



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, September 16, 2016

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Shane Baker
Margarete Cameron	Margaret Casey	Louise Cragg
Gord Henderson	Jack Hepworth	Mara Kerry
Anna Mallin	Karen Maxwell	Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan	Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross
Peter Sale	Kevin Trimble (Vice Chair)	Ian Turnbull
Debbie Vernon		

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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Guests

Graham Bryan	Jocelyn Sherwood	David Ticoll
Tracey Macey		

Welcome

Chair Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm by welcoming everyone to the opening session of MWC. He noted a change to the agenda: Item 3 will now be a short remembrance for MWC founder Ken Black, who passed away August 29th.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Shane Baker, seconded by Patricia Arney

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 17, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Remembrance for Ken Black

Ian Turnbull highlighted some of the many accomplishments of Ken Black, who was the driving force behind the formation of MWC in 2001. Learn more about Ken's accomplishments and community contributions on the MWC website at <http://www.muskokawatershed.org/blog/remembering-mwc-founder-ken-black/>.

Presentations

[Landscape Conservation Planning in the Muskoka Region](#) - Graham Bryan, Biodiversity Co-ordinator with Environment and Climate Change Canada's Canadian Wildlife Service

The Canadian Wildlife Service is responsible for wildlife matters that are related to species of federal concern. This includes the protection and management of migratory birds as well as nationally significant wildlife habitat, endangered species, control of international trade in endangered species and applied science on wildlife issues of national importance.

A workshop held in the morning discussed this topic in more detail, including how it can be used in the 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card.

Additional resources:

[How Much Habitat is Enough?](#) (hard copies also available at the MWC office)

[Beyond Islands of Green](#)

Lou thanked Graham and Jocelyn for their presentation and workshop.

[Great Muskoka Paddling Experience](#) - Sandy & Pat Schofield, GMPE Organizing Committee

Pat provided an overview of the paddling event, which is in its sixth year. The event is great for all ages and skill levels. Two stand up paddle boards (SUP) will be available for silent auction and another SUP will be awarded by draw to the SUP competitors. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Updates & New Business

- MWC Sub-committee Overviews – Kevin Trimble
Kevin provided an overview of the activities of the working group, focussing on the Sub-committees.
 - The algae sub-committee, led by Peter Sale, had an initial meeting which discussed the current state of research on algae in Muskoka with a number of local scientists.
 - Steve Munro, who leads the forestry sub-committee, has been out in the community this summer talking about climate change and forests.
 - The development of the Report Card began this summer with a workshop led by Elaine Ho which looked at the indicators and communicating the Report Card.
 - The Communications Committee met to discuss overall communications needs and to brainstorm ideas for next year, including attending more events using volunteers.
 - All sub-committees need more members.

Margaret Casey requested that meeting dates be posted early so it is easier to schedule. She would also like to see shared folders used so more people can participate.

- Member Organizations Update
 - DMM – Samantha Hastings reported that the paramedics joined DMM in September. A preliminary directions report will be released soon for the Muskoka Official Plan review and Summer Valentine will give a presentation to MWC when it is released. Christy Doyle and Summer have continued working on the Recreational Water Quality Model Review and the related policies (through an Official Plan Amendment). Open houses

and presentations were held in all six area municipalities in August. DMM is still considering how to move forward on the relevant recommendations from the Climate change report.

- o Provincial Update – Mara Kerry
 - A workshop on extreme weather and emergency management will be held October 21st at the Stockey Centre in Parry Sound, organized by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR).
 - Fisheries management planning for Fisheries Management Zone (FMZ) 15 is underway and MWC may be interested in having a member sit on the Committee. If so, MWC needs to do a submission of interest.
 - The hot, dry weather has led to a shortage in food supplies for bears and an increase in calls to the Bear Wise hotline. There is Bear Wise material available from Mara.
 - Legislation on the EBR – The Invasive Species Act comes into force November 3rd. The Province is looking for guidance on which species to include on the prohibited and restricted species lists. Comments on “A Wetland Conservation Strategy for Ontario 2016-2030” are being sought. The document includes an offsetting policy for wetland loss.

Christy noted that MWC submitted comments in the spring on the Wetlands Strategy and MWC won't submit additional comments until specific policies are released.

Peter Sale noted the importance of recruiting people to comment on these pieces of legislation, including the DMM WQ OP Amendment. Christy would like to have someone agree to monitor the EBR so MWC is aware of relevant issues and may offer comment. Christy would also like to see MWC submit comments on the WQ Model review and OP amendment.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, October 14, 2016 at 1:00 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building, 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature presentations about the Lake of Bays Heritage Foundation and the Muskoka Love Your Lake program.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm.