



MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL

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Agenda

Date: **Friday, February 17, 2023**
Time: **1:00 – 3:00 pm**
In-person: **Pine Room** – District of Muskoka Administration Building
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge
Online: **Zoom**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86216354613?pwd=OGZPSnpvc2lRUzFIQ2UzcWtvNHBDUT09>

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – Chair Peter Sale (5 min)

- 1.1. Indigenous Land Acknowledgement
- 1.2. Approval of Minutes

THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 18, 2022 be approved.

THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 20, 2023 be approved.

2. **Presentation** (30 min)

2.1. **Preparing for the Aftermath Forest; managing beech regeneration in the face of Beech Bark Disease** – Javier Cappella, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

Beech Bark Disease consists of a combination of an insect and a fungus. Beech scale insects infest beech trees and make them more vulnerable to the *Neonectria faginata* fungus. The disease leads to high levels of beech tree mortality and a declining beech population. This disease is currently found in the southern portion of the French-Severn forest.

Westwind Forest Stewardship received funding from the Province as part of the Muskoka Watershed Conservation and Management Initiative to develop a forest restoration pilot project on private land in the Muskoka River Watershed. This project includes removing beech tree understories (due to beech bark disease) and planting other species. The pilot project also includes community engagement and educational activities.

3. **Strategic Planning Session** – Pete LeMoine & Geoff Ross (20 min)

- 3.1. Update on the development of MWC's strategic plan
- 3.2. Discussion on the preliminary results

5. **Project Updates** (10 min each)

- 5.1. Fundraising Committee – *Peter Sale*
- 5.2. Membership Committee – *Michael Peppard*
- 5.3. IWM Community Roundtable – *Kevin Trimble*
- 5.4. 2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card – *Peter Sale*

6. **Partner Updates** (5 min each)

- 6.1. Government Updates – *Open to elected municipal representatives and staff*
- 6.2. Partner Updates (e.g., Province, Health Unit, Lake Associations, Community Organizations) – *Open to All*

7. **New Business**

8. **Adjournment**

NEXT MWC MEETING: Friday, March 24th at 1 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge, and through Zoom.