



Agenda

Friday, November 27, 2020

1:00 pm

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83878010799?pwd=VGlwRy9NT2NkWUJBQkVwQkVwNUppZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 7801 0799

Passcode: 448488

1. **Opening Remarks** – *Chair Geoff Ross (5 min)*
 - 1.1. Approval of Minutes (by consent)
THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 23, 2020 be approved.
 - 1.2. Correspondence
 - 1.2.1. [Letter to Climate Action Muskoka](#) in support of their resolution to declare a climate emergency.

2. **Presentations** (60 min)
 - 2.1. Trillium Lakelands District School Board [Climate Change Action Plan](#) – *Student Representatives from the TLDSB G7 Student Summit*

 - 2.2. [Canada, Climate Change and Education: Opportunities for Public and Formal Education](#) – *Dr. Ellen Field, Faculty of Education, Lakehead University and Learning for a Sustainable Future*

3. **Project Updates** (5 min each)
 - 3.1. Integrated Watershed Management – *Kevin Trimble*
 - 3.1.1. Motion to approve the Water Management paper
THAT the paper titled "The Evolution of Water Management in the Muskoka River Watershed" by Chris Cragg dated November 2020 be approved and posted to the MWC website.

 - 3.2. Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group – *Patricia Arney*

 - 3.3. Algae Monitoring Program – *Peter Sale*

 - 3.4. MWC Strategic Plan – *Karen Maxwell*

 - 3.5. Official Plan Reviews – *Geoff Ross*

 - 3.6. MWC Communications – *Pete LeMoine*

4. **Partner Updates** (5 min each)
 - 4.1. Government Updates – *Open to elected municipal representatives and staff*
 - 4.1.1. Overview of the Muskoka Geohub, a new online portal that allows the public to access important geographical information in Muskoka – *Graham Good (10 min)*

4.2. Partner Updates (e.g., Province, District of Muskoka, Health Unit, Lake Associations, Community Organizations) – *Open to All*

5. **New Business**

6. **Adjournment**

Upcoming Muskoka Watershed Council Meeting

Friday, January 22nd at 1:00 pm through Zoom. This meeting will be MWC's Annual General Meeting.

Next Working Group Meeting

Thursday, December 3rd at 2:00 pm through Zoom.



MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL

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13 November 2020

To: Linda Mathers
Climate Action Muskoka

Submitted by email to climateactionmuskoka@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Mathers,

RE: Endorsement of Declaring a Climate Emergency

Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) welcomed Climate Action Muskoka's presentation of February 6, 2020 regarding your proposed Climate Emergency Resolution. Then, and now, we are supportive of urgent action on the part of all governments and agencies to deal with climate change mitigation and adaptation. We strongly support CAM's proposed resolution for a municipal declaration of a climate emergency from District and Area Municipalities across Muskoka.

At the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting on October 23, 2020 the following resolution was passed:

Moved by Michael Peppard, seconded by Karen Maxwell

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council endorse Climate Action Muskoka's proposed attached "Declaration of Climate Emergency Resolution", given that climate change is unparalleled in terms of its scientific certainty, scale of impacts, and the required urgency for action as outlined in international and national evidence-based work, including MWC's own "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka" report.

CARRIED

Formal endorsement of actions or proposals by outside groups is something that is rarely, if ever, done by MWC. It has been a long-standing MWC policy that we typically do not engage in advocacy for or against specific proposals. Years ago, MWC reasoned it could be much more effective if it focused on providing scientifically-informed advice for public consideration on specific topics, but not by endorsing specific proposals, programs, policies or products put forward by external organizations or individuals.

However, CAM's proposed resolution is quite unique due to the overwhelming scientific evidence that action is urgently needed throughout the world on climate change. Science tells us clearly that without mitigative action, the health of the ecosystems upon which Muskoka's environment and economy are dependent is certain to be seriously impaired, and without adaptive action, the well-being of all Muskokans is directly threatened. This is evidenced throughout MWC's own recent work on "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka"

(<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/resources/planning-for-climate-change/>), which builds on data from international and national sources. Climate change is unparalleled in terms of its scientific certainty, scale of impacts, and the required urgency for action. In response, CAM's proposed resolution calls for appropriate action in a non-prescriptive and broadly collaborative context. It is in recognition of these factors that MWC is prepared to take the unusual but important step of endorsing CAM's proposed resolution.

