



Minutes

Friday, September 15, 2017

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)
George Crawford
Gord Henderson
Caroline Konarzewski
Rob Milligan

Rob Attfield
Paul Dinner
Jack Hepworth
Pete LeMoine
Michael Peppard

Margaret Casey
Don Furniss (@ 2 pm)
Mara Kerry
Brian Lynch

Staff

Christy Doyle

Rebecca Willison

Speaker

Dr. Ben Longstaff
(Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority)

Community

Tracey Rast
Steve Stone

Sandy Schofield (until 1:20 pm) Pat Schofield (until 1:20 pm)
Summer Valentine (@ 2 pm)

Welcome

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

Sandy and Pat Schofield outlined the upcoming [Great Muskoka Paddling Experience](#). Sandy noted that there has been an increase in participants annually to almost 300 paddlers participating last year, and he highlighted the significant amount of money that has been donated to MWC annually since 2011 from a portion of event proceeds. A North Canoe Challenge will take place this year in honour of Canada 150.

MWC members are encouraged to paddle and/or volunteer for the event, taking place on Saturday, October 7th at Annie Williams Park in Bracebridge. Please contact Sandy Schofield anytime at greatmuskokapaddling@gmail.com

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Margaret Casey, seconded by Mike Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 2, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentation

- [Implementing Low Impact Development \(LID\) in the Lake Simcoe Watershed: Progress, lessons learned and applicability to Muskoka watershed](#) – Dr. Ben Longstaff, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
- Lengthy group discussion followed, and Lou thanked Ben for his presentation.

Correspondence

- MWC commented on EBR Registry Number: 012-9791: [Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario](#).
- MWC provided a [Letter of Support](#) for a Floodplain Mapping initiative in the Muskoka River Watershed.

Updates & New Business

- Review of the District's Official Plan – Rob Milligan gave a detailed [presentation on MWC's review efforts](#).
- Following his presentation, Rob led a group discussion about MWC's review of the District's proposed Official Plan, in its capacity as the District's Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).

Key points raised in the group discussion related to:

- Including 'resistance' when referencing Climate Change 'resilience';
 - Clarifying references to "Natural Heritage Strategy" to ensure it is not confused with what it means for planning in southern Ontario;
 - Identifying potential partnerships for DMM and other levels of government, First Nations, land trusts, etc. to develop a connected system of natural areas;
 - Protecting wetlands since the province has weak policies to do so; and
 - Ensuring that all aggregate operations in Muskoka are certified under a new program (green gravel certification).
- Following Rob's presentation and group discussion, consensus was reached for review team to create a summary document based on the points covered in Rob's presentation, with an appendix for detailed comments, and issue it to the District's Planning Department by the end of September in order to meet the MOP Review timelines. The submission will be circulated to MWC in advance of its October 20 General Council meeting for review. DMM is planning to hold an additional round of consultations later this fall.
- **MWC Summer Program and Working Group Updates – Christy Doyle**
Christy highlighted MWC's key summer activities, including the expansion of the student program to include an Invasive Species Outreach Intern (with thanks to a grant from the Ontario Federation

of Anglers and Hunters), and outlined the various and well-attended MWC lectures and events held over the past months. Details can be found in MWC's [Downstream newsletter](#).

Christy also noted that the District's proposed climate change co-ordinator position, as recommended by MWC in its "[Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka](#)" report is moving forward with approval granted from the District's Planning and Economic Development Committee, but must still be reviewed by District Council as part of its 2018 Budget process.

Christy also noted that a Report Card working session is planned for October with a date to be announced soon.

Samantha Hastings is expected to return to work on September 18.

The next Working Group date will be confirmed when Co-Chairs Kevin Trimble and Geoff Ross return from travels.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, October 20, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers of the District of Muskoka administration building.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3
T: (705) 645-2100 x387
E: info@muskokawatershed.org
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June 20, 2017

To: Mr. Scott Gibson
Senior Fisheries Biologist
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Policy Division, Species Conservation Policy Branch, Fisheries Section
300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8M5

Re: Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario - EBR Registry Number: 012-9791

Dear Mr. Gibson,

Muskoka Watershed Council is supportive of the Province's interest in modernizing and strengthening the *Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario* (EBR). We offer our initial comments below for your review.

Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) is a volunteer-based non-profit organization with the mandate to champion watershed health. MWC is comprised of representatives from a wide range of stakeholders, including municipal and provincial governments; lake associations; academia; and other community interests from across our watersheds. In Muskoka, where there is no conservation authority, MWC provides a coordinated and science-based voice on issues affecting the environmental quality of our watersheds.

Maintaining Muskoka's vibrant, healthy and natural environment is critical while also recognizing that the area's continued prosperity is dependent on the continued health of our watershed. From an economic perspective, MWC notes that Muskoka benefits significantly from recreational anglers and the health of our freshwater ecosystems is essential. MWC supports the *Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario* given that it seeks to limit the spread of invasive species and the transmission of diseases while preserving the natural integrity of our waterways. While we agree that limited movement of live bait can best be managed by regional restrictions, we suggest that regions within which bait may be transferred be determined on a watershed and/or a bioregional scale, rather than the large "Bait Management Zones" as proposed. With regard to purchased bait, we suggest that the bait must initially come from a lake in the same watershed/bioregional scale where it will be sold, and, in turn, be sold for use within the same watershed/bioregional scale within which it was bought. Essentially, we recommend that "one plays with the bait where one pays for the bait". This approach may support the goal of limiting non-native species and diseases, and, in turn, limiting the spread of unwanted detrimental invasive species.

MWC appreciates the provincial effort to engage Ontarians on potential changes to its *Strategic Policy for Bait Management in Ontario* and we look forward to working collaboratively with all levels of government and with the community to implement strengthened bait management policies, where possible. We thank you for the opportunity to contribute our considerations.

Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lou Guerriero". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lou Guerriero
Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council



Muskoka

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July 13, 2017

Mr. John Klinck, Chair
The District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street
Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1N3
VIA EMAIL: john.klinck@muskoka.on.ca

Dear Mr. Klinck

RE: Support for a Flood Plain Mapping initiative in the Muskoka River Watershed.

I want to express the support of Muskoka Watershed Council (MWC) for the above initiative. We understand that the Federal Government has committed to contribute 50% of the District's proposed \$900,000 total project cost and that District discussions are underway with the Provincial Government and other parties to seek contributions for the remainder of the cost. In Muskoka, where there is no conservation authority, MWC provides a coordinated and science-based voice on issues affecting the environmental quality of our watersheds.

In its 2016 *Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka* Report, MWC identified the increasing risk with time to the natural environment, infrastructure, property and ultimately our way of life in Muskoka with the increasingly evident changes to our climate. Recurrence of severe flooding in Muskoka over the past several years are a reminder of these changes, and of the need for increased effort aimed at stormwater management.

Therefore, MWC views the above project as essential to providing a means to identify not only the vulnerable floodplains within the District, but also to further the understanding of changing climatic patterns on the area's watershed as a whole. Furthermore, the knowledge gained of Muskoka's evolving watershed hydrology will provide important information on which to base applicable municipal, regional and/or provincial policy. Also, MWC notes that the Province of Ontario recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for Canadians as increasing frequencies of severe weather events devastate communities, damage homes and businesses, and affect municipal infrastructure not designed to cope with these weather variations. With its recent rain/flood events, Muskoka is an excellent example of where up-to-date floodplain mapping may assist in appropriate local emergency and community health responses, in addition to helping effective development and infrastructure planning.

On behalf of Muskoka Watershed Council, I wish to thank members of District Council for their commitment to this initiative and respectfully request the District Council to continue its vigorous efforts to secure and commit the balance of the required funding for this important work. Should Watershed Council be able to assist with the delivery of this project, we will be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Lou Guerriero, Chair