



Muskoka
WATERSHED COUNCIL

**Muskoka Watershed Community Round Table (CRT)
Draft Agenda**

Monday January 10, 2022

4-5:30 pm via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84057657183>

Meeting ID: 840 5765 7183

To join by phone: (647) 558-0588

#	Item	Presenter(s)
1	Welcome, Opening Remarks 4:00 pm	Chair: Kevin Trimble
2	Review and approval of minutes from December 6, 2021 meeting, review action items 4:00 pm	Kevin Trimble
3	District project update and imminent consultation needs 4:05 pm	Glenn Cunnington, District of Muskoka Project Manager
4	Follow-up and responses to announcements including: - Membership requirements - Inclusion of interested respondents in future meetings - The need for personal one-one contacts for respondents 4:20 pm	Kevin Trimble
5	Review of actions needed to prepare and provide needed consultation input 4:50 pm	Kevin Trimble
6	Governance study update 5:00 pm	Geoff Ross Kevin Trimble
7	CRT expert advisor update 5:05 pm	Kevin Trimble
8	Communications - CRT input to community messaging, social media, individual contacts - Communications plan update 5:10 pm	Kevin Trimble Cassie Emms
9	Adjournment and next steps 5:20	Kevin Trimble

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

Minutes

Date: December 6, 2021

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Kevin Trimble (Chair)	Pete LeMoine	Wendy Sommerville
John Cooper	Aaron Rusak	Andrew McCammon
Geoff Ross	Andy Metelka	Chris Cragg
Peter Sale	Patricia Arney	Caleb Timmermann
Malcolm Bates	Cameron von Bratt	Deborah Martin-Downs

District of Muskoka Staff:

Glenn Cunnington, Project Manager, Water Strategy

Cassie Emms, Program Communications Specialist

1. Welcome, Opening Remarks, Approval of September 8, 2021 Minutes

Kevin Trimble, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the September 8, 2021 meeting were approved.

2. Finalizing invitation for expression of interest to participate on the CRT

Geoff Ross explained that the purpose of this document is to communicate to the broad community what the CRT is, why it's here, and create interest to join. The media release intends that interest in the CRT does not mean automatic membership.

Peter Sale suggested that the document be issued as a media release through Muskoka Watershed Council to formally announce that the CRT is here.

Kevin reminded everyone that pending funding approval, we will retain an engagement expert in the near future. This media release is a good first step until that person is on board. Geoff agreed and recalled that interested people have already reached out to him directly; therefore, the time is right to issue a formal statement.

Geoff proposed that if the CRT has a large number of participants, a sub-group should be formed to make timely decisions.

Chris Cragg offered edits to the document and will send them to Cassie Emms, including adding wording about the funds from the Province of Ontario. Peter agreed. Cassie warned that language around funding would need to be approved

by the Province. Kevin will follow up with IWM Steering Committee members about mentioning funding.

Andrew McCammon shared his interest in joining the CRT as an associate member. Kevin welcomed that idea and indicated that distinguishing members versus meeting attendees will need to be discussed later.

Cassie, Peter, and Geoff will work on the document offline. Kevin suggested specific sectors be identified to ensure they are aware of the media release. Patricia noted the need for a standardized response to individuals who reach out following the media release.

Discussion was also held on the need for a response to individuals expressing interest.

ACTION: Peter/Geoff/Cassie to finalize and distribute announcement and acknowledgement response before the Christmas break.

3. Call for volunteers to start one-on-ones with major community sectors to bring them to the CRT

Kevin Trimble voiced his hesitancy to contact sectors because an engagement specialist may be hired in the near future to help with this. In the meantime, Kevin referred to the table of sectors. Patricia Arney indicated that the Township of Lake of Bays and the Town of Huntsville Chamber of Commerce are combined. Port Sydney and Utterson are also the same Chamber of Commerce. Patricia suggested considering Haliburton Chamber of Commerce and a Provincial representative. Deborah Martin-Downs suggested adding Algonquin Park to the list, too.

