

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

Minutes

Date: January 11, 2023

Location: Zoom

Attendees:

Andrew McCammon

Deborah Martin-Downs

Jade Turmelle

Kevin Laframboise

Patricia Arney

Stephen Fahner

Carolyn DuBois

Geoff Ross

Jo-Anne Goodwin

Kevin Trimble (Chair)

Peter Sale

Tom O'Callaghan

Chris Cragg

Greg Padulo

John Nemeth

Michael Peppard

Rebecca (Egier?)

Canadian Water Network

Sandra Cooke

Vicki Hammond

District of Muskoka Staff:

Alana Perez

Glenn Cunnington

Rebecca Willison

1. Welcome, Introductions and Review Meeting Objectives

Kevin Trimble provided a land acknowledgement. Patricia Arney volunteered to provide the land acknowledgement at the next meeting.

Kevin Trimble introduced Sandra Cooke and Vicki Hammond from the Canadian Water Network who are working on the Governance Study. Kevin also thanked Glenn Cunnington and District staff for their work on the 12 projects.

CRT members are invited to Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC)'s Annual General Meeting on January 20. Details have been emailed to all CRT members.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved with no changes.

2. Review Progress to Date

Kevin Trimble provided an overview of the progress of the CRT, including historical reports such as the 2006 Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP) and MWC discussions in 2017, announcement of the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG) in 2018, the MWAG report and MWC's

Integrated Watershed Management (IWM) report in 2020. More specifically he presented the MWAG recommendations and how they gave rise to the 12 technical projects lead by the District, which are now largely completed. Future work will include developing an understanding of the information and gaps, developing an action plan towards watershed management, and establishing a common vision and collaborative process for the watershed.

3. Summary of 12 DMM Projects

Glenn Cunnington presented a summary and recommendations from the 12 technical projects. Glenn noted that at this time, the recommendations and next steps are staff recommendations and have not been presented to or approved by elected officials. District staff will be preparing a staff report to go to Committee/Council in a future meeting, likely in February or March.

The final project reports can be found on the District's website (www.muskoka.on.ca/iwmprojects). Summary factsheets for each project are currently being developed and will be posted in the coming weeks. District Communications staff are also working on a campaign to get the message about IWM out to the public, which will include the factsheets, project videos, and social media posts.

4. Governance Study – Soliciting Feedback from Meeting Participants

Sandra Cooke led a discussion to gather input on feedback that may be incorporated into the Governance Study. Sandra used an online tool called Mentimeter to gather responses to the following questions:

1. What are 2-3 key positive/valuable things (or “ah-ha” moments) you learned through the process of the 12 projects?
 - a. Some responses included learning about the huge amount and depth of information available, opportunities to learn from other regions, learning that there are opportunities to address flooding issues in Muskoka, and discovering how complicated the watershed is.
2. What do you value about the Muskoka River Watershed that you want to maintain and enhance for future enjoyment?
 - a. Some common responses included water quality, sustainable development, forests, access to nature, and biodiversity.
3. What do you think are the threats to the values identified?
 - a. Some common responses included climate change, population growth, development, municipal planning, weak permitting, and lack of funding, and “sliding baselines” (the failure to notice slow degradation).

The draft Governance Study document will be available for CRT members to review before next week's meeting (likely early next week).

5. Adjournment

The next CRT meeting is next week Wednesday January 18, 2023. Sandra Cooke will provide a presentation on the results of the governance study. CRT members are also invited to attend the MWC AGM on January 20.