



Minutes

Friday, March 23, 2018

1:00 pm

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

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)
Javier Cappella
Jack Hepworth
Pete LeMoine

Rob Atfield
John Cooper
Piret Hurrell
Debbie Vernon

Shane Baker
Lou Guerriero
Mara Kerry

Staff

Christy Doyle

Rebecca Willison

Cassie Weston

Speakers

Ann Curley
(Muskoka Discovery Centre)
Ian Turnbull
(Muskoka Discovery Centre)

John Miller
(Muskoka Discovery Centre)

Community

Jamie Delaney
Moreen Miller (@ 1:50 pm)

David Story
Fred Jahn (@2:05 pm)

Steve Stone

Welcome

Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. He called on three MWC members to introduce themselves: Piret Hurrell, John Cooper, and Debbie Vernon. Each of these members received an MWC lapel pin.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter LeMoine, seconded by Jack Hepworth

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated February 16, 2018 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Presentations

[Watershed Wonders Exhibit](#) – Ann Curley, John Miller & Ian Turnbull, Muskoka Discovery Centre

A permanent watershed exhibit is coming to the [Muskoka Discovery Centre](#) in Gravenhurst called [Watershed Wonders](#). It will be an innovative, interactive virtual exploration of the Muskoka River Watershed. The exhibit will be opening in July and will feature over a dozen interactive screens to take

visitors deep into the workings of the watershed. The exhibit will also include a virtual aquarium to showcase what we typically can't see under the water's surface.

Kevin thanked Ann, John and Ian for their presentation and noted MWC's involvement in the development of the exhibit.

[District of Muskoka Water Quality Monitoring Program](#) – Christy Doyle and Rebecca Willison

Christy provided a brief overview of the District of Muskoka's Lake System Health Water Quality Monitoring program and Rebecca provided highlights from the 2017 monitoring season.

Kevin thanked Christy and Rebecca for their presentation.

MWC Working Group Initiatives

Working Group Co-chairs Pete LeMoine and Geoff Ross noted that the next meeting is on March 29th and will focus on the Report Card.

- **Overview** - Some highlights of the meeting held in February include looking at updating the Clean & Green 13 and submitting comments through the Environmental Bill of Rights on the Province's draft Guidance Document for Watershed Planning.
- **2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card** – Lou Guerriero and Cassie Weston provided a progress report on the development of the 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card, including their efforts to draw in students. They discussed ideas for promoting the Report Card and encouraging citizen science programs. They reviewed the benthic and calcium indicators, including the overall subwatershed grades.

Cassie showed the new Conservation Ontario Story Map for their set of watershed report cards as an example of what MWC plans to do for our report card.

Updates & New Business

- **DMM Update**
 - Environmental programs – Christy Doyle reported that the climate change coordinator position has been approved by District Council and a job description is being developed. Road salt, invasive species and climate change are some of the areas where we are working closely with the Engineering and Public Works Department. MWC/DMM was successful in obtaining funding from the Province for a shoreline renaturalization program this summer.
 - Engineering and Public Works – Jamie Delaney reported on DMM's effort to manage roadside noxious vegetation, specifically Phragmites, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. They began a mapping and reporting project on DMM roads in 2016 and identified 26 sites. An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) firm retained by DMM applied treatment to these areas. More surveys were carried out in 2017 and 230 sites were identified. They returned to the treated sites from 2016 to retreat, and treated an additional 15 sites. EPW is planning to survey Lake of Bays and Huntsville in 2018, as well as treat additional sites. They have established a liaison with the Ministry of Transportation (MTO) and have learned that they, too, are carrying out control programs along their highways in Muskoka. DMM is planning to align methodology and coordinate management efforts. By the end of 2019, DMM will have all of their roads surveyed and can share this info with each Area Municipality and the MTO, and will update their IPM strategy which will feed into their operational programs.

In response to a question, Jamie highlighted what other jurisdictions are doing, including municipalities, non-profits, provincial ministries, and conservation authorities.

- **Earth Week** – To celebrate Earth Week, join Muskoka Watershed Council on Saturday, April 21st from 10 am to 12 pm at Marsh's Falls (21613 Highway 35) near Dwight for a guided walk on Species at Risk led by Mike Peppard and Rebecca Krawczyk. RSVP at <https://www.muskokawatershed.org/programs/environmental-lecture-series/backyard-biodiversity-species-at-risk-hike/>.
- Mara Kerry noted that the federal government announced \$1.3 billion to be invested in protected areas. This money will eventually filter down to the provinces and then communities, etc.
- Debbie Vernon reported that Friends of the Muskoka Watershed is holding another workshop on calcium decline and wood ash on April 11th. They have been carrying out some strategic planning, as well.
- Javier Cappella reported that Westwind Forest Stewardship is holding an open house for the forest management plan on May 5th in Huntsville from 11 am to 3 pm at the community centre.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, April 20th at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature a presentation by [Sustainable Severn Sound](#) on its Climate Change Action Plan.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.