenance activities included surface hardening, brush clearing, sign cover replacements, securing sign posts at junctions.
  - Thanks to SMBSA who supports the BTSP, handles our funding, and enables us to have Mike Lancaster lead the program.
  - Our stewardship is working - response times to deal with problems is greatly improved. This inspired Richmond Campbell, with help from Our HRM Alliance, to put together a proposal for the city to help 62 other groups carry out similar stewardship efforts.
    - Rich responded that so far, there has not been a response, but he is following up with another letter with a different approach and is hopeful we'll have a good response and have HRM create an office of community-based stewardship.
  - David Patriquin acknowledged: working hard on Sandy Lake and lands around Prospect.

- Financial Report - Paul Berry
  - Matthew moved & Kathleen seconded that we approve the financial report.
  - Motion carried.
- Stewardship Coordinator's Bluff Trail Stewardship Program (BTSP) Report - Mike Lancaster
  - A lot done with not much to work on. We didn't know we had funding from Dept. of the Environment until near the end of the year. No organized training sessions during the year because of lack of funding. Thus, a barebones program was implemented. Mike's passion carried him forward in spite of no clear indication he'd actually get paid in the end.
  - Adding in an estimated dollar valuation of volunteer time to funding dollars, in 2020, the total value of BTSP is approximately \$74,000, and over a quarter of million dollars since its inception in 2017.
    - This backs up our argument presented by Richmond Campbell to the city that with a very little amount of initial funding, we generate huge value to the community.
  - A fundamental problem scaling up what BTSP is doing to help other wilderness areas is that there's only one Mike Lancaster, and he'd be stretched pretty thin to take all that on. Hence, the appeal to the city to get something in place to provide that extra support.
  - Stats for the year reviewed.
    - One notable stat was that fire pits were decreased every year of the program until this year. We're up to 30 or more fire pits remediated, vs. 20 last year, a 50% increase from last year. This is attributed to the large increase in the amount of camping on the trail this year. So this is a problem we will have to face again this year.
    - But in general, we are still improving in other areas. For example, we had our best year ever for hours of presence on the trail, better coverage of the second through fourth loops, and much better than average checkins at all LNT sites.

- Support acknowledged from NSE and the Canada Summer Jobs program, many individual donors, and especially the efforts of our volunteers.
- Allyssa was acknowledged for crunching the data.
- Matthew and Kathleen were acknowledged for the huge amount of work they did out on the trail this year.
- Election of Board of Directors for 2021-2022 - Jim Cawardine
  - Offering: [Paul Berry](#) (Co-chair and Treasurer), [Ben Armstrong](#) (Secretary), [Allyssa Poulin](#), [Omar Al Nasleh](#), [Abdul Nasser](#), [Kathleen Hipwell](#) (Co-chair), [Matthew Porter](#), Mosab Said
  - Jim is greatly encouraged to see so many people involved after more than 25 years.
  - All members that offered were acclaimed.
- Adjournment at 7:30 pm