



## Minutes

Friday, November 25, 2011  
1:00 pm

Pine Room – District Municipality of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

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### Present

Rob Milligan (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Shane Baker
Bob Bergquist	Ben Boivin	Margaret Casey
Patsy Cross	Isobel Heathcote	Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Steve Inniss
Anna Mallin	Mary McCulley	Greg Mierle
Ruth Nishikawa	Peter Sale	Peter Seybold
Lyle Steep	Ian Turnbull	Scott Young

### Regrets

Scott Aitchison	Lola Bratty	Dan Brooks
Louise Cragg	Lou Guerriero	Neil Hutchinson
Don MacKay	Jan McDonnell	Don McVittie
Steve Munro	Tracey Rast	Ken Riley
Mary Robertson-Lacroix	Al Shaw	Paul Stueck
Debbie Vernon	Paul Wiancko	

### Staff

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison
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### Guests

Chris Near	Linda Robinson (LOBA)	Sandy Schofield (until 1:15 pm)
Geoff Ross	Winston Young	

### Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Sandy Schofield and Chris Near presented a cheque for \$2,510 to Rob Milligan and Patricia Arney on behalf of the Great Muskoka Paddling Experience Organizing Committee. The money was raised at the GMPE event held on October 6<sup>th</sup>. MWC fully supports the event, which will take place on October 6, 2012.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Anna Mallin, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated [October 21, 2011](#) be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- None.

## Chair's Items

- Update from the [Ontario Headwaters Institute](#).
- MWC presentation to Muskoka District Council on October 31, 2011 re: [Services Review](#).

## Presentation

[Integrated Watershed Management: Challenges and Opportunities](#) – Isobel Heathcote, Retired Professor, University of Guelph

Points from discussion following the presentation:

- Muskoka seems to have fewer problems than the case study areas, which makes it difficult to get the political will to develop an IWM process.
- IWM demonstrates how important it is to develop and maintain long-term monitoring programs.
- It is expensive to develop an IWM process. It is not something that a municipality can carry out on their own. However, there are a number of free models available that can be used to develop an IWM process.
- There is also a scaled down IWM process that can be used by a municipality (simple assessment instead of a complex assessment). However, it is not detailed enough to base large infrastructure costs on.
- Not every system needs an IWM process.
- Muskoka doesn't have a definition of ecosystem health. The indicators used in the Report Card are too general. A workshop should be held to develop a definition of ecosystem health in Muskoka. A resolution was put forward that "MWC proceed with defining what a healthy ecosystem is as a basis for an Integrated Watershed Management Plan" but upon further discussion, it was decided to defer this until the CWN research program is underway. An Ecosystem Health Ad-hoc Committee was formed, reporting to the Strategic Directions Committee. Anna Mallin, Greg Mierle and Peter Seybold will sit on the Ad-hoc Committee.
- MWC should be pushing to get an IWM process in place. A computer model and monitoring programs are necessary to develop an IWM process. Perhaps the MRWMP model can be used as a base for an IWM process.

## Updates and New Business

- *November 2011 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda.
- *Latornell Symposium* – Margaret Casey, Judi Brouse and Rebecca Willison attended the symposium and provided summaries of the sessions they attended.
- *Restore Your Shore Stewardship Guide* – is now available [online](#) and at the MWC/MHF office.
- *Funding Request to Seguin Township*

**MOTION** by Margaret Casey, seconded by Gregory Mierle

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council submit a grant request to the Township of Seguin for the Best Practices program.

**CARRIED**

- *Muskoka Stewardship Conference* – will be held in April 28, 2012
- *Biodiversity Summit* – will be held in June 6-7, 2012

## Next MWC Meeting

Friday, January 20, 2012 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

## Adjournment

Rob Milligan adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.