



Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2012
1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney
Isobel Heathcote
Piret Hurrell
Anna Mallin
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Sale
Ian Turnbull

Shane Baker
Gord Henderson
Steve Inniss
Mary McCulley
Michael Peppard
Peter Seybold
Scott Young

Lou Guerriero
Jack Hepworth
Caroline Konarzewski
Don McVittie
Geoff Ross
Paul Stueck

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Lola Bratty
Louise Cragg
Richard Lammers
Greg Mierle
Tracey Rast
Al Shaw
Paul Wiancko

Bob Bergquist
Dan Brooks
Patsy Cross
Don MacKay
Rob Milligan
Ken Riley
Lyle Steep

Ben Boivin
Margaret Casey
Neil Hutchinson
Jan McDonnell
Steve Munro
Mary Robertson-Lacroix
Debbie Vernon

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Marg French

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. She introduced Peter Sale as the new Vice-chair.

Presentation

[Lessons in Community Environmental Engagement](#) – Michael Peppard

Points from discussion following the presentation:

- To reach the unconverted in Muskoka, contact needs to be one-on-one.
- Try to pair up with existing programs to reach a broader audience.

Patricia thanked Michael for his presentation.

Websites

Rebecca Willison reviewed the [Muskoka Watershed Council](#) website, [Muskoka Water Web](#) site, and [Muskoka Summit on the Environment](#) website.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Shane Baker, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 20, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- MWC letter of support was provided for the Great Muskoka Paddling Experience.
- Letter from Seguin Township approving MWC's grant request for \$500 for the Best Practices Program.

Updates and New Business

- *February 2012 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - *Aggregates* – The *Aggregates Resources Position Paper* produced by MWC in 2005 is undergoing an update to include information about the *Aggregate Resources Act*, which came into force in Muskoka after the paper was released. The revised paper is expected to be presented to MWC for approval at the March 23rd meeting.
 - *Biodiversity* – The *Human Impacts on the Environment Sub-committee* is drafting a paper that will contain a summary of the information gained through the elders meetings, a review of the history of Muskoka as recorded in documents, and a scientific review of literature that documents the changes in biodiversity and the environment in Muskoka. The paper is expected to be presented to MWC for approval at the June meeting.
 - *Wetlands* – Members of the *Strategic Directions Committee* will be recording changes in urban wetlands in Muskoka over the next two years for the 2014 Watershed Report Card. A workshop will be held this spring to train volunteers on the process.
- [Muskoka Stewardship Conference](#) – will be held April 28, 2012
- [Biodiversity Summit](#) – will be held June 6-7, 2012
- *Student Projects*
 - Trent University Students visit - Saturday March 3, 2012
 - Trent University Research Day in Haliburton - Saturday March 24, 2012
 - Guelph University Student Client Reception - April 4, 2012
 - Potential project on stewardship with Georgian College
- Patricia Arney has asked that MWC members think about topics for future MWC meetings and bring ideas to the meeting in March.

Member Organization Updates

- Peter Seybold – MLA 2011 water quality report is available [online](#).
- Don McVittie – The Muskoka Heritage Foundation and Muskoka Heritage Trust are amalgamating and will change name and structure of the organization.
- Don McVittie – The Parry Sound-Muskoka Stewardship Network is restructuring, but will hopefully maintain its link with the MNR. Funding sources are uncertain. Letters of support can be sent to the Minister of Natural Resources. MWC has agreed to write a letter to Michael Gravelle (MNR) in support of the PSMSN.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, March 23, 2012 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.