



## Minutes

Friday, October 17, 2008

12:40 p.m.

Partners Hall – Town of Huntsville  
37 Main Street East, Huntsville

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### Present:

Ian Turnbull (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Ken Black
Ben Boivin	Margaret Casey	Fran Coleman
Deb Cumming	Karen Flood	Lou Guerriero
Steve Inniss	Don McVittie	Rob Milligan
Al Shaw	Tom Smith	Brian Sturgeon
Brian Tapley	Scott Young	

### Regrets:

Trevor Griffin	Richard Corcelli	Diane Griffin
Anne Lindsay	Michael Lawley	Eleanor Lewis
Anna Mallin	Juliet Litschko	Don MacKay
Ross Raymond	Mary McCulley	Steve Munro
Janette Sutey	Nathan Richer	Peter Seybold
	Jim Walden	Rick Wright

### Staff:

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison
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### Guests:

Claude Doughty (Tour)	Mary Jane Fletcher (Tour)
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### *Tour of Huntsville*

Claude Doughty, Mayor of Huntsville, led a tour of six sites around Huntsville highlighting stormwater management techniques, including stormwater management ponds, culverts, and oil and grit separators. Mayor Doughty spoke about the challenges of managing stormwater and how the Town of Huntsville has tried to address these issues.

### *Welcome*

Ian Turnbull called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. by thanking the Town of Huntsville for hosting the meeting and the Huntsville Environmental Advisory Committee for providing lunch.

### *Confirmation of Minutes*

**MOTION** by Lou Guerriero, seconded by Margaret Casey

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated September 19, 2008 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### ***Council Biographies***

Muskoka Watershed Council members Patricia Arney, Fran Coleman and Karen Flood provided brief verbal autobiographies for the Council.

### ***Chair's Update***

- Communications Committee chair Doug Cross has resigned from MWC
- A presentation on MWC activities was given to District Planning and Economic Development
- A presentation on MWC was given to Bracebridge Rotary Club

### ***Committee Reports***

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

**MOTION** by Don McVittie, seconded by Patricia Arney

THAT the MWC "Update on Committee Activities" report dated October 10, 2008 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### ***Operating Criteria***

**MOTION** by Ben Boivin, seconded by Don McVittie

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council adopt operating criteria comprising the revised Mission, Goal and Objectives and Guiding Principles, as detailed in the October 5, 2008 [report from the Chair.](#)

**CARRIED**

### ***Roundtable Update from Member Organizations***

Please see the attached [MHF and MHT Activity Report](#) for activities undertaken by the [Muskoka Heritage Foundation](#) and [Muskoka Heritage Trust](#).

### ***Updates & New Business***

- The fourth lecture in the 2008 Environmental Lecture Series is scheduled for Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at Deerhurst Resort in Huntsville beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Daniel Scott will be speaking about climate change and tourism.

### ***Correspondence***

- Editorial published in the September 27, 2008 edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer about the U.S. House passing the Great Lakes Compact.

### ***Next Meeting***

The next meeting of the Muskoka Watershed Council is scheduled for Friday **November 28, 2008** at **1:00 p.m.** in the **Council Chambers** at the District's Administration Building.

### ***Adjournment***

Ian Turnbull adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.



# *Muskoka*

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## WATERSHED COUNCIL

To: **Muskoka Watershed Council**  
From: **Committee Chairs**  
Date: **October 10, 2008**  
Re: **Update on Committee Activities**

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### **Communications Initiatives**

A small sub-committee of representatives from MWC, MHF and MHT met to discuss creating and approving communications tools that feature all three organizations. The use of a common logo for all three organizations was also considered.

### **Strategic Directions Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, November 7th at 10:00 am in the Birch Room*

The Bulk Water Diversions paper will be presented to District Planning and Economic Development Committee on October 16<sup>th</sup>. The Interim Report Card on Municipal Planning continues to be revised for an anticipated release date in May 2009. The fourth lecture in the Environmental Lecture Series on Climate Change and Tourism has been scheduled for November 21<sup>st</sup> in collaboration with the Muskoka Tourism and Marketing Agency and MHF. A response to DMM's Economic Strategy Phase 2 Report is being drafted, as well as a scoping document on low impact development.

### **Policy & Research Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, November 28th at 10:00 am in the Birch Room*

A letter has been drafted to the Nuclear Waste Management Organization's site selection committee outlining why Muskoka would not be a good place to bury uranium waste. Position papers on wetlands and power generation have been drafted and are in the process of being finalized, at which point they will be taken to the Executive Committee and then MWC for adoption. A position paper on pharmaceuticals continues to be drafted, and a review of Muskoka's draft Forest Health by-law is being undertaken.

### **Executive Committee** – *next meeting: Friday, November 7th at 1:00 pm in the Birch Room*

A Status of Activities Report for MWC will be prepared prior to each Executive Committee meeting in order to monitor items that have been completed or remain outstanding. It was determined that MWC's mission, goal, objectives and guiding principles should govern issue response and overall operating guidelines. Ad-hoc committees have been formed to comment on the French-Severn Forest Management Plan and to look at education opportunities in the school system. Air quality, visioning program, and graphic identity proposals were also discussed.

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## MHF AND MHT ACTIVITY REPORT

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### Muskoka Heritage Foundation

The annual Muskoka Heritage Foundation golf tournament was held at Bigwin Island Golf Course on September 26, 2008. The day was a perfect fall day and eighty-four golfers enjoyed the sun, the colours and some great golf. Although not all the bills are in it is expected that the Foundation made over \$20,000.

