Minutes
Friday April 15, 2011
1:00 pm

Pine Room – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present
Scott Aitchison  Patricia Arney  Shane Baker
Ben Boivin  Margaret Casey  Patsy Cross
Lou Guerriero  Gord Henderson  Jack Hepworth
Piret Hurrell  Anna Mallin  Mary McCulley
Jan McDonnell  Greg Mierle  Rob Milligan (Chair)
Ruth Nishikawa  Tracey Rast  Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Peter Sale  Al Shaw  Lyle Steep
Paul Stueck  Ian Turnbull  Debbie Vernon
Paul Wiancko  Scott Young

Regrets
Lola Bratty  Dan Brooks  Louise Cragg
Isobel Heathcote  Neil Hutchinson  Steve Inniss
Caroline Konarzewski  Don MacKay  Don McVittie
Steve Munro  Ken Riley  Peter Seybold
Alicia Tyson

Staff
Judi Brouse  Rebecca Willison  Marg French

Guests
Rob Willson  Brad Steinberg  Glenn Cunnington
Bev Wicks  Jane Braden  Rosemarie Hinzmann

Welcome
Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm by welcoming members and guests. Tracey Rast and Mary McCulley provided autobiographies for the Council.

Confirmation of Minutes
MOTION by Lou Guerriero, seconded by Greg Mierle
THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 25, 2011
be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence
• Letter from the MOE re: Pharmaceuticals in Water

Chair’s Items
• Water Hour on June 11th.
• Canadian Water Summit on June 14th.
Presentations

Large Natural Areas – Rob Willson, Senior Terrestrial Ecologist, RiverStone Environmental Solutions Inc.

The Large Natural Areas report created for MWC contains a literature review and recommendations for moving forward. The report will be discussed at the Committee level to determine next steps.

Algonquin Park – Role of a Large Natural Area – Brad Steinberg, Management Biologist, Algonquin Park

- In response to a question about how similar Algonquin Park is to pre-settlement Muskoka, Brad indicated that the forest is fairly similar, but the climate and elevation is quite different than in Parry Sound and Muskoka.
- A second question was asked about whether there is any research looking at the difference in impacts between lightly used and heavily used trails. Brad responded that there is no research on this specific aspect, but that studies have been carried out on the impact of invasive species and trails in general.
- Algonquin Park has been successful at implementing policy change, mostly due to public pressure and the ability to carry out research.
- There is likely more fine-scale data available for Muskoka than for Algonquin Park.
- The areas of the park open to logging re not considered protected under the park’s management plan. Logging is carried out in the park in a way to mimic natural disturbance as much as possible, although not all benefits are the same.

Muskoka: In a Toxic Lather? Personal Care Products and Toxic Chemicals – Scott Young, MWC member

- David Suzuki Foundation - What’s Inside? That Counts program
- YWCA Muskoka - Girlz Unplugged (Pocket) Guide to Chemicals in Your Cosmetics
- The MWC website will be updated with information about the proper disposal of pharmaceuticals

MOTION by Ian Turnbull, seconded by Anna Mallin

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council support the existing efforts of the YWCA Muskoka and the David Suzuki Foundation on toxic chemicals in personal care products through our regular communications.

CARRIED

Updates and New Business

- April 2011 Activity Report – was distributed with the agenda.
- Environmental Lectures – Eric Miller will talk about Ecosystem Services on May 19th in Bracebridge. The Dorset Environmental Science Centre will speak about their research on July 21st in Gravenhurst. Linda Mortsch will talk about climate change adaptation in Huntsville on October 20th.
- Creative Economy Report – study produced by the University of Toronto for Creative Muskoka will be released on May 10th.

Next MWC Meeting
Friday, May 20, 2011 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka.

Adjournment
Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.