

**Muskoka Watershed Council  
Community Round Table – Integrated Watershed Management (IWM)**

**Minutes**

**Date:** January 18, 2023

**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:**

Andrew McCammon

Dan MacLeod

Greg Padulo

Kathleen Lamb

Michael Peppard

Peter Sale

Carolyn DuBois

Deborah Martin-Downs

Jo-Anne Goodwin

Kevin Laframboise

Patricia Arney

Stephen Fahner

Chris Cragg

Geoff Ross

John Nemeth

Kevin Trimble

Penny Thomas

Tom O'Callaghan

**Canadian Water Network**

Sandra Cooke

Vicki Hammond

**District of Muskoka Staff:**

Alana Perez

Glenn Cunnington

---

**1. Welcome, Introductions and Review Meeting Objectives**

Kevin Trimble welcomed everyone to the meeting. Patricia Arney provided a land acknowledgement.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

**2. Presentation: Watershed Governance**

Sandra Cooke and Vicki Hammond from the Canadian Water Network provided a presentation titled Watershed governance: A selection of case studies for informing integrated watershed management in the Muskoka River watershed. The presentation included various examples of watershed organization types and case studies of community-led watershed organizations across Canada and the US. They presented key findings of the research and opportunities to explore in Muskoka. A copy of the presentation will be provided.

**3. Discussion: Moving Forward**

The presentation was followed by an open discussion. The following is a summary of some of the points raised during the discussion:

- Deb Martin-Downs reiterated the importance of a steady source of funding for this initiative. It is important to promote the notion of watershed security and think about the cost of not doing anything (flooding, climate change, etc.). Sandra agreed with this idea and reminded the group of the Severn Municipal Services Board, who share resources across municipalities on a watershed basis.
- Kevin LaFramboise wondered what kind of authority these organizations have. Sandra responded that it varies, but is crucial to build trust with residents, become part of the community, and build relationships over time.
- Andrew McCammon made a few suggestions for additions to the governance study report, including recommending both top-down and bottom-up approaches, mentioning the importance of engaging with developers and municipal planners, and a description of IWM. Kevin Trimble reminded the group of the scope of this project, which was specifically focused on community-based governance models.
- John Nemeth mentioned the importance municipal staff being on board and influencing municipal councils.
- Peter Sale recommended looking to the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve for an example of sustainable environmental management in the context of a place where people live. Peter also mentioned the Magpie River in Quebec which was granted rights under the law.
- Greg Padulo mentioned that we should be proud of this milestone that we have accomplished. Now it's time to move forward and get working on things. Kevin Trimble agreed and recommended that everyone think about what the watershed should look like in 50 years. Sandra recommended that the CRT determine the top 3 priorities and form working groups around that.
- Andrew McCammon recommended that we draft a vision statement for the CRT.
- Patricia Arney recommended that we determine what the community needs from us, rather than vice versa.
- Greg Padulo recommended that we start with developing a synthesis of the 12 projects from the CRT's perspective.
- Deb Martin-Downs reminded the group that we should look at the complete list of projects (completed and ongoing) including the Bracebridge Sedimentation Study, and the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed ASH Muskoka and Road Salt Management programs.

## **5. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6pm.