



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Agenda

Friday, September 24, 2021

1:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89678014136?pwd=a3d5R05uOTZxeW9ZTnBXbWJiNlV5UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 7801 4136

Passcode: 448152

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – Chair Geoff Ross (5 min)

1.1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

1.2. Approval of Minutes (by consent)

THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated May 28, 2021 be approved.

1.3. Correspondence: Letter to MP Scott Aitchison re: [funding priorities for the Muskoka-Parry Sound area](#)

2. **Introductions** – All (30 min)

List of MWC Members may be found at <http://www.muskokawatershed.org/about-us/council-committees/muskoka-watershed-council/>

2.1. Membership Introductions – All members should be prepared to briefly introduce themselves and outline their background and affiliation.

2.1.1. Welcome to the 5 new members joining MWC!

3. **Presentation** (30 min)

3.1. **Making Waves: Integrated Watershed Management Initiatives Update** – Glenn Cunnington, Project Manager (IWM), District of Muskoka

Glenn Cunnington will provide an update on the IWM Initiatives funded by the Province of Ontario to help reduce the impacts of flooding and address the health of the Muskoka River Watershed. The District of Muskoka received funds to advance several projects and related organizational support (i.e., project Task Forces and communications) to support these Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) initiatives.

4. **Project Updates** (3-5 min each)

4.1. Community Roundtable Update – Kevin Trimble

4.2. MWC Strategic Plan & MWC Governance – Karen Maxwell

4.3. Official Plan Responses – Karen Maxwell

4.4. Algae Monitoring Program – Peter Sale

4.5. Muskoka Summit on the Environment – Peter Sale

4.6. MWC Communications – Pete LeMoine

5. **Partner Updates** (5 min each)

- 5.1. Government Updates – *Open to elected municipal representatives and staff*
- 5.2. Partner Updates (e.g., Province, District of Muskoka, Health Unit, Lake Associations, Community Organizations) – *Open to All*

6. **New Business**

7. **Adjournment**

Upcoming Meetings

- **Working Group:** Thursday, September 30th at 2:00 pm through Zoom.
- **Muskoka Watershed Council:** Friday, October 29th at 1 pm through Zoom.
 - Features a presentation on microplastics in Muskoka-Haliburton headwater lake catchments by Brittany Welsh, a PhD student at Trent University.
- **Working Group:** Thursday, November 4th at 2:00 pm through Zoom.
- **Muskoka Watershed Council:** Friday, November 26th at 1 pm through Zoom.
 - Features a presentation about the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (COSSARO) by Tom Hilditch, Chair of COSSARO.
- **Working Group:** Thursday, December 2nd at 2:00 pm through Zoom.



MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL

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28 July 2021

Mr. Scott Aitchison, MP
Parry Sound-Muskoka
94 Hanes Road, Unit 2
Huntsville, Ontario P1H 1M4
Submitted by email: Scott.Aitchison@parl.gc.ca

Dear Mr. Aitchison,

Through your past work with both the Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) and the Town of Huntsville's Sustainability initiatives, you no doubt recognize the importance of a healthy watershed to the economy and identity of Muskoka. Since stepping down from MWC, we have appreciated your continued support and attendance at various events, including the 2019 Muskoka Stewardship Conference.

Knowing how integral a healthy environment is to our communities and economy, MWC was disappointed to learn that, for the second year in a row, our application through the District Municipality of Muskoka for Canada Summer Jobs funding for the Love Your Lake program was denied. Prior to the federal election in 2019, MWC had received at least partial funding for this program every year we had applied.

In addition to the Love Your Lake application, MWC was working with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH) to obtain Canada Summer Jobs funding for an Invasive Species intern, one of several positions across the province. However, much to MWC's and OFAH's surprise, the Muskoka position was the only one in the province to not be funded.

We are reaching out to you for clarification on what the priorities are moving forward for the Muskoka-Parry Sound area. We would like to maximize the impact of MWC's limited resources by applying to programs that fund and support environmental initiatives. As the final decision on which Canada Summer Jobs applications receive funding in Muskoka-Parry Sound is made by your office, we are hoping you can help us better understand where we should be directing our efforts.

We would be happy to meet and discuss in further detail at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Geoff Ross, Chair