

CAWG Business Meeting March 11th, 2020 – Cornwall Townhall Council Chambers

Attendance: Tamsyn, Fenny, Diane, Bruce, Ryan, Ron, Matthew, Karalee

Reading of last meetings minutes and relative updates included

Rough Grouse and Ringed Neck Pheasant surveys are open to the public and watershed groups, 1-2 routes can be planned for surveying between April- May. Surveys happen once only, but could be done multiple times if desired. Groups of 2 people minimum. Hours of the Survey can be done 30 mins before sunrise to 4 hours after sunrise. There are no specific routes in our watershed group area but one could make up their own route if the habitat was suitable for Grouse and/or Pheasant.

Waterfowl nesting houses are being installed by Eastern Flight Delta Waterfowl Chapter on Saturday March 14th at 10 am on Hyde Pond. Two 'hen houses' for Mallard/ Black Ducks will be installed. One near the parking area at Hyde Pond and the other near the platform on Pye's Ln. (Byways Ave.)

Application was submitted to Eco Action Canada Fund for Sediment Erosion Mitigation Project, the project application was submitted to the board of directors and Ryan took it home to revisit it. It is available if anyone would like to e-mail us for a copy.

Town of Cornwall (TOC) Stormwater Management Pilot in relation to the Eco Action Project was mentioned. Concerns included the following questions to be answered by the Town. (Karalee to request)

Does TOC want us to be employees to manage it?

Do they want us to collect and address calls/concerns from residents?

How much distance are we owed as managers? (considering the contribution TOC makes of 1% Parks/Rec budget for this management- which has yet to occur)

What is our relationship to the residents intended to be as we become managers of the selected Stormwater Areas during this pilot?

Bruce elaborated on the DFO conference on Feb 21, 2020 we attended. Increased partnership with indigenous and community non-profits. Data sharing, increased marine and freshwater protections. Currently disappointed PEI has no official representative to attend Watershed needs. There are presentation files and paper copies at the office if anyone is interested in reviewing the conference.

Matthew elaborated on the (UNB) River Management Course we attended March 2, 2020. Floodplains are a critical characteristics of PEI rivers, and all rivers, that need to be given significance and should not be developed in light of climate change impacts and land use development. Stream crossing and culvert infrastructure need clear engineered plans with fish passage, and flood plain considerations. A representative from DFO was attending, and suggested any crossings and culvert concerns be directed to DFO by watershed groups. He also

mentioned that pond dredging for Fish habitat, fish survival, is being considered again for permission by DFO. Karalee mentioned that cawg would create a map of the floodplains in our systems, and visit these areas to collect information.

The resume for a recent Environmental Technician was distributed, discussion about funding his placement with us via Skills PEI Mentorship Program. Karalee to confirm funding in the budget before requesting board consider hiring. Although all agreed his status and experience are qualities for the position as water quality tech in the erosion sediment mitigation project.

Ryan will attend sustainable Farming /meeting March 18, 2020 and report next meeting (since cancelled due to coronavirus). Bruce to send out information on the retirement of marginal lands and naturalization of edge/adjacent agricultural fields for increased crop yields.

Key points for the Ag meeting included/ discussed:

Pushing for different varieties of potatoes, which are better for environment, use less nitrogen and water. DFO also mentioned this at the conference.

Try other methods to increase yields/quality like retiring marginal lands/naturalizing to sustain organic matters.

CAWG AGM was determined to be May 13th, 2020 at Milton Hall from 6-8pm

Will begin with Coordinator's report on 2019 accomplishments and 2020 projects.

To be included: short history on mandate and watershed management on PEI, headwater mapping, Salmoid studies. Elections to the Board will follow.

Next Millefiore Clarke's Film Solastalgia (13 mins) to be aired followed by

Dr. Van den Heuvel to present on Cole's Brook Monitoring (30mins)

Donations to be included from local businesses and picked up by Bruce on his way.

Promotion for the event to be done via the Guardian Lifestyles, The Buzz, CBC radio, and community newsletters, social media.

Treasury business included a reimbursement of funds \$34.50 to Karalee for payment of our annual website domain name renewal. A WCB payment, and return to quarterly CRA remittance reporting.

Next Meeting April 8th, 2020

Meeting Adjourned