



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, January 16, 2015

1:00 pm

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

Present

Peter Sale (Chair)	George Crawford	Patsy Cross
Lou Guerriero	Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell
Steve Inniss	Caroline Konarzewski	Richard Lammers
Leeanne Leduc	Victoria McDonald	Geoff Ross
Don Smith	Kevin Trimble	Ian Turnbull
Debbie Vernon	Norman Yan	

Staff

Samantha Hastings	Rebecca Willison
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Guests

Katie Paroschy	Pamela Steele	Gayle Hepworth
Kevin Austin	Herman Clemens	

Welcome

Peter Sale called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm with roundtable introductions.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Steve Inniss

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 28, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Thank you card received from Judi Brouse
- Appointment of District of Muskoka representatives to MWC
- MWC Letter of support for proposed "Learn to Paddle" program

Chair's Items

None.

Presentation

[Might Muskoka lakes be uniquely sensitive to damage from road salt?](#) – Dr. Norman Yan, York University

Dr. Yan is proposing that guideline of 50 mg/L of chloride be used for Muskoka instead of the current Canadian guideline of 120 mg/L, however this would require more research. There was some discussion regarding future research needs to determine an acceptable guideline for Muskoka and whether there has been any damage seen to lakes like Jevins Lake in Gravenhurst.

Peter thanked Norm for his very informative presentation.

Activity Report

The January 2015 Activity Report was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.

- Executive Committee – Met in January and approved the budget.
- Policy & Research
 - [Forest Health Paper](#) – Geoff Ross presented an overview of the Forest Health Position Paper. Peter Sale stressed the need to follow through on the recommendations set out in our position papers. Samantha Hastings outlined some of the challenges with developing a natural areas strategy for the District.

MOTION moved by Geoff Ross, seconded by Lou Guerriero

THAT the Muskoka Watershed Council position paper on Forest Health dated January 2015 be approved;

AND THAT presentations be given to the Muskoka Planning and Economic Development Committee as well as to other interested organizations upon request.

CARRIED

- [Endocrine Disrupting Compounds in the Water](#) – George Crawford presented an overview of the issue and outlined the contents of a position paper. The following comments were made during a discussion of the topic:
 - Kevin Trimble stressed the need to include source and pathways in the report (households not just sewage treatment plants);
 - How do sewage treatment plants treat chemicals?
 - What influence can MWC have on this issue? George responded that MWC can assist with future planning for developments, industry and agriculture, providing rationale for upgraded treatment plants. It was noted that MWC can discuss public policy and make suggestions.
 - Septic systems don't treat or retain Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs).
 - Herman Clemens from the District of Muskoka reported that EDCs have been on the DMM radar for quite some time. The cost to upgrade the Golden Pheasant Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and Mountview STP would cost \$65 million. The plan is to decommission Mountview and upgrade Golden Pheasant.

- Many of the treatment plants in the smaller communities are already designed to remove ammonia, and the larger tank size and nitrifying bacteria needed to do this seem to have a positive impact on the removal of EDCs as well.

Volunteers are needed to help with this paper.

- Strategic Directions
 - Community Expectations – Ian Turnbull reported that he incorporated the feedback given at the November MWC meeting into the presentation and the revisions will be discussed at the SD meeting Jan 23rd.
 - Impact of Climate Change – Richard Lammers reported that the Subcommittee is collecting data from a number of climate models to determine the likely changes in temperature and precipitation. The Subcommittee will begin looking at implications under this new climate.
 - Development Impacts – The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 19th at 2:00 pm.
- Communications – Steve Inniss reported that a volunteer has been recruited to help with social media.

Updates and New Business

- FMW - Debbie Vernon reported on the Realtor® program meetings. Lakelands Association of Realtors® is excited to participate in the program. Debbie, Brian and Lyndsie have been attending sales meetings with realtors to promote the membership and handbook as closing gifts.
- DMM – Samantha Hastings reported on the new Director of Environment and Watershed Programs, who starts on January 26th.
- MSE – Meeting to determine speakers.
- Living in Cottage Country Handbook – limited numbers have been printed for initial distribution with more coming in a couple of weeks.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, February 20, 2015 in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building.

Adjournment

Peter Sale adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.