



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, April 15, 2016

1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Margarete Cameron
Margaret Casey	George Crawford	Gord Henderson
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Randy Jorgensen
Caroline Konarzewski	Brian Lynch	Anna Mallin
Victoria McDonald	Jan McDonnell	Michael Peppard
Geoff Ross	Don Smith (@1:50 pm)	Norm Yan

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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Guests

Nancy Vidler	Kellie Sherman	Stuart Paul
Paul Grinnell	Mary Beth Hartill	Sandy Cairns
Lynn DeCaro	Craig Mann	Fred Jahn
Quinn Michell	Marg French	Eleanor Lewis
James Boyd	Harry Oswin	Jane Hunt
Rick Williams	Jamie Delaney	Jenn LeMesurier
Jan Getson	Paul Dobias	Michelle Hendry

Welcome

Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Gord Henderson, seconded by Jack Hepworth

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 18, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Updates and New Business

- MWC Committee Restructuring and Work Plan Prioritization – Lou Guerriero reported on the meeting held in the morning. A revised plan will be developed for further discussion.

- Environmental Lecture Series: Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka with Dr. Peter Sale. Thursday, April 21st, 4 pm, Huntsville Public Library, Admission by donation.
- Huntsville Earth Week – April 18th-24th. Community Fair April 23rd, 10 am to 3 pm, Huntsville Public Library.
- FMW – Norman Yan reported that the membership drive is continuing with positive results. A corporate membership is now available.

Presentations

[Managing Invasive Plants](#) – Kellie Sherman, [Ontario Invasive Plants Council](#)

Kellie talked about the Ontario Invasive Plants Council and provided some general information about invasive species, including socio-economic and environmental impacts. She noted that Ontario has the highest number of invasive species in all of Canada. OIPC spearheads the Ontario Phragmites Working Group and has developed a series of webinars and Best Practices Manuals for specific invasive species, including Phragmites. The latter part of her presentation focussed on Phragmites, including biology, impacts, and distribution.

[Building Partnerships to Deal with Invasive Phragmites australis](#) – Nancy Vidler, *Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group*

Nancy provided an overview of the Lambton Shores Phragmites Community Group and their efforts to manage Phragmites over the past six years. They have had great success using herbicides to control Phragmites. They carried out a demonstration project on Mosquito Island and were able to restore the small island when native plants grew up from the seed bank. The local municipality has paid \$10,000/year for the past 4 years to control Phragmites on municipal roads. She shared the eleven key elements to include in a management plan to be successful.

[Who Ya Gonna Call? Phragspotters!](#) – Stuart Paul, [District Municipality of Muskoka](#)

Stu provided an overview of the Phragspotter website by Stop the Invasion. Members of the public are encouraged to submit sightings of Phragmites in order to track its distribution and spread.

Phragmites Identification Card Release

Lou Guerriero announced the release of the Phragmites ID Card. Patricia Arney thanked the Muskoka Community Foundation for providing the funding for the Phragmites ID Card. She hopes that the card and upcoming projects will make Phragmites more recognizable in the community.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, May 20, 2016 in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration office, 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge beginning at 1:00 pm. The meeting will feature the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit discussing the public health implications of a changing climate.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

Refreshments were served after the meeting in the Ante Room.