



Minutes

Friday, March 17, 2017

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Brenda Armstrong	Patricia Arney
Shane Baker	Patsy Cross	Jack Hepworth
Jenn LeMesurier	Brian Lynch	Karen Maxwell
Geoff Ross	Peter Sale	Don Smith
Kevin Trimble		

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison
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Speakers

Greg Mayne (Environment & Climate Change Canada)	Ted Briggs (Ministry of the Environment & Climate Change)
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Community

Robert Atfield	Peter Jennings	Gareth Cockwell
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Welcome

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

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated February 17, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentations

- [Great Lakes/Lake Huron Water Quality: Programs and Initiatives](#) – Greg Mayne (Environment and Climate Change Canada) and Ted Briggs (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change)

Greg talked about the programs undertaken on the Great Lakes, specifically Lake Huron, under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. Greg reviewed some of the specific findings from the various programs for Lake Huron, including invasive species like Quagga Mussels and Diporeia. The data collected feeds into the Lakewide Action and Management Plan, which will be available soon at <https://binational.net/>.

Ted discussed various domestic initiatives aimed at reducing nutrients, improving habitat, and improving data collection. The Lake Simcoe/South-eastern Georgian Bay Clean-Up Fund is a program that was carried out between 2012 and 2017 in the Georgian Bay area which supported community-based projects. The program helped divert an estimated 9,674 kg of phosphorus from Lake Simcoe and Georgian Bay.

Ted also discussed governance, the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement and the 17 Areas of Concern on the Great Lakes. The Lake Huron-Georgian Bay Watershed: A Canadian Framework for Community Action program provides funding and technical support to various community groups in order to encourage active participation, promote environmentally responsible decisions, establish a shared network, and promote local restoration and protection initiatives.

Learn more at www.healthylakehuron.com and www.great-lakes.net.

Lou thanked Greg and Ted for their presentation.

- [Monitoring Muskoka's Water](#) – Rebecca Willison, District Municipality of Muskoka

Rebecca provided an overview of the results of the 2016 Lake Systems Health Water Quality Monitoring Program. 88 sites on 71 lakes were monitored for chemical parameters, with the majority of the sites monitored showing a reduction in phosphorus levels. Benthic monitoring was carried out at 35 sites and over 900 children participated in education programs. The annual report is available online at <http://www.muskoka.on.ca/en/live-and-play/Lake-System-Health.aspx> and Lake Data Sheets are available at www.muskokawaterweb.ca.

Lou thanked the Rebecca for her presentation.

Updates & New Business

- Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment
Brenda Armstrong provided an overview of the draft report and asked for input from MWC. SMDHU wants to ensure that the report is easily understood. The goal is to look at projected impacts for climate change for the Simcoe-Muskoka area and what impacts they may have on human health. The report is split into North and South because the area it covers is very large. Several MWC members are in the process of reviewing the document through the Working Group. Additional participants are welcome.
- District of Muskoka – Christy Doyle reported that the Water Quality Official Plan Amendment is waiting for formal comment from the Province. Christy also noted that DMM has submitted an application through the National Disaster Mitigation Fund for undertaking local floodplain mapping and successful grant applications will be announced in April. Summer students for the District's water quality program have been hired and they start May 1st. MWC, through DMM, has applied to get an Invasive Species Intern through the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters' Invading Species Awareness program and are still waiting to hear if the funding application was successful.
- Muskoka Official Plan Update – Preliminary directions will be presented to the District's Planning and Economic Development Committee on March 23rd. The public can attend as observers.

- MWC Working Group – Kevin Trimble and Geoff Ross, Committee Co-Chairs

Kevin reported on the activities of the March 2nd meeting. Meeting minutes are distributed to all MWC members and Kevin encourages everyone to read them and participate as they can with Working Group initiatives. The Working Group had a good discussion on the DMM Official Plan Review and a Planning and Development Sub-committee has been initiated. A “Planning 101” session is scheduled for the April Working Group meeting. The Working Group also discussed the SMDHU report (outlined above) and reviewed ideas for communicating the 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card, specifically looking at developing story maps. The Endocrine Disruption Compounds report will be coming to the next MWC meeting for approval and will be distributed with the agenda. The Algae Sub-committee continues to work on a “public perceptions” algae survey, and the Hydrology Sub-committee is looking to link to a provincial initiative on Low Impact Development.

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in Working Group meetings.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, April 21, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. Dr. Andrea Smith from Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. will talk about invasive species and MWC’s Endocrine Disrupting Compounds (EDCs) Sub-committee will present their paper for approval.

All are welcome!

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 2:55 pm.