



## Minutes

Friday, April 17, 2015  
1:00 pm

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

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### Present

Peter Sale (Chair)	Margaret Casey	George Crawford
Patsy Cross	Lou Guerriero	Steve Inniss
Caroline Konarzewski	Leeanne Leduc	Brian Lynch
Brian McElwain	Geoff Ross	Peter Seybold
Don Smith	Ian Turnbull	Debbie Vernon
Norm Yan	Scott Young (@ 2:30 pm)	

### Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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### Guests

Steve Cairns	Trish Cowie	Maureen Guerriero
Paul Dinner	Marg French	Randy French
Sam Robinson	Lyndsie McGregor	Dennis Lawson
Mary Beth Hartill	Nancy Hart	

### Welcome

Peter Sale called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm with roundtable introductions.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Patsy Cross, seconded by Debbie Vernon

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 20, 2015 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- Submission in response to the Provincial Climate Change Discussion Paper posted on the Environmental Registry.

### Chair's Items

- Invitation MWC members to participate in the various activities undertaken (e.g., lectures). There is more to do than just writing and developing papers.
- World's investment in renewable energy exceeded the investment in fossil fuels last year.

- Earth day is next week.

### **Presentation**

[Blue Dot](#) in Muskoka – *Steve Cairns, Assistant Professor, Nipissing University*

Steve provided an overview of the Blue Dot program developed by David Suzuki and his effort to have Muskoka become a Blue Dot community. He invited everyone to attend the Blue Dot Splash event being held on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Peter thanked Steve for his presentation and wished him good luck with the event on Sunday.

[Impacts of Climate Change](#) - *Peter Sale, Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council*

Peter provided an update on the progress of the Climate Change Impacts Subcommittee, which has been meeting monthly since last October. The next meeting of the Subcommittee will focus on the impacts on forests and a future meeting will be looking at the impacts on our lives.

[Power Generation Paper Update](#) – *Geoff Ross, Chair, Policy & Research Committee*

Geoff reviewed the contents of the updated Power Generation Position Paper. The paper is nearing completion and will be brought to MWC for approval within the next couple of months.

It was noted that Muskoka does not currently produce all of the electricity it needs. Solar and wind potential in Muskoka is limited by lack of sun and wind at times.

There was some discussion over the benefits of producing your own electricity as well as full cost accounting of the different types of power generation.

### **Activity Report**

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

- Executive Committee – Nothing to report.
- Policy & Research – Geoff Ross reported on the activities of the P&R committee. A number of projects are in progress, including a paper on endocrine disrupting compounds, road salt, and power generation.
- Strategic Directions – Lou Guerriero reported on the activities of the SD Committee. Ian Turnbull is recruiting volunteers for the public consultations for the community expectations project. The Development Impacts project has been put on hold until the fall.
- Communications – Steve Inniss reported on a broadband project in Muskoka through the CRTC that he is working on with Muskoka Community Futures. Lyndsie McGregor reported on the various other communications activities occurring. Please let staff know if you are giving a presentation.

### **Updates and New Business**

- FMW – Norm Yan reported that Debbie Vernon is negotiating the office lease. Charitable status is ongoing. The FMW AGM is scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.
- DMM – Samantha Hastings reported that a report on the Official Plan review is going to PED Committee next week, as well as a report on MWC's Forest Health paper.

- MSE – Planning is ongoing. Some speakers still need to be confirmed.
- Caroline Konarzewski is giving a free FrogWatch workshop on April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Dwight Public Library.
- Georgian Bay Forever's [Vital Signs Speaker Series](#) held April 11<sup>th</sup> dealt with DNA barcoding and a project with NASA on the effect of water level changes on wetlands.
- Handbook sales are going well. Almost 500 have been sold so far.

**Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, May 22, 2015 in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building.

**Adjournment**

Peter Sale adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.