



Minutes

Friday, January 19, 2018

1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Patricia Arney	Rob Attfeld	Shane Baker
Don Furniss	Lou Guerriero	Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Randy Jorgensen
Mara Kerry	Caroline Konarzewski	Richard Lammers
Rob Milligan (@ 2:00 pm)	Steve Munro	Michael Peppard
Geoff Ross	Peter Sale	Kevin Trimble
Debbie Vernon	Norman Yan	

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Cassie Weston
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Speakers

Norman Yan
(Friends of the Muskoka Watershed)

Community

Leslie Henderson	John Klinck (@ 1:30 pm)	Summer Valentine (@ 2:00 pm)
Peggy Peterson (@ 2:15 pm)		

Welcome

Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Robert Attfeld

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 24, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Provincial response from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park. Randy Jorgensen reported that the Ryde Community Co-op will be leading snowshoeing adventures in the park.

Recognition of Outgoing Chair

Lou thanked the members and staff of MWC for making his role as Chair possible over the last two years, and acknowledged everyone's support and efforts. Christy Doyle and Kevin Trimble expressed their gratitude to Lou on behalf of MWC. A certificate of appreciation and small gifts were presented to Lou.

Election of Officers

Christy Doyle replaced Lou as Acting Chair for the purpose of electing the new Chair.

- Election of Chair

MOTION by Patricia Arney, seconded by Don Furniss
THAT Kevin Trimble be nominated for the position of Chair.

CARRIED

MOTION by Patricia Arney, seconded by Robert Attfield
THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

CARRIED

Kevin Trimble was elected as Chair by acclamation and assumed the role for the remainder of the meeting.

- Election of Vice-chair

MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Gord Henderson
THAT Rob Milligan be nominated for the position of Vice-chair.

CARRIED

MOTION by Piret Hurrell, seconded by Mara Kerry
THAT Geoff Ross be nominated for the position of Vice-chair.

CARRIED

MOTION by Patricia Arney, seconded by Don Furniss
THAT nominations for the position of Vice-chair be closed.

CARRIED

MOTION by Robert Attfield, seconded by Michael Peppard
THAT Muskoka Watershed Council operate with two Vice-chairs for the 2018-2020 term of office.

CARRIED

Ron and Geoff were elected as Vice-chairs by acclamation. One will serve as 1st Vice-chair and the other as 2nd Vice-chair, as determined by the Chair.

Presentation

[Calcium \(Ca\) Decline in Muskoka: What is the problem? What is its cause? How might we solve it?](#) – Dr. Norman Yan, [Friends of the Muskoka Watershed](#)

Norman provided an overview of the calcium situation in Muskoka and made some suggestions on how MWC can report on calcium in its 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card.

Norman noted that calcium has declined by nearly 40% since 1980 in seven intensively studied lakes in the Dorset area. In many lakes in Muskoka, especially in the northeast portion of the watershed, calcium levels are often critically low, which has a big impact on aquatic species. Low calcium in the soil can have big impacts on Muskoka's forests as foliar calcium controls crown vigour in trees, and studies show that soil and foliar calcium are falling in Ontario. Norman outlined the factors that control the amount of calcium in the soil, and highlighted why lake calcium concentrations are decreasing.

Norm showcased FMW's [HATSEO project](#), which is looking at whether a wood ash recycling program could solve the calcium decline problem by:

- Assessing calcium, nutrient and metal levels, solubility and aquatic toxicity of the ash;
- Assessing collection and distribution options for wood ash; and

- Evaluating issues of scale for a management program.

Kevin thanked Norm for his presentation.

Updates & New Business

- MWC Working Group – Kevin Trimble reported that the next meeting is on January 25th and will focus on the Report Card.
- Muskoka Official Plan Review – Rob Milligan [presented an overview](#) of the comments the Planning Sub-committee would like to submit to DMM on the second draft of the [Muskoka Official Plan](#). Official comments are anticipated to be brought to MWC at the February 16th meeting for review.

Norman questioned whether the draft OP has adequately incorporated cumulative effects. Rob responded that some rudimentary work has been undertaken. He noted that MWC has been successful in bringing these issues forward. Peter Sale noted that cumulative effects monitoring is hardly done anywhere and that effective mechanisms to do so don't exist.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, February 16th at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature a presentation on the Georgian Bay Fish Habitat Mapping Project by Julia Sutton from the [Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council](#).

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.