



## Minutes

Friday, January 18, 2019  
1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1N3

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### Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)	Nancy Alcock	Patricia Arney
Rob Attfield	Will Barbour	Margarete Cameron
George Crawford	Don Furniss	Lou Guerriero
Gord Henderson	Caroline Konarzewski	Richard Lammers (@2:20 pm)
Daryle Moffatt	Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross
Peter Sale	Andrew Struthers	

### MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Kevin Boyle
Christiane Masters	Jamie Delaney	Breeanna Campbell

### Community

Marie-Helene Bergeron	Vincent Evans-Lucy	Cathy Oakden
Rebecca Krawczyk	Rupert Kindersley	Susan Mazan

### Welcome

MWC Chair Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm with roundtable introductions.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Patricia Arney, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 23, 2018 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

MWC submitted a letter to Premier Ford regarding the elimination of the independent Office of Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

### Muskoka Watershed Council Orientation

[Muskoka Watershed Council: Then and Now](#) – Patricia Arney, Kevin Trimble and Christy Doyle

Patricia Arney provided an overview of the founding of MWC and its history, including the formation of MWC spearheaded by Ken Black. She also reviewed the current structure of MWC.

Christy Doyle provided context for MWC within the greater DMM Muskoka Water Strategy. She also discussed some of Muskoka's more notable projects, including the Muskoka Watershed Report Card, Muskoka Stewardship Conference, Muskoka Summit on the Environment, Living in Cottage Country handbook, Love Your Lake program, and invasive species awareness and outreach. She reviewed the sources of funding for MWC projects and programs, noting that MWC doesn't have administrative

costs (i.e., staff costs, or office overhead) so money received through donations and events go directly to carry out programs.

Kevin Trimble discussed the future of MWC, including the projects on the horizon. He expressed the need to review MWC's mission, goals and objectives to determine if they still reflect MWC's purpose and programs. He highlighted some issues that may need clarification in the Operating Procedures to ensure they are articulated correctly. He suggested that MWC carry out a strategic review in the near future. He stressed the need for engagement by members in order carry out our work.

Discussion:

- Rob Atfield would like to see MWC develop a fossil fuel reduction campaign.
- Should Muskoka have a conservation authority? Nancy Alcock suggested that MWC develop a response to this question in light of the District review being undertaken by the Province. Peter Sale noted that MWC still focusses too much on the water and should focus more on the land, as that is what forms the majority of the watershed and will see big impacts due to climate change.
- Peter Sale would like to see MWC work on more projects concurrently, however he noted that more active volunteers and members are needed to do this. Kevin Trimble suggested that this is a good time to figure out how we reach the next level, maybe through a strategic planning exercise.
- Rupert Kindersley announced that the Federal government has provided some funding to land trusts to protect land, and that Georgian Bay Land Trust has received some of this funding.
- Patricia Arney noted that not all of the work has to be done at committees and that there is plenty that volunteers can do at home if they can't attend meetings.
- Caroline Konarzewski suggested that we consider doing a "watershed 101" approach for the benefit of all.

[Restore Your Muskoka Shore Program](#) – Rebecca Willison

Rebecca Willison provided an overview of the [Restore Your Muskoka Shore](#) program undertaken by MWC and the District of Muskoka last summer with funding through the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund. Ten shoreline renaturalizations were carried out across Muskoka (at least one in each Area Municipality) in conjunction with participating lake associations.

### **MWC Working Group**

The next meeting is Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> from 2-4 pm in the Birch Room at the District of Muskoka administration building offices. Geoff highlighted the current projects.

- Hydrology – *Kevin Trimble*  
Kevin will have a mandate/project scope for the project at the next Working Group meeting.
- Organization of the 2019 Muskoka Stewardship Conference is underway and MWC members are encouraged to submit ideas for speakers and a theme.
- Algae Sub-committee – *Peter Sale*  
The Algae Sub-committee continues to meet, with the next meeting on February 11, 2019.

### **Updates & New Business**

- Geoff Ross announced that the comment period for Bill 66 ends on January 20<sup>th</sup> and questioned whether MWC should submit a comment. Kevin Trimble responded that MWC would need to decide and then do some homework to make sure we have a good understanding of the impacts on Muskoka's watersheds. MWC also needs to decide how often we comment on these sorts of legislative changes. Patricia Arney encouraged everyone around the table to respond as individuals.

**Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, February 15, 2019 from 1-3 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. Presentations on cumulative impacts will be featured.

**Adjournment**

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.