



WRWEO respectfully acknowledges that we are located in Mi'kma'ki, the unceded and unsurrendered ancestral land of the Mi'kmaq (L'nu). We are all treaty people.

## Co-Chair's report for the 2022 AGM

Prepared by Paul Berry & Kathleen Hipwell

The Board of Directors for this past year included: myself (Paul Berry) and Kathleen Hipwell as Co-chairs; I took on the role of treasurer (I am offering for another term); Kathleen Hipwell is also offering for another term; Ben Armstrong as secretary (who is offering for another term); and Omar Al Nasleh, Abdul Nasser, and Matt Porter, (who are offering for another term). Raelene Fewer is offering to sit on the board of directors this year. Allyssa Poulin, who was a Summer Steward Technician and board member for several years will not re-offer this year. We all thank Allyssa for her work, she's spent lots of time on the trail and in crunching the numbers for the [BTSP reports](#).

The board met 9 times on Zoom in 2021 and once in person at the trailhead. In person and via email, we reviewed and discussed all of the financial information that came before the board, trail maintenance that was outside of the scope of the BTSP, updated our information with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks, dealt with our online presence by continuing to purchase our domain names, dealt with snow removal in the parking lot, and grading of the parking lot finally got done this year. We continue our membership with NS Trails who provide us with insurance through the province of NS.

We continued our collaboration with Our HRM Alliance and advocated extensively as part of the The Sandy Lake Conservation Association. One of our founders, Rich Campbell, published an [op-ed piece on Sandy Lake](#) arguing for its protection. We also advocated for the moose of the Chebucto peninsula by [asking the government not to exclude the Chebucto Peninsula from the core habitat in the 2021 moose recovery plan](#).

In terms of trail maintenance we undertook side of trail maintenance and trail hardening on the Hay Marsh loop - once again it was completed by Mike Lancaster with hand-tools and power tools. We also ensured dead fall was removed from the entire trail. Broken/missing plexiglass covers on junction signs were replaced and repainting of the trail markers is almost complete.



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We also had an inspection this year that was completed by the Department of Natural Resources and Renewables who observed only minor improvements and maintenance to be undertaken.

A major project was started last year to replace the 100+ foot boardwalk at the beginning of the trail - it is now 12 years old and has deteriorated significantly. We have secured funding from HRM for  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the projected cost (estimated at \$75 000.00), but were unable to secure  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the cost in funding from the province due to a lack of contractor bids. We hope to obtain bids for the work in 2023. To raise funds for the remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the projected cost, we are having signage printed, to mount at the boardwalk, appealing to trail users to join WRWEO and donate to the replacement of the boardwalk.

As a board of directors, we continue to review the work of Mike Lancaster, the BTSP Stewardship Coordinator, who reports regularly to the Board at our meetings and seeks the approval of the Board for special projects (such as hiring summer students under the federal Canada Summer Jobs Program). Mike's contributions to the Bluff Trail and to the forests of NS is immense and we appreciate him so very much.