



Minutes

Friday, February 17, 2017

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Margarete Cameron	Patsy Cross
Jack Hepworth	Caroline Konarzewski	Brian Lynch
Karen Maxwell	Michael Peppard	Peter Sale
Don Smith (@ 2 pm)	Debbie Vernon	Norm Yan

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison
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Guests

Andrew Paterson	Andrea Smith	Steve Taylor
Craig Mann	Gareth Cockwell	Carmen Pereira
Mary Beth Hartill	Marcus Firman	Carsten Mayer-Jacob
Robin Valleau	Clare Nelligan	Liz Favot

Welcome

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

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Mike Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 27, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentations

- [Muskoka Bat Collective](#) – Craig Mann, [RiverStone Environmental Solutions Inc.](#)

In the last decade, several of Ontario's bat species have experienced dramatic population declines. These declines have led to four of Ontario's bat species being added to the Endangered Species list; half of the species of bats found in Muskoka are now Endangered.

The Muskoka Bat Collective was created in 2015 through the coming together of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, local schools, businesses, not-for-profit groups (including the Muskoka Watershed Council), and concerned citizens to promote the conservation of local bat species through public outreach and educational projects.

Bat populations are endangered not because of habitat loss, but because of white nose fungus. Other threats include habitat removal, domestic cats, and windmills (impact by windmill blades). The SAR bats of Muskoka are the Small Footed Myotis, the Northern Long-eared Myotis, the Little Brown Myotis, and the Tri-coloured Bat. While there is ample foraging and nesting habitat in Muskoka, there is no known hibernation habitat for bats in Muskoka.

Lou thanked Craig for his presentation.

- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ([Dorset Environmental Science Centre](#)) – Student Showcase

Dr. Andrew Paterson introduced the students and thanked MWC for providing the students with an opportunity to share their work.

- [Using sedimentary diatom and chironomid assemblages to investigate potential environmental triggers for recent cyanobacterial blooms in oligotrophic Ontario lakes](#) – Liz Favot, Ph.D. Candidate, Queen's University
- [Long-term environmental trends in Ontario lakes that support a Lake Trout population](#) – Clare Nelligan, Ph.D. Candidate, Queen's University
- [Using paleolimnology to assess the effects of road salt application on lakes within the Muskoka River Watershed, Ontario](#) – Robin Valteau, M.Sc. Candidate, Queen's University
- [Long-term perspective on current changes in lake-water organic carbon levels in Ontario: linking monitoring data and paleolimnological reconstructions](#) – Dr. Carsten Meyer-Jacob, Postdoctoral Fellow, Queen's University

Christy thanked the students for sharing their research with MWC.

Updates & New Business

- A letter from MWC's Chair Lou Guerriero accepting the District's invitation for MWC to act as the Planning Advisory Committee was sent to District Chair John Klinck.
- MWC Working Group – The next meeting is March 2nd and key points for discussion and feedback will be the DMM Official Plan Review and the Report Card.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, March 17, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. Greg Mayne, Great Lakes Program Officer with [Environment and Climate Change Canada](#), will talk about Great Lakes Environmental Initiatives.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.