October 18, 2008 will be the Foundation's AGM. The Natural Heritage Awards and the Built & Cultural Heritage Awards will be handed out to individuals and organizations that have helped to protect or conserve the natural or built heritage of Muskoka. In total, 5 Built & Cultural Heritage Awards and 4 Natural Heritage Awards will be handed out.

The Foundation will also be awarding the Robert Boyer Award to recognize a community member who, throughout their life, has made significant contributions to the unique cultural heritage of Muskoka. Muskoka Watershed Council members that have received this award include Ian Turnbull. The Wayland Drew Award, given in recognition of environmental leadership, will also be given out. Muskoka Watershed Council members that have received this award include Margaret Casey and Anne Lindsay.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation will also take this opportunity to present the Muskoka Heritage Trust with a cheque for \$106,000 over two years to support the TAG team.

### Muskoka Heritage Trust

The maintenance of existing properties is the Trust's priority and requires a significant amount of both our staff and volunteer resources. Over the past several months, the Trust has also received several requests to protect new properties.

Discussions and negotiations with several Donors are approaching fruition. Two prospective conservation easements and a large nature reserve may be completed by the end of this year, including a property bequeathed to the Trust by longtime supporter Catherine Brook.

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is continuing to monitor both existing and potential properties during this fall field season.

The Trust has recently applied for and become a member of the American Friends of Canadian Land Trusts (AFOCLT). AFOCLT is a U.S.-based non-profit organization established in 2006 to support land conservation in Canada through cross-border conservation with U.S. residents. This membership will allow the Trust to support U.S. residents keen to support land conservation efforts in Muskoka.



To: Members, Muskoka Watershed Council  
Re: Operating Criteria  
From: Ian Turnbull, Chair  
Date: October 5, 2008

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council adopt operating criteria comprising the revised Mission, Goal and Objectives and Guiding Principles, as detailed in the October 5, 2008 report from the Chair.

## **ORIGIN**

On June 20, 2008 in Port Severn, the Strategic Directions Committee completed the process of reviewing and updating the mission, goal and objectives. On October 3, 2008, the Executive Committee recommended adoption of Guiding Principles.

## **ANALYSIS**

In the spring of this year, Strategic Directions Committee led the process of reviewing and updating Council's Mission, Goal and Objectives statement. Adoption of the Guiding Principles attached would complement the Mission, Goal and Objectives. Together, they would constitute Operating Criteria – the standards or tests guiding Council's work.

Application of operating criteria should prove especially helpful in managing work program priorities and issue response. For example, assume that Council is asked to comment on a specific development proposal. Council would adhere to the long-held practice that we do not comment on specific development proposals. That said, the Guiding Principles would require that all communications respect and reflect approved policy positions, and that policy positions comprise those approved by Council's diverse membership.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Turnbull'.

Attachment: Operating Criteria



## **MISSION**

To champion watershed health.

## **GOAL**

To sustain and enhance the air, water and terrestrial ecosystems of the watersheds of Muskoka for the environmental, health, economic, spiritual and intrinsic values they provide.

## **OBJECTIVES**

### **1. Evaluate the Watersheds**

Develop and implement science-based programs to research, assess, monitor and evaluate the health of Muskoka's watersheds.

#### **Strategies**

- Undertake research to better evaluate, understand, benchmark and monitor watershed health;
- Develop collaborative research relationships with governments, agencies, business, industry, NGOs and associations with shared interests in watershed health, including water quality and quantity, habitat protection, air quality, climate change and land use planning; and
- Identify watershed health degradation, impairment and poor program delivery, along with watershed health improvement, quality and good program delivery.

### **2. Advocate for the Watersheds**

Advocate for sound air, land and water use planning and management practices and policies that sustain and improve the health of Muskoka's watersheds.

#### **Strategies**

- Develop timely and informed policy positions on watershed health;
- Advocate for environmentally sustainable urban, rural and waterfront development design standards and best practices that enhance the traditional small town, rural, waterfront and wilderness character of the watersheds;
- Advocate for sustainable use of natural resources including soils, forests, aggregates, bedrock, water and air;
- Advocate for behaviour change that supports healthy watersheds;
- Advocate for development of plans and programs to rehabilitate degraded areas; and
- Provide comments to municipal governments on matters related to watershed health policy.

### **3. Communicate and Educate**

Develop and implement public information and education programs that promote understanding of the impact of human actions on the watersheds and encourage lifestyle choices that are compatible with healthy and functioning watersheds.

#### **Strategies**

- Develop and publish the Watersheds Report Card every 4 years;
- Enhance and promote access to the MWC resource library on watershed health and management;
- Publish science-based position papers and best practice information;
- Utilize state-of-the-art methods and techniques to communicate and educate, including publications, electronic media and face-to-face contact; and
- Regularly meet with the Councils of the watersheds' municipal governments.

### **4. Promote and Demonstrate**

Promote and facilitate demonstration activities and best practices that support an environmentally sustainable economy and a healthy community structure.

#### **Strategies**

- Promote environmentally responsible behaviour by individuals, government, business and industry by demonstrating lifestyle and best management practices that enhance the economic, social and environmental well-being of watershed communities;
- Seek out external funding sources to support watershed partner collaboration in demonstrating best practices;
- Participate in and strongly support various national and international environmentally sustaining behavior awareness initiatives such as Earth Day and Earth Hour; and
- Develop and promote our own Muskoka-based, local environmentally sustaining behavior awareness initiative.

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

1. Policy positions are approved by Council's membership which includes municipal, environmental, business and community representatives.
2. Council communications respect and reflect policy positions.
3. Proactive approaches increase individual and community environmental stewardship.
4. The combined action of individuals or organizations will accomplish more than the action of one individual or organization.
5. A strong and independent voice is required to champion watershed health.