



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday January 21, 2011
1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney
Lola Bratty
Lou Guerriero
Piret Hurrell
Don McVittie
Tracey Rast
Al Shaw
Debbie Vernon

Shane Baker
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Mary McCulley
Greg Mierle
Peter Sale
Lyle Steep
Scott Young

Ben Boivin
Claude Doughty
Jack Hepworth
Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan (Chair)
Peter Seybold
Ian Turnbull

Regrets

Dan Brooks
Gord Henderson
Don MacKay
Ruth Nishikawa
Paul Stueck

Louise Cragg
Neil Hutchinson
Anna Mallin
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Alicia Tyson

Patsy Cross
Caroline Konarzewski
Steve Munro
Ken Riley
Paul Wiancko

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Chris Marshall

Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm by welcoming members and guests. Following a summary of the agenda, Isobel Heathcote and Al Shaw provided autobiographies for the Council.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Jan McDonnell, seconded by Ian Turnbull

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 26, 2010 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter from the Town of Gravenhurst re: funding of stewardship guides
- Letter from the District of Muskoka re: MWC representatives
- News release for the Royal Ontario Museum's Water Exhibition opening March 5, 2011
- Flyer announcing an event for World Wetlands Day on February 2nd at McMaster University in Hamilton: Forests for Water and Wetlands

Chair's Items

Rob Milligan attended a session hosted by Adele Hurley from the [Program on Water Issues](#) at the University of Toronto on where he was able to speak about how MWC uses provincial and federal data in the Report Card.

Link of Interest:

[2010 Fall Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development](#)

Presentations

1. [Muskoka Watershed Council Orientation](#) – Rob Milligan, MWC Chair

A question was asked regarding who is responsible for water quality monitoring. Judi Brouse responded that there are several monitoring programs in Muskoka, including a broad-scale program carried out by the District of Muskoka and several smaller-scale programs run by individual lake associations in response to specific program objectives. Official plan policy is based on the District's monitoring data.

Shane Baker expressed concern for contamination from old landfill sites. Marg French has spoken to Muskoka Public Works, who indicate that there are approximately 75 sites in Muskoka according to Ministry of the Environment records. Mr. Baker volunteered to draft a summary of the issue for consideration by the Executive Committee.

In response to a question regarding MWC presentations to municipal Councils, Mr. Milligan indicated that MWC attempts to visit each municipal council at least once a year and that he plans to carry out these visits in the coming months.

2. Watershed Images: Past and Present – Ian Turnbull, MWC Past-chair

It was noted how much our forest cover has changed in the past 150 years. There are many more trees today than there were 100 years ago, and the species composition is very different.

Updates and New Business

- *International Day of Biodiversity* – MWC is helping to organize an event to take place at Brooklands Farm on May 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.

- [Canadian Water Network](#) – a proposal has been submitted by The District Municipality of Muskoka and the Dorset Environmental Science Centre to fund research projects in Muskoka.
- *MWC Year End Activity Report* – will be submitted to the District of Muskoka and the Muskoka Heritage Foundation for their information.

Member Organization Updates

- Peter Seybold provided an update on the year end monitoring report for the MLA water quality program.
- Debbie Vernon spoke about the MHAR Trade Show scheduled for April 20th at Deerhurst. She encouraged MWC to attend with a display and resources. MHAR is undergoing a strategic planning exercise.
- Don McVittie announced that Chris Near has been appointed as coordinator for the Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Network for 6 months. PS-MSN will also be assisting with the Haliburton-Muskoka Children's Water Festival next September.
- MWC, MHF and DMM will be hosting a Stewardship Conference on April 30th at Nipissing University in Bracebridge. Volunteers may be needed to assist with the event.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, February 18, 2011 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka. Barb Veale from the Grand River Conservation Authority will give a presentation on lessons learned from the Report Card process.

Adjournment

Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.