As MWC staff discussed with you earlier this month, it is MWC's understanding that the proposed resolution contains eight points, with additional information outlining supportive material and examples. I wish to be clear that while many of the examples appear to be reasonable, MWC is offering to endorse only CAM's proposed 8-point resolution (Appendix A) and not the accompanying supporting examples or strategies. MWC recognizes that successful implementation of the resolution as presently proposed is primarily in the jurisdiction of all levels of government. However, even without having its own regulatory power, MWC pledges to advance and assist all related initiatives and collaborations where possible to ensure that any municipal declaration of a climate emergency in Muskoka is met with active, evidence-based engagement from us. Once we have received your acknowledgement of MWC's offer to endorse CAM's proposed 8-point resolution, we will be pleased to have MWC's name and/or logo added to CAM's lengthy list of organizations endorsing this important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Ross', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Ross, Chair

Declaration of Climate Emergency Resolution, developed by members of Climate Action Muskoka

WHEREAS the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2018 Report ‘Global Warming of 1.5C’ states the urgency of keeping global heating below the 1.5C goal and also acknowledges that the world is currently on track for more than 3C increase in temperature rise based on policies that are now in place; and

WHEREAS this current track of climate heating will lead to catastrophic social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts in our community and elsewhere and that the IPCC estimates less than 11 years to avoid the worst impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS many municipalities across Ontario and Canada understand the major benefits of and the need to be at the forefront of action on climate change, with many having declared a climate emergency already; and

WHEREAS much of the financial damage associated with climate change will come from impacts to municipal core infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water, wastewater and storm water systems and from destruction of natural infrastructure; and

WHEREAS it is necessary not only to reduce carbon emissions, but also to increase community resiliency in the face of climate change, and that these approaches can offer multiple benefits including improved health and air quality, increased innovation, economic development and reduced costs in the long run; and

WHEREAS many people in Muskoka have demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to address climate change and continue to make Muskoka a leader in environmental action and protection;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Muskoka officially

1. Declare a Climate Emergency immediately to name and deepen the District’s commitment to protecting our economy, our community, and our ecosystems from the impacts of climate heating; and
2. Develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce corporate and community greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs), which includes the identification of firm, ambitious targets with a goal of greater than 50% reduction of GHG emissions by 2030 and reaching zero GHG emissions by 2050; commit to becoming a drawdown/regenerative community, taking an active role in the repair and regeneration of our systems, including in the areas of the built environment, natural infrastructure, land use, transportation, energy, waste, health, and food security; and

3. Support and participate in the establishment of a Community Working Group, which will provide input to the CAP and will assist in the regular review and updating of the CAP as the science evolves. The Community Working Group should be diverse and representative of the Muskoka community; be balanced according to ethnic background, geography, economic status, gender identity, age; act in partnership with Indigenous leaders; and include scientists and other key stakeholders; and
4. Collaborate with other municipal governments, institutions and industry associations to improve standards and protocols that can positively address climate adaptation and mitigation; and
5. Seek and secure funding opportunities from both internal and external sources for 2020 and beyond to adequately finance climate actions necessary to meet 2030 and 2050 emission reduction targets; and
6. Commit to putting climate action at the forefront of all decision-making, large and small, working to achieve community wellbeing and resiliency, equity, reconciliation, and leaving no one behind. Require all future reports to council to include a section titled Climate Change Implications that will identify how the recommendations will contribute to meeting the objectives of the CAP; and
7. Work with other community stakeholders to educate the public at large about steps that can be taken by individuals and businesses to reduce GHGs; and
8. Urge both Provincial and Federal governments and opposition parties to work rapidly to deliver the GHG emission reductions needed to keep global heating below the 1.5C goal to minimize the life-threatening impacts of climate change. Forward the resolution to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Parry Sound Muskoka representatives Hon. Norm Miller MPP and Hon. Scott Aitchison MP, and the leaders of the other political parties.