



Minutes

Friday, November 20, 2009

1:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Ian Turnbull	Patricia Arney	Margaret Casey
Fran Coleman	Diane Griffin	Lou Guerriero
Anna Mallin (Skype)	Mary McCulley	Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan	Peter Sale	Al Shaw
Brian Sturgeon	Scott Young	

Regrets:

Ken Black	Ben Boivin	Dan Brooks
Tonia Di Sabatino	Karen Flood	Eleanor Lewis
Don MacKay	Don McVittie	Steve Munro
Peter Seybold	Brian Tapley	Alicia Tyson
Jim Walden		

Staff:

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison	Marg French
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Guests:

Janet Palmer	Greg Mierle	Shawn Pudsey
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Welcome

Ian Turnbull called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. by welcoming members and guests.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Lou Guerriero, seconded by Rob Milligan

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 23, 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

Activity Report

MOTION by Mary McCulley, seconded by Lou Guerriero

THAT the Activity Report for November 2009 be approved.

CARRIED

2010 Report Card Discussion

A draft of the consolidated Background Report was distributed with the agenda. Judi presented an overview of the background report and Council members made the following comments:

- The big question coming out of the 2010 Report Card is “how much development can occur in a forested landscape before a watershed is negatively impacted?”
- Is there evidence that patch size is limiting species presence? Yes – wolves and moose are not as common in heavily disturbed areas. This needs to be made clear in the background report.
- The background report needs to state that the buffer area for interior forest starts at the forest edge.
- Mercury contamination grades are currently based on human consumption restrictions. Should these be based on wildlife restrictions instead? Watershed disturbances, such as logging, fires and wetland alterations, have an impact on mercury concentrations in fish. Standards are more stringent for wildlife than for humans. Mink, otters and loons could be used as indicator species.

Stewardship Paper

Ian presented an overview of the draft Stewardship Paper distributed with the agenda. MWC members then formed groups to discuss priority key messages from the paper.

Group 1:

1. There is very little time left to act but there are a lot of actions we can each take.
2. Government appears unable to deal with climate change – hence the solution is the aggregate of a lot of individual actions.
3. Think globally, act locally.
4. Muskoka may be healthy but we can't afford to be complacent.

Group 2:

1. Aggressive advocacy to capture and engage local citizens – “the time to act is now!” (global level)
2. Development of local, citizen-driven green plans – “get together, get involved!” (watershed level)
3. Take responsibility. (individual level)

Group 3:

1. We need to find an emotion.
2. We won't inspire people if we say that “we are pretty good, so go out and work harder.”
3. We need to relate our stewardship message to family.

How do we take our stewardship message forward in the report card?

- Do an imagine exercise using different scenarios i.e. what if our wetlands dried up? What if our forests burned?
- We need to incorporate climate change into planning activities on a daily basis.
- Start with a challenge to ourselves – we need to walk the walk.
- People are drawn by emotion – they accept the science so we need to capture their interest and awareness in order to get them to become stewards.
- How do we rise above the clutter of stewardship messages being put out by other organizations?
- The report card indicates that we are doing okay, but we aren't there yet.
- MWC is unique in that we have the science to back up our stewardship message.

Creative Muskoka

A memo outlining a statement of support for Creative Muskoka was distributed with the agenda.

MOTION by Rob Milligan, seconded by Fran Coleman

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council support in principle Creative Muskoka's goal to build on Muskoka's rich natural heritage, arts and culture to create a vibrant creative economy.

CARRIED

Updates & New Business

- An interim representative from the Muskoka & Haliburton Association of Realtors will be assigned to MWC while Karen Flood is unable to attend meetings.

Correspondence & Articles

- Notice of Public Information Centre for the Highway 11 Access Review from Muskoka Road 117/Cedar Lane, northerly 6.3 kilometres (GWP 322-00-00).
- Media Release from the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario re: Chilling Costs of Development Disputes.
- Workshop for the Lake Huron Biodiversity Conservation Strategy scheduled for December 10th.

Next Meeting

Friday, January 29, 2010 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka administration building.

Adjournment

Ian Turnbull adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.