



Minutes

Friday, January 20, 2012
1:00 pm

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

Present

Rob Milligan
Bob Bergquist
Patsy Cross
Gord Henderson
Don McVittie
Lyle Steep
Scott Young

Patricia Arney
Ben Boivin
Lou Guerriero
Piret Hurrell
Steve Munro
Ian Turnbull

Shane Baker
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Anna Mallin
Tracey Rast
Debbie Vernon

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Louise Cragg
Steve Inniss
Jan McDonnell
Ken Riley
Peter Seybold
Paul Wiancko

Lola Bratty
Jack Hepworth
Don MacKay
Greg Mierle
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Al Shaw

Dan Brooks
Neil Hutchinson
Mary McCulley
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Sale
Paul Stueck

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Michael Peppard
Richard Lammers

Linda Robinson
Chris Near

Valerie Fieldwebster
Chris Marshall

Welcome

Rob Milligan called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm with roundtable introductions.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Anna Mallin, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated [November 25, 2011](#) be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None.

Election of Officers

- Election of Chair

MOTION by Ian Turnbull, seconded by Shane Baker
THAT Patricia Arney be nominated for the position of Chair.

CARRIED

MOTION by Don McVittie, seconded by Piret Hurrell
THAT nominations for the position of Chair be closed.

CARRIED

Patricia Arney was elected as Chair by acclamation.

Rob left the podium and Patricia took his place. She presented him with a certificate of appreciation and an Order of the Otter medal.

- Election of Vice-chair

MOTION by Don McVittie, seconded by Ian Turnbull
THAT Peter Sale be nominated for the position of Vice-chair.

CARRIED

MOTION by Shane Baker, seconded by Patsy Cross
THAT nominations for the position of Vice-chair be closed.

CARRIED

Peter Sale was elected as Vice-chair by acclamation.

Committee Chairs

Peter Sale will continue to serve as Chair of the Policy & Research Committee. Lou Guerriero will replace Patricia Arney as Chair of the Strategic Directions Committee, and Steve Inniss will remain as Chair of the Communications Committee.

Presentation

Our Sustainable Forest – Steve Munro, General Manager, [Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.](#)

Points from discussion following the presentation:

- Report sightings of Beech Bark Disease to Steve Munro or Chris Near.
- Other invasive species to watch for in addition to garlic mustard are dog-strangling vine and Norway maple.
- Hard to control insect pests with chemicals since they live in the bark and/or may not eat the leaves that are sprayed.
- Harvesting our forests for firewood tends to be good for the forest since it removes many of the poorer quality trees.
- Our forests are growing approx 40% slower than they used to, likely due to acid rain leaching calcium out of the soil.

Patricia thanked Steve for his presentation.

MWC Orientation

Rob Milligan and Patricia Arney presented an overview of the Muskoka Watershed Council, including what MWC does, key messages, funding structure, past accomplishments and current projects.

Updates and New Business

- *January 2012 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda.
- *2012 Meeting Dates* – was distributed with the agenda. Meeting dates and agendas are also available on the new MWC website.
- *Fourth Quarter Activity Report* – will be sent to MHF and DMM as an update from MWC.
- *Creative Muskoka Steps to Leadership Program* – Bob Bergquist provided a summary of the program (step 1 occurred over several nights in late 2011). Participants discussed how to build a creative economy while maintaining the environment and not becoming Toronto North. The second step will be held in the near future.
- *Muskoka Stewardship Conference* – will be held in April 28, 2012
- *Biodiversity Summit* – will be held in June 6-7, 2012

Member Organization Updates

- Bob Bergquist – Nipissing University will be holding a Ted^x event on March 8th. Peter Sale will be one of the presenters. The event will be streaming live from Bracebridge to 25 high schools. There are 100 spaces available at the school to participate. Visit www.tedxnipissingu.com for more information.
- Lyle Steep – MHF is celebrating their 25th anniversary this year and there are some special events planned.
- Scott Young – District [service review](#) is ongoing and the public can contact either Scott or Shane Baker about any concerns. A Citizens Advisory Committee has also been struck. Any impact from the review likely won't be felt until the 2013 budget. Letters can also be sent to John Klinck with any comments or concerns.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, February 17, 2012 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:40 pm.