



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday March 25, 2011
1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney
Lola Bratty
Lou Guerriero
Steve Inniss
Mary McCulley
Greg Mierle
Peter Sale
Ian Turnbull
Scott Young

Shane Baker
Margaret Casey
Jack Hepworth
Caroline Konarzewski
Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan (Chair)
Peter Seybold
Debbie Vernon

Ben Boivin
Patsy Cross
Piret Hurrell
Anna Mallin
Don McVittie
Ruth Nishikawa
Lyle Steep
Paul Wiancko

Regrets

Dan Brooks
Gord Henderson
Steve Munro
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Alicia Tyson

Louise Cragg
Neil Hutchinson
Tracey Rast
Al Shaw

Isobel Heathcote
Don MacKay
Ken Riley
Paul Stueck

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Jamie Delaney
Eric McIntyre
Steve Scholten

Mark Pringle
Alice Murphy
Steve Taylor

Michelle Slater
Jeff Mole

Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm by welcoming members and guests. Debbie Vernon and Shane Baker provided autobiographies for the Council.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Lyle Steep, seconded by Ian Turnbull

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated [February 18, 2011](#) be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Chair's Items

- Steve Inniss is the new chair of the Communications Committee. The Committee is in need of more volunteers. Interested people can contact Steve at sinniss@earthlink.net.
- [Our Water Future](#) insert in the Globe and Mail newspaper produced by York Region.

Presentations

[The Muskoka River Water Management Plan and its impacts on the Moon River fishery of Eastern Georgian Bay](#) – Eric McIntyre, Coordinator, [Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council](#)

General comments and answers to questions included:

- The 10-year review of the MRWMP will occur in 2016.
- In response to a question from Shane Baker, Eric indicated that lower water levels on Georgian Bay do have an effect on walleye spawning in the Moon River. Lower levels have excluded walleye from reaching further up stream and are therefore forced to spawn in areas where habitat improvements have already taken place.
- Ben Boivin asked if spawning has improved since the new MRWMP has been put in place. Eric responded that data collection is still underway and that any increase in spawning may be partly due to habitat improvements that have been undertaken over the past few years. Eric indicated that the MNR has been good at helping improve spawning habitat, but he feels that more improvements can be made, particularly with the flow regime, which he feels is detrimental to spawning.
- Patsy Cross inquired as to whether the Stewardship Council has looked at the Musquash River. Eric responded that the Council will be undertaking habitat improvement and radio tagging projects in the river this summer, but that the flow regime is more constant on the Musquash River due to the presence of hydro generation facilities.

Rob thanked Eric for his presentation and encouraged other organizations to contact Eric if they are interested in learning more about habitat improvements in the Moon River.

[Waste Management Operations](#) – Jamie Delaney and Mark Pringle, District Municipality of Muskoka Engineering and Public Works Department

General comments and answers to questions included:

- Long term monitoring is included under the Certificate of Approval for municipalities.
- On private land, companies need to set aside enough money for clean up as a security.
- In response to a question about whether leachate is collected from the biosolids composting facility, Mark indicated that leachate collection is not applicable because biosolids are dewatered and bulking agents (leaves) are added in a 2 to 1 ratio. Runoff from this facility is captured and filtered through the soil.
- Hazardous waste collection is contracted out to Brendar Environmental, and they dispose of it appropriately, depending on whether it can be recycled or must be incinerated. MOE regulations regarding the collection and disposal of hazardous waste must be followed and Stewardship Ontario maintains data on waste that is recycled.
- Mary McCulley noted that the Huntsville hazardous waste collection depot is so far out of town that residents find it difficult to use. She questioned whether a site can be created in a more convenient location. Mark responded that waste collection sites are regulated under a Certificate of Approval and cannot be moved. However, he noted that Brendar Environmental has a mobile collection unit, but that its use has not been included in the 2011 budget. He indicated that Muskoka District Council would have to direct the Public Works Department to include it in future budgets.

- The Ministry of the Environment will be speaking to Planning and Engineering and Public Works staff next week about the study they undertook last summer to collect information on historical landfill sites in Muskoka.

Rob thanked Jamie and Mark and indicated that MWC will be very interested in the upcoming MOE report.

Updates and New Business

- *March 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. 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

- Lyle Steep announced that the Muskoka Heritage Foundation will be presenting an award at the MAC show tonight. The theme is forests. MHF has a representative appointed to the Bracebridge Advisory Committee. The Species at Risk stewardship guide is available. The Native Plant Sale will be held on May 14th. The Muskoka Stewardship Conference is on April 30th.
- Don McVittie advised that the Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Council held their AGM last week and that Chris Near has been appointed as the coordinator. PS-MSN will have a booth at the Muskoka Stewardship Conference and will also be participating in the Haliburton Muskoka Children's Water Festival.
- Peter Seybold indicated that the Muskoka Lakes Association is organizing their water quality program for 2011. He also announced that the Town of Gravenhurst is considering cutting the septic reinspection program from the budget. He will be attending a public meeting being held tomorrow.
- Judi announced that the two student projects will be presented through video conference on April 8th. She also reported that the Georgian Bay Report Card is moving forward and that someone has been hired to work on the project for the next 2 years.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, April 15, 2011 at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka.

Adjournment

Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.