



Minutes

Friday, September 23, 2011
1:00 pm

Community Centre – Township of Algonquin Highlands
North Shore Road, Stanhope

Present

Rob Milligan (Chair)
Louise Cragg
Gord Henderson
Anna Mallin
Peter Seybold
Scott Young

Patricia Arney
Lou Guerriero
Jack Hepworth
Greg Mierle
Lyle Steep

Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Piret Hurrell
Peter Sale
Ian Turnbull

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Lola Bratty
Neil Hutchinson
Mary McCulley
Steve Munro
Ken Riley
Paul Stueck

Shane Baker
Dan Brooks
Steve Inniss
Jan McDonnell
Ruth Nishikawa
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Debbie Vernon

Ben Boivin
Patsy Cross
Don MacKay
Don McVittie
Tracey Rast
Al Shaw
Paul Wiancko

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Chris Card

Emma Horrigan

Peter Schleifenbaum

The meeting was preceded by lunch catered by That Place in Carnarvon.

Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He thanked the Township of Algonquin Highlands for hosting the meeting. Gord Henderson, Algonquin Highland's representative on MWC, welcomed everyone to Algonquin Highlands and provided some information about the Township and its current projects.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Patricia Arney

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 17, 2011
be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- [Public Service Announcements](#) – aired on Moose FM and Chay FM radio stations May-Aug

- Notice of Project Commencement – Hwy 11 Gull Lake Narrows Bridges
- Notice of Project Commencement – Hwy 11 Muskoka River Bridges

Chair's Items

- The Environmental Lecture held in July is available on Cogeco Television and the Muskoka Watershed Council's [You Tube Channel](#).

Presentations

[Haliburton Forest & Wildlife Reserve](#) - Peter C. Schleifenbaum, Principal Owner & Manager

Peter described his approach to private land stewardship on the 80,000 acre family business owned property located northeast of Stanhope. This area is the headwaters for three watersheds (Muskoka River, Ottawa River, and Trent-Severn River) and contains 60-70 lakes.

- Key element of his approach to stewardship include:
 - 4 pillars: recreation, resource management, research and education;
 - Peter's father bought the property in 1961. When the quality timber ran out they turned it into a recreational area to allow the timber resources to replenish;
 - Main focus today is forestry management, with tourism as a secondary focus;
 - Good relationship developed with Tembec for harvesting timber;
 - The first forest in Canada to receive FSC certification – used as a pilot project;
 - Built own sawmill to process timber in-house in 2007;
 - Tourism represents approx 50% of the business; is declining in favour of forestry;
 - Have developed a program to manage the fisheries and lakes on the property; data is collected through partnerships with colleges and universities;
 - Forest is managed for long-term sustainability and encourages high diversity in order to make the forest more resilient;
 - Climate change is a major concern for the future – management programs are focusing on promoting species that are expected to best weather climate change.

[Haliburton Highlands Water Trails](#) – Chris Card, Trails Technician/Bylaw Officer, Township of Algonquin Highlands

Chris described the unique programs in place to plan, operate and manage the water trails. Copies of the Hiking Trails Guide, the Frost Centre Canoe Routes Map, and the Haliburton Highlands Water Trails brochure were distributed.

Updates and New Business

- *September 2011 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda. The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with social media, writing articles, and giving presentations.
- *MHF Quilt Raffle* – tickets are available for the quilt raffle, which will be drawn on October 21st.
- *10th Anniversary* – MWC will be celebrating its 10th anniversary on October 20th with a coffee and dessert reception beginning at 6:15 pm followed by an Environmental Lecture on Adapting to Climate Change at 7 pm. To be held in the Active Living Centre of the Canada Summit Centre in Huntsville.
- *Muskoka Stewardship Conference* – will be held in April 2012
- *Biodiversity Summit* – will be held in June 2012

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, October 21, 2011 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building

Adjournment

Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

2011 Public Service Announcements

Wake PSA

Lakes and rivers in Muskoka are fragile environments. Fish, wildlife, shorelines and shoreline structures like docks and boathouses are vulnerable to damage from boat wakes.

As a responsible boater, you should always be aware of the wake you create. When boating within thirty meters of the shore or in narrow channels, reduce your speed so you leave no wake.

This message is brought to you by the Muskoka Watershed Council. Championing watershed health.

Septic System

Your septic system is your responsibility. A failed septic system can leak contaminants into our lakes and rivers, which are the sources of our drinking water.

Keep on top of things by making sure your system is inspected regularly and that your tank is pumped every three to five years. Learn and look for the warning signs that your septic system may be failing and take action immediately to protect your health and our water resources.

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Wetlands

Swamp, marsh, bog or fen. Whatever you call it, wetlands are important.

Wetlands are the kidneys of our watersheds, cleaning our water and maintaining water flow during dry periods. No matter how large or small a wetland is, it provides important habitat for wildlife and valuable benefits to humans.

Protecting wetlands means protecting your water quality and the value of your property.

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