ACTION: Cassie to update contact table

Kevin asked Cassie to draft a list of names and sector affiliations of those who attended CRT meetings.

Peter reiterated that a sub-group would be required because the list is long. Aaron Rusak suggested that not each Lake Association is required and that Muskoka Lakes Association and Federation of Cottagers Association are sufficient.

Geoff agreed with Peter's suggestion of having a sub-group to vote on matters. Geoff also encouraged anyone that has pre-existing contact with someone in an identified sector to reach out and start the conversation. Geoff also suggested that a script be developed to communicate the same message.

Deborah indicated that the Drinking Water Source Protection model could be used as a reference for the CRT. Deborah also suggested having the model in place before reaching out to sectors. Kevin pointed out that a governance study might be initiated in the New Year to help with this. Kevin suggested this item be discussed in the January 2022 CRT meeting.

ACTION: Discussion on governance structure forwarded to January

Geoff mentioned that while work needs to be done to prepare the message before reaching out to sectors, he still encouraged people to come forward.

4. District Project updates and CRT input

Glenn Cunningham indicated that seven of twelve projects were awarded. One project is undergoing the procurement process, and the remaining four are being worked on by the Task Forces, and will be issued in the New Year.

All project consultants must present to the CRT upon project completion and is anticipated to occur between late March and the end of May. Final reports are expected from August through to October or early November 2022.

Glenn indicated that since some projects allow for more ongoing input, workshops will be called with the CRT on the final 5 (land use, watershed health indicators, WQ indicators, erosion survey and public access) this spring.

Glenn explained that projects like the Watershed Health Indicator is a project that will require CRT input in order to identify what indicators are important to the community. Projects like floodplain mapping and developing a hydrological model are very technical, and CRT input isn't required. The Erosion Survey project will produce a public reporting system, similar to iNaturalist.

Glenn emphasized that the purpose of these 12 technical projects is to gather information about the Muskoka River Watershed. For example, the land-use policy review is not intended to streamline official plans or identify good and bad practices. Instead, the purpose is to reveal the differences and examples of best practices. Patricia commented that it would be interesting to see how this project coordinates with the Muskoka Watershed Council Official Plan review.

ACTION: Glenn to update CRT on public consultation for DMM projects.

5. Update on District funding, from TPA, for hiring external advisor to the CRT

Geoff explained that in the Transfer Payment Agreement between the District of Muskoka and the Province of Ontario, no funds were assigned to support the CRT. MWC has voiced its concerns about this to the District. Geoff reported that the District is working to reallocate funds from the TPA to the CRT to hire an external advisor to support the CRT.

Kevin referred to the job description and asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions.

ACTION: Geoff and Kevin will continue to work with DMM for an external advisor.

6. Communication Plan Development: call for volunteers

Kevin explained that if the external advisor is hired, this person will be tasked with providing advice on approaching specific sectors including strategy to ensure that everyone in Muskoka is aware of IWM. The external advisor would ideally generate the strategy. Cassie and CRT volunteers would help to assist in executing the strategy.

Patricia noted that the communications plan should include educational components about issues such as tree-cutting by-laws, and that the watershed is not just water. Andrew commented on tree-cutting by-laws in that the Ontario Headwaters Institute has been pushing for the Province to create a Provincial version of the Federal "How Much Habitat is Enough" document.

Peter added that since MWC also needs a communications plan, the CRT external advisor could draft a plan that would also apply to both MWC and CRT. Kevin agreed.

Kevin asked people that are interested in helping with communications to email Cassie.

Kevin asked if everyone felt comfortable sharing their emails with each other. No one raised any concerns. Peter suggested adding individual skills and expertise to the list.

ACTION: Volunteers needed for communications

7. Adjournment and next steps

Kevin suggested that the group needs more education about IWM in preparation to draft a synthesis report with informed recommendations. Kevin also suggested that we discuss the membership structure at the next meeting.

Peter suggested that the media release be issued in the middle of December, so it doesn't interfere with the holidays. Patricia and Geoff agreed. Geoff, Peter, and Cassie will work on the media release.

Everyone agreed to meet during the second week of January.