



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, February 15, 2013

1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)
Nic Bell
Lou Guerriero
Jack Hepworth
Richard Lammers
Michael Peppard

Allyn Abbott
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Piret Hurrell
Anna Mallin
Peter Sale

Shane Baker
Patsy Cross
Gord Henderson
Steve Inniss
Brian McElwain
Scott Young

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Louise Cragg
Caroline Konarzewski
Don McVittie
Steve Munro
Peter Seybold
Ian Turnbull

Lola Bratty
George Crawford
Mary McCulley
Greg Mierle
Ruth Nishikawa
Al Shaw
Debbie Vernon

Tom Clark
Neil Hutchinson
Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan
Geoff Ross
Paul Stueck
Paul Wiancko

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Marg French

Guests

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Patricia introduced Nic Bell, who is the new golf course representative on MWC.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 18, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Thank you letter received from Ben Boivin
- \$500 Grant from Seguin Township

Presentation

[Golf Course Best Management Practices](#) – Nic Bell and Scott Young

Nic Bell and Scott Young have undertaken a review of the Golf Course Best Management Practices published in 2001. They have focussed their review on the operations and management section of the report and not the construction section. Construction of new golf courses has significantly slowed down since the report was produced.

Points from the presentation:

- Seven out of 30 golf courses in Muskoka are Audubon certified.
- 2-5% of golfers care that Muskoka Highlands is certified.
- Golfers mostly just want a nice golf course.
- Don MacKay, at Muskoka Highlands, is concerned about the use of water by golf courses and has stated that "Brown has to become the new green."
- As water restrictions become more common, golf courses should be moving towards using drought tolerant grasses.
- The municipal requirement for golf courses be Audubon certified was presented as an option.

Patricia Arney thanked Nic and Scott for their presentation.

Chair's Items

Member biographies and photos for the website should be sent to Rebecca at rwillison@muskokawatershed.org. The Biographies received so far are available at <http://www.muskokawatershed.org/about-us/council-committees/muskoka-watershed-council/>.

Activity Report

- *February 2013 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - **Policy & Research Committee** – [Attached](#)
 - **Strategic Directions Committee** – [Attached](#)
 - **Communications Committee** – Steve Inniss reported on the social media program. We will get a newsletter signup form on the home page of the website when space is available. Steve requested photos to post on Facebook to help draw people to the site. Photos tend to get the most responses from people. Send photos to Rebecca. Post FAQs to the blog as they are completed. Would like additional content for the YouTube channel.

Updates and New Business

- Muskoka Stewardship Conference – April 27th at Nipissing University in Bracebridge. Theme: What Are You Watching?

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, March 22, 2013 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.