



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, June 22, 2012
1:00 pm

Raymond Community Hall – Township of Muskoka Lakes
2013 Hwy 141, Utterson

Present

Patricia Arney	Shane Baker	Margaret Casey
Louise Cragg	Lou Guerriero	Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Steve Inniss
Richard Lammers	Anna Mallin	Mary McCulley
Greg Mierle	Ruth Nishikawa	Michael Peppard
Tracey Rast	Geoff Ross	Peter Sale
Peter Seybold	Al Shaw	Ian Turnbull
Scott Young		

Regrets

Scott Aitchison	Nic Bell	Ben Boivin
Lola Bratty	Dan Brooks	Patsy Cross
Valerie Fieldwebster	Isobel Heathcote	Neil Hutchinson
Caroline Konarzewski	Jan McDonnell	Don McVittie
Rob Milligan	Steve Munro	Ken Riley
Mary Robertson-Lacroix	Lyle Steep	Paul Stueck
Debbie Vernon	Paul Wiancko	

Staff

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison	Marg French
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Guests

Jane Braden	Al Marshall	Paul Smith
Rhonda Overland		

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Ruth Nishikawa welcomed MWC to the Township of Muskoka Lakes and provided an overview of one of the sites MWC will visit later in the meeting. TML purchased a waterfall on the Rosseau River to preserve it when a development application came forward. Patricia thanked Ruth for providing lunch.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Piret Hurrell, seconded by Tracey Rast

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated [May 18, 2012](#) be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter to the District of Muskoka re: Official Plan Review
- Letter from the Township of Muskoka Lakes re: funding for the Best Practices program
- Notice from Swift River Energy re: North Bala Falls Small Hydro Project
- Letter from the Muskoka Lakes Association re: closure of the ELA
- Article: Wells Worth It

Chair's Items

- MWC membership – Members of the Executive Committee must get their bios and photos in to Rebecca Willison by the end of June.
- Review of Biodiversity Summit – Patricia Arney thanked everyone who attended and asked for comments about the summit. Geoff Ross thought that the Summit was excellent, especially the quality of the speakers and their presentations. Louise Cragg thought it was superb and would have liked to see more people in attendance. Peter Seybold also thought it was fantastic and indicated that he gave a brief presentation about it to the MLA office. The Township of Muskoka Lakes has added the MSE to the list of approved events that they will send their councillors to. Shane Baker was really pleased to see a number of younger people there. Ian Turnbull was really pleased with the Ideas program by Paul Kennedy and thought it reflected well on Muskoka. Greg Mierle thought the content was excellent but was also concerned with the lack of attendance. Peter Sale was encouraged to see how well high level academics were able to speak and present to a general audience. Ruth Nishikawa thought that maybe having the Summit midweek and the time of year may have had an impact on attendance. Marg French thought the Summit was fantastic but felt that Biodiversity doesn't resonate with as many people as water does. She wondered if there is a way to promote the messages from the Summit in the Report Card.
- Ad insert in the Globe and Mail from the Nature Conservancy about corridors and connections. [Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#)
- Sunday, June 17th Toronto Star had a good article on [invasive species](#).

Presentation

[Skeleton Lake Stewardship Plan](#) – Geoff Ross, *President, Skeleton Lake Cottagers' Organization*

- Skeleton Lake was formed by a meteorite and contains a deposit of limestone, which helps buffer it.
- Strategic Directions Committee will discuss the questions raised by Geoff in his presentation about MWC and lake plans at a future meeting. MWC could develop a position paper on how a lake fits within a watershed and how lake plans fit within this. How can lake plan information be used for the Report Card?

Patricia thanked Geoff for his presentation.

Activity Report

The June 2012 Activity Report was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.

- Peter Sale – P&R is working on a number of projects and would like more people to join the committee to help. The biodiversity report is posted on the MWC website for comments.
- Lou Guerriero – Strategic Directions is in the middle of carrying out the wetland project.
- Steve Inniss – Communications is continuing to submit articles for The Muskokan and would like more people to write some. Tracey has been spearheading the social media program. All the MSC presentation videos will be posted by the end of June. Three series of videos will be

developed – Muskoka Minute, Muskoka Memory, and Muskoka Moment. Steve encouraged people to get a YouTube account in order to comment on our videos and drive traffic to our social media sites.

Updates and New Business

- Lecture on July 26th – Michelle Palmer will be speaking about changes in our lakes over the last 25 years. 7 pm at the Port Carling Community Centre.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, September 21, 2012 in the Council Chambers of the District Municipality of Muskoka administration building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:00 pm for the site visits.

Site Visits

- [Skeleton Lake Fish Hatchery Trail](#)
- [Falls on the Rosseau River](#)