



Minutes

Friday, September 21, 2018

1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Shane Baker
Margarete Cameron	Margaret Casey	Chris Cragg (@1:45 pm)
Louise Cragg (@1:45 pm)	Paul Dinner	Don Furniss
Lou Guerriero	Gord Henderson	Jack Hepworth
Neil Hutchinson	Mara Kerry	Caroline Konarzewski
Richard Lammers	Pete LeMoine	Brian Lynch
Karen Maxwell	Jan McDonnell	Michael Peppard
Geoff Ross	Peter Sale	

MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Kevin Boyle
Jamie Delaney		

Speaker

Dr. Robert Metcalfe
Research Scientist in the Aquatics Research and Monitoring Section of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Adjunct Professor with the Environmental & Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University

Community

Nick Popovich	Wendy Somerville	Will Barbour
Keith Somers	James Lacombe	Paul Arney
Ken Riley	Esther Giesbrecht	John McHardy
Steve Taylor	Colin Love (@1:45 pm)	

Welcome

Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm with roundtable introductions of Muskoka Watershed Council members.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Don Furniss

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 22, 2018 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Kevin highlighted a recent [article in the Bracebridge Examiner](#) about the Town of Bracebridge's efforts to have the federal government assist with dredging at the mouth of the Muskoka River. Heavier

rainfall due to climate change was mentioned in the article, which ties into the watershed hydrology presentation by Dr. Metcalfe.

Presentation

[Using water balance dynamics to understand watershed processes and changing water conditions](#) – Dr. Robert Metcalfe, Research Scientist in the Aquatics Research and Monitoring Section of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Adjunct Professor with the Environmental & Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University

Dr. Metcalfe answered many questions and discussion ensued before Kevin thanked him for his presentation.

Algae Initiative Update – Dr. Peter Sale

Peter gave a [brief update](#) on MWC's Algae Initiative. He identified the next steps, including developing a preferred option to monitor algae, identifying a lake association partner to participate from the onset, carrying out a pilot project to collect some preliminary data during 2019, and then rolling out the program to other interested lake associations. Peter would like to see algal monitoring built into the routine monitoring that lake associations currently undertake. He noted that the purpose of the project is not to "cure" algae blooms, but rather to collect data to better define the problem in order to look at how to manage it. We want to increase the knowledge about algae in our lakes.

Several lake associations have expressed interest in participating.

MWC Working Group Initiatives

Pete LeMoine provided a brief update on the activities of the Working Group. A number of initiatives have recently concluded, including the Report Card and new initiatives are being proposed, making it an ideal opportunity for new members to get involved.

The next meeting is Thursday, September 27th from 2-4 pm at the District offices.

Updates & New Business

- The Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, [committed \\$5 million to the Muskoka Watershed](#). The Province is forming an advisory committee but no additional details are currently available.
- **MNRF FMZ15 Advisory Council** (fisheries regulations for FMZ15) – Peter Sale provided an [update on the activities of the FMZ15 Advisory Council](#). The Advisory Council has had monthly meetings since spring 2017. Baitfish management is a hot topic and the regulations for many of the sportfish species have been reviewed. Lake trout and other coldwater fish species will be discussed next. Many changes to the regulations have been proposed. Peter has been impressed with how the review of regulations have been undertaken. Climate change is being considered and there is an effort to simplify the regulations.
- **DMM Planning & Economic Development** – Christy Doyle thanked the many MWC volunteers that gave presentations to area municipalities and at various AGMs over the summer. She introduced Kevin Boyle, the District's new Climate Change Initiatives Coordinator, and highlighted some of the projects around climate change that DMM plans to undertake in conjunction with MWC. She noted that MWC and DMM look forward to working with the Province on the new watershed initiative, and that MWC will be participating in the DMM road salt working group.
- **DMM Engineering and Public Works** – Jamie Delaney reported that the EPW invasive species management program received letters of support from each area municipality. They are participating in a landfill study and their impacts on water with MECP. They are working on a salt management plan and are trying to reach out to private contractors.

- **Provincial Updates** – Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry's Mara Kerry reported that some files will be moving from MNRF to MECP, including Species at Risk and Parks. Expenditure management plans and line-by-line audits and being undertaken. There are no known updates on the new provincial watershed initiative.
- Don Furniss noted the repeal of the *Green Energy Act* by the new provincial government.
- Margaret Casey noted that a lawsuit has been filed against the province over the repeal of the cap and trade program, and that there is an opportunity to provide comments through [EBR posting 013-3738](#).
- Karen Maxwell thanked MWC for the activities on McKay Lake this summer, including Love Your Lake, benthic monitoring, and Restore Your Muskoka Shore plantings on two properties.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, October 19, 2018 beginning at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. The meeting will focus on road salt.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.