

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

**Minutes**

**Date:** December 14, 2022

**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:**

Andrew McCammon

Deborah Martin-Downs

Jade Turmelle

Kevin Trimble (Chair)

Peter Sale

Carolyn DuBois

Geoff Ross

John Nemeth

Michael Peppard

Rebecca (Egier?)

Chris Cragg

Greg Padulo

Kathleen Lamb

Patricia Arney

Stephen Fahner

**District of Muskoka Staff:**

Alana Perez

Stuart Paul

Glenn Cunnington

Julia Rogerson

**1. Project Consultation Overview**

Kevin Trimble provided a brief overview and conclusion regarding the consultation sessions for the 12 IWM projects. Participation and feedback from many CRT members is much appreciated and there were learnings on both sides (CRT and consultants). Glenn Cunnington received thanks from Kevin and the group for his work in bringing the 12 projects to fruition on an aggressive timeline. Information gained from these projects will contribute significantly to the "Characterization" (baseline or information gathering) stages of an IWM process. The CRT will now return the focus of the regular meetings to CRT matters.

**2. Governance Study Overview**

Kevin Trimble led an overview and discussion about the Governance Study being completed by Sandra Cooke and Vicki Campbell at the Canadian Water Network. Kevin received a 100+ page working draft report which, in combination with external advisors Barb Veale and Dan Shrubsole, will be edited and distributed to the CRT and MWC in January. The report includes case studies of groups that have similar beginnings with IWM. The next regular CRT meeting (**January 11, 2023**) will focus on a presentation and discussion of this study. This introduction was followed by a brief discussion, summarized below:

- All CRT members will have a chance to read the Governance Study report prior to the January 11 meeting.

- The January 11 meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions about the study. A second session is scheduled for **January 18** should we need more time to discuss.
- The Governance Study is not a prescription for how the CRT should move forward. Rather, it includes best practices from case studies that we can learn from.
- CRT members will be invited to the MWC meeting on January 20 where Sandra Cooke will present an overview of the study.

### **3. Other Business – The Don Accord**

Andrew McCammond introduced the group to “The Don Accord”, which was a vision statement underpinning the “40 Steps to a new Don River Watershed”. It was recommended that the CRT start with a similar aspirational document to signify a culture change. A brief discussion followed, summarized below:

- Deb Martin-Downs added that we need to get municipal buy-in. The “Bring Back the Don Task Forces” was successful because it had representatives from each municipality who were responsible for most action items. We need to be clear what they are signing on to do (i.e. funding, actions, etc.).
- Patricia Arney added that we need to be clear whether it is a vision or action plan. The CRT agreed upon a vision statement earlier this year. Perhaps now we should look at all the reports from the 12 projects to see what needs to be done next.
- John Nemeth was a representative from Richmond Hill on the Don Task Force. The Accord lead to 40 steps that included actual projects that were added to municipal budgets after Councillors pushed senior management to get them done. We should prepare some recommendations for actions moving forward as the District presents the 12 projects to Council.

### **4. Adjournment**

The next CRT meeting will be on January 11, 2023 which will focus on a presentation about the Governance Study. A second meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18. CRT members will also be invited to the MWC meeting on January 20.