



Minutes

Friday, November 28, 2008

1:00 p.m.

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

Present:

Ian Turnbull (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Ken Black
Ben Boivin	Dan Brooks	Diane Griffin
Trevor Griffin	Steve Inniss	Juliet Litschko
Anna Mallin (phone)	Mary McCulley	Peter Seybold
Al Shaw	Tom Smith	Brian Sturgeon
Brian Tapley	Rick Wright	

Regrets:

Margaret Casey	Fran Coleman	Richard Corcelli
Deb Cumming	Karen Flood	Lou Guerriero
Michael Lawley	Eleanor Lewis	Anne Lindsay
Don MacKay	Don McVittie	Rob Milligan
Steve Munro	Ross Raymond	Nathan Richer
Janette Sutey	Jim Walden	Scott Young

Staff:

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison	Marg French
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Guests:

Ron Reid	Mike Fitton	Wanda Roberts
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Welcome

Ian Turnbull called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. with roundtable introductions.

Confirmation of Minutes

It was noted that Dan Brooks should be removed from the Regrets section of the October 17, 2008 minutes.

MOTION by Ken Black, seconded by Al Shaw

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 17, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

Council Biographies

Muskoka Watershed Council members Diane Griffin, Trevor Griffin and Dan Brooks provided brief verbal autobiographies for the Council.

Presentations

- [Beyond Islands of Green: Filling in the Conservation Science Knowledge Gap](#) – Ron Reid, Couchiching Conservancy

Related documents: [Beyond Islands of Green](#)
[How Much Habitat is Enough?](#)

- [Property Control Issues](#) – Michael E. Fitton

Committee Reports

See the attached "[Update on Committee Activities.](#)"

MOTION by Ken Black, seconded by Tom Smith

THAT the MWC "Update on Committee Activities" report dated November 20, 2008 be approved.

CARRIED

Wetland Policy Paper

MOTION by Patricia Arney, seconded by Tom Smith

THAT the Muskoka Watershed Council report titled "[Wetland Policy Paper](#)" be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Muskoka Forest Health Program

Ian Turnbull provided a brief summary of the District's proposed Forest Health program and outlined the position paper developed by MWC in support of the program.

MOTION by Tom Smith, seconded by Mary McCulley

THAT the Muskoka Watershed Council report titled "Draft Position Paper – [Forest Health Program](#)" be approved in principle and submitted to the District Municipality of Muskoka.

CARRIED

Graphic Identity

MOTION by Ben Boivin, seconded by Ken Black

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council retain its original logo image;

AND THAT Muskoka Watershed Council continue to participate on a joint communications committee with the Muskoka Heritage Foundation and the Muskoka Heritage Trust, as appropriate.

CARRIED

Roundtable Update from Member Organizations

- Mary McCulley attended a public meeting on Huntsville's Green Plan on behalf of MWC.
- Judi Brouse provided an overview of the Calcium Decline Study DMM is participating in.
- Patricia Arney announced that each Council member of the Township of Muskoka Lakes made a contribution to MHF's Legacy Campaign.

Updates & New Business

- Ian Turnbull thanked former Chair Tom Smith, who is stepping down from MWC. Tom has been a member of MWC since its inception in 2001.
- Judi Brouse has been investigating various funding sources for some of the projects MWC is involved with, including Ducks Unlimited for the wetland evaluation project, the Trillium Foundation for a stewardship program, and Trees Ontario and the Blue Water Foundation for the Muskoka Envirocredits program.
- Dan Brooks has agreed to chair the MWC Communications Committee.

Correspondence

- [Bala Falls Small Hydro Project Q&A](#)
- Letter from the MNR RE: new policy approved for the [disposition of Crown land adjacent to lake trout lakes](#)
- Letter from the Town of Huntsville RE: the development of a Green Plan for their community

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Muskoka Watershed Council is scheduled for Friday **January 16, 2009** at **1:00 p.m.** in the **Council Chambers** at the District's Administration Building.

Adjournment

Ian Turnbull adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

To: **Muskoka Watershed Council**
From: **Committee Chairs**
Date: **November 20, 2008**
Re: **Update on Committee Activities**

Strategic Directions Committee – next meeting: *Friday, December 5th at 10:00 am in the Birch Room*

The Bulk Water Removal paper was presented to District Planning and Economic Development Committee on October 16th and a meeting with MP Tony Clement occurred on November 10th. A 3-year schedule has been drafted for the Environmental Lecture Series and anyone interested in helping with the planning is encouraged to talk to Judi Brouse. The Progress Report on Municipal Planning continues to be revised for an anticipated release date in May 2009. A response to DMM's Economic Strategy Phase 2 Report has been drafted and will be presented to MWC on November 28th.

Policy & Research Committee – next meeting: *Friday, January 16th at 10:00 am in the Birch Room*

A position paper supporting the development of Muskoka's Forest Health Strategy has been drafted and will be discussed at MWC on November 28th. A position paper on wetlands has also been finalized and will be presented to MWC on November 28th for approval. The Committee continues to refine the draft position paper on power generation, and the draft position paper on air quality developed in 2005 will be updated to incorporate new data and focus on environmental health instead of human health.

Executive Committee – next meeting: *Friday, December 5th at 1:00 pm in the Birch Room*

The Executive Committee distributed the draft position paper on Muskoka's Forest Health Strategy developed by the Policy & Research Committee to its contact list with a letter urging people to express their views on the proposed strategy to District Chair Gord Adams. A letter has been submitted to the Forest Management Plan author for the French-Severn Forest providing support for the FMP and identifying the need for a program to implement sustainable forestry practices on private land. Following a presentation by MHF members Joey Brown and Mike Foster on MHF's graphic identity proposal, the Executive Committee voted in favour of sending a recommendation to MWC on November 28th to retain MWC's current logo. The Executive Committee also approved in principle a proposal for a wetland evaluation project and will now look for funds to support the program. A letter will be distributed to watershed municipalities requesting funding for the next MWC Best Practices brochure on stewardship responsibilities associated with low impact development.