



Minutes

Friday, November 29, 2019

1:00 pm

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

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)
John Cooper
Richard Lammers
Michael Peppard
Debbie Vernon

Patricia Arney
Don Furniss
Pete LeMoine
Geoff Ross

Rob Attfield
Caroline Konarzewski
Karen Maxwell
Peter Sale

MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle
Carley Rennie

Rebecca Willison

Rochelle Jeffries

Presenters

Chris Magwood
The Endeavour Centre

Melinda Zytaruk
Fourth Pig Worker Co-op Inc.

Rick Zytaruk
Tooketree Passive Homes

Guests

Jesse Harwood
Sue McKenzie
Carrieanne Dorion
Tamsen Tillson
Catherine Oakden
Brian Mathers

Mark Harwood
Len Ring
Shawn Ruhl
Aaron Rusak
Jan Larsen
Cathy E Campbell

John Roberts
Judy Lewis
Steve Titus
Steve Birrell
Linda Mathers

Welcome

MWC Chair Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. He noted that the [report](#) from the Province's Special Advisor for Flooding was released and then he provided an update on the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG). The Working Group agenda in January will contain an item to finalize MWC's submission to the MWAG. The next MWC meeting is on January 31, 2020 and will include elections for MWC Chair and Vice-Chair. Kevin encouraged MWC members to let him know if they are interested in standing for election. Kevin and Christy Doyle then introduced Carley Rennie, the new Clean Tech Intern for MWC, who will be assisting with advancing the algae monitoring program and road salt/report card initiatives.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Karen Maxwell, seconded by Michael Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 18, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Articles

- [How important is that Muskoka wetland?](#) by Peter Sale
- [How our forests influence water flow in Muskoka](#) by Javier Cappella

Presentation

[Buildings and Carbon Draw Down: A strategy to help mitigate climate change](#) – Chris Magwood (*The Endeavour Centre*), Rick Zytaruk (*Tooketree Passive Homes*), and Melinda Zytaruk (*Fourth Pig Worker Co-op Inc*).

Chris Magwood provided a summary of his research into the impact of buildings on climate change and the identification of viable alternatives to help mitigate the climate disaster. He noted that one main barrier to implementing this is knowledge and awareness, as well as availability and variety of products. Cost is not typically seen as a significant barrier. There is a role for municipalities to reduce building permit costs for carbon neutral projects and charge more for high carbon projects. They could also set a limit for how much carbon can be used in a building and leave it up to builders and architects to figure out how to meet this target. Chris also highlighted the stackable benefits: the products that are the best for climate change are also the best for other environmental factors like air quality in buildings, etc. Products also often use waste materials from agriculture, industry, etc so they are cheap and provide an opportunity for new local businesses/industry to make them into something for the building industry. Melinda Zytaruk noted that there is not much difference in price or time for building a conventional house vs a house with carbon capture materials.

Learn more at [World Green Building Council](#).

Following a question and answer period, Kevin Trimble thanked Chris for his presentation.

Strategic Planning

Karen Maxwell provided a brief update on the strategic planning process and encouraged MWC members to get involved and contribute. Activities currently being undertaken include Identifying individuals (or “thought starters” to conduct interviews with (send names of prospective candidates to info@muskokawatershed.org), developing a survey for MWC members, and conducting a SWOT analysis. The Sub-committee timelines are as follows:

Muskoka Watershed Strategy Planning Roadmap	2019			2020											
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
1. Strategy Planning Kick-off															
MWC Planning session and presentation development															
MWC Sub-Committee Kick-off															
2. First Internal MWC Working Session															
MWC Working Session - Current State - Nov 7															
Compile Information obtained from working session															
Peer review of working session documentation															
Obtain 'Thought Starter' recommendations															
MWC internal SWOT/Vision homework															
3. Second Internal MWC Working Session															
MWC Working Session - SWOT Analysis - TBD															
Obtain Vision of future state - 5 and 10 years															
Compile Information obtained from working session															
Peer review of working session documentation															
4. 'Thought Starter' Interviews															
Leverage/Customize SSEA questions for MWC															
Peer review of revised questions															
Determine process for interviews															
Create schedule of interviews															
Conduct interviews - break down further upon schedule creation															
Survey MWC membership with questions															
5. Compilation of Information Obtained															
Compile all information from interviews and surveys															
Identify updates required to operating procedures															
Obtain feedback from peer review of working group															
Create presentation to share with MWC Working Group															
Present findings to MWC Working Group															
Create executive summary and present to MWC Council															
6. Create Strategic Plan															
Outline goals and objectives															
Identify initiatives - past, present and future															
Schedule initiatives															
Determine metrics to gauge effectiveness of strat plan															
Draft Strategic Plan creation															
Peer review Strategic Plan															
Finalize Strategic Plan based on peer review															
Share Strategic Plan with MWC, DMM															
7. Create Communication Strategy															
Working group to determine how, who and when to communicate strategy															
Roll-out communications based on draft schedule															
Review effectiveness of communications - metrics															

Kevin encouraged MWC members to put some thought into and answer questions when posed by the Sub-committee.

MWC Working Group

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 9th from 2-4 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building.

Project Updates:

- **Media/Communications** – Pete LeMoine reported that articles continue to be produced, including an article from Javier Cappella on road salt and trees. Additional articles on Integrated Watershed Management will be developed in light of the recently released flooding report. Pete has requested that more MWC members step forward to write articles.

- **Road Salt** – Christy Doyle reported that MWC, in partnership with the District, held a successful public awareness event held on November 13th in Bracebridge. The District's Road Salt Working Committee, which includes a rep from Muskoka Watershed Council, continues to look at implementing Smart About Salt and is developing a report for DMM Council.
- **Algae** – Peter Sale reported that analysis continues on the algae samples and a wrap-up meeting for the sampling volunteers is taking place on December 2nd.
- **Integrated Watershed Management** – Kevin Trimble reported that MWC's white paper is nearing completion and will be brought to the Working Group meeting in January. It may feed into MWC's submission to MWAG in January.

Updates

- Muskoka Summit on the Environment – Peter Sale reported that the Organizing Committee has had two meetings so far and the date has been set for October 17, 2020. It will be a one-day event and the theme is still being set, but will address how we get rural communities to become more sustainable in this changing world we are living in. The event will be focussed on practical solutions for municipalities, businesses and communities. The Organizing Committee would like to have more young people, in addition to developers, builders, and municipal reps on the committee to help us reach out to new sectors. Michael Peppard suggested sending a request to CAOs to make their staff members attend.
- Mike Peppard reported that Lake of Bays Township is consolidating their zoning by-laws and that the Lake of Bays Association has expressed some concern. He also reported that Safe Quiet Lakes would like the Township to implement a Recreational Carrying Capacity by-law.
- Patricia Arney reported on Muskoka Lakes Township's Official Plan review they are currently undertaking. She noted that Recreational Carrying Capacity has also been brought up through that process.
- Muskoka Conservancy – Aaron Rusak announced that MC is developing a wetlands citizen science program looking at heavy metals in wetlands in conjunction with Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON).

New Business

- None

Next Meeting

The next Muskoka Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 31st beginning at 1 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.