



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday February 18, 2011
1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney
Patsy Cross
Piret Hurrell
Mary McCulley
Rob Milligan (Chair)
Al Shaw
Debbie Vernon

Shane Baker
Lou Guerriero
Caroline Konarzewski
Don McVittie
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Lyle Steep
Scott Young

Ben Boivin
Isobel Heathcote
Anna Mallin
Greg Mierle
Tracey Rast
Ian Turnbull

Regrets

Lola Bratty
Louise Cragg
Jack Hepworth
Jan McDonnell
Ken Riley
Paul Stueck

Dan Brooks
Claude Doughty
Neil Hutchinson
Steve Munro
Peter Sale
Alicia Tyson

Margaret Casey
Gord Henderson
Don MacKay
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Seybold
Paul Wiancko

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Becky Pollack
Barb Veale

Greg Mason
Steve Inniss

Ben Mason

Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm by welcoming members and guests. Patsy Cross and Lyle Steep provided autobiographies for the Council.

Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes were revised to specify that Rob Milligan did not attend the Lake of Bays Association meeting as indicated.

MOTION by Ben Boivin, seconded by Lyle Steep

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated [January 21, 2011](#) be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Lake Huron Binational Partnership – [2010 Annual Report](#)

Chair's Items

[World Water Day](#) is March 22nd and the theme for 2011 is Water for Cities.

Presentation

[Assessing the Influence and Effectiveness of Watershed Report Cards in Canada](#) – Barb Veale, Coordinator - Policy Planning & Partnerships, Grand River Conservation Authority

General comments and answers to questions included:

- Data tends to be more difficult to get for rural areas than urban areas and it often comes from citizen science programs.
- Report on the issue at hand in order to resonate with the public.
- People are not interested in reading about things that are not changing. Rotate indicators so that slow-changing indicators are not reported on every time but are kept in mind.
- Get greater uptake from people by focusing on a specific area.
- It is important for people to know how a grade is given. Rating systems should be based on something, instead of just assigning grades at specific intervals.
- Canada is too diverse to have standard indicators. Report Cards are most effective when produced at a local level.
- MWC needs to figure out why it develops a report card and what it wants the report card to do. The report card can't be everything to everyone – it needs to be focused.
- From a science point of view, report on indicators even if data aren't available for all areas. Use the opportunity to identify data gaps. However, keep in mind that the public wants results and not necessarily incomplete information.

Rob thanked Barb and expressed the desire to continue to work with her during the production of the 2014 report card.

Updates and New Business

- *February 2011 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda.
- *International Day of Biodiversity* – MWC is helping to organize an event to take place at Brooklands Farm on May 21st & 22nd. People interested in volunteering before and during the event are asked to contact Judi Brouse (jbrouse@muskokaheritage.org).
- *Environmental Lectures* – Eric Miller will talk about Ecosystem Services on May 19th in Bracebridge and 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.

Member Organization Updates

- Mary Robertson-Lacroix announced that the Creative Economy study is well underway with a report expected in late April.
- Muskoka Heritage Foundation will be holding a tag day on the Easter long weekend in April. The Native Plant Sale will be held May 14th.
- Debbie Vernon announced that the Muskoka Haliburton Association of Realtors AGM is scheduled for April 6th. MWC has been asked to be the guest speaker.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, March 25, 2011 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka.

Adjournment

Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.