



Minutes

Friday, March 18, 2016

1:00 pm

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

Present

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Lou Guerriero (Chair) | Patricia Arney | Shane Baker |
| John Cooper | Paul Dinner | Gord Henderson |
| Jack Hepworth | Piret Hurrell | Randy Jorgensen |
| Mara Kerry | Caroline Konarzewski | Victoria McDonald |
| Brian McElwain | Steve Munro | Michael Peppard |
| Geoff Ross | Peter Sale | Peter Seybold |
| Al Shaw | Don Smith (@1:20 pm) | Kevin Trimble |
| Ian Turnbull | Debbie Vernon | Norm Yan |

Staff

| | | |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Christy Doyle | Rebecca Willison | Paul Grinnell |
|---------------|------------------|---------------|

Guests

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|
| Rebecca Francis | Sondra Eger | Elaine Ho |
| Steve Stone | Gail Hepworth | Mike Gooch |
| Jenn LeMesurier | Sam Robinson | |

Welcome

Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Norman Yan, seconded by Kevin Trimble

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated February 19, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Chair's Items

- None

Presentations

Sustainable Huntsville: Community Champions and Benchmarking – *Rebecca Francis, Sustainability Coordinator, Town of Huntsville*

Rebecca spoke about the many ways that the Town of Huntsville is reducing their impact on the environment by incorporating sustainable building and management practices in their daily operations. The annual report on these corporate initiatives is available at http://www.huntsville.ca/en/living/UP_AnnualReport.asp. Rebecca also highlighted several community sustainability projects, including [Huntsville Earth Week](#) and the Mayor's Bike Ride.

Proposed MWC & FMW Research Workplan: 2016 and Beyond – *Peter Sale (MWC) and Norman Yan (FMW)*

Peter discussed some of the projects MWC can consider undertaking in 2016. Many of these projects are related to the Climate Change report, including enhanced lake monitoring and research on algal blooms. Norm discussed potential research projects on road salt and calcium decline, as well as the proposed Muskoka Limnological Institute and the John Colbourne research project (Environment Care).

Proposed MWC Committee Structure – *Lou Guerriero*

Lou summarized the possibility of restructuring the MWC committees in order to address the upcoming workplan. The proposed committees are Environmental Advisory Team (EAT), Climate Action & Research Team (CART), and the Communications & Outreach Team (COT). The majority of MWC's work is completed at the committee level and greater participation on committees is required.

Patricia Arney recommended having a committee dedicated to the Report Card.

Updates and New Business

- MWC/MSE will be at the Cottage Life Show April 1-3. Volunteers are needed.
- Peter Sale will be presenting MWC's Climate Change Report to District Council on March 21st. Peter will also be giving a lecture on Climate Change on April 21st as part of Huntsville's Earth Week.
- DMM – Christy Doyle reported that the Water Quality Model will be going to the Planning & Economic Development Committee in April.
- FMW – Norman Yan and Paul Grinnell reported that the membership drive is continuing. There is now a \$250 corporate membership option available.
- Muskoka Summit on the Environment – 8 applications for the Research Award were received and 8 poster abstracts were received. The Royal Ontario Museum has provided a draw prize for participants registering before May 1st.
- Provincial issues – Mara Kerry reported that the MNRF has a lot of information about bears through the Bear Wise program that can be used for educational purposes. High school students can apply for the Stewardship Rangers program and there are also employment opportunities for university students. MNRF dams are not flood control structures but can help mitigate the impacts of a high water event in the spring through the winter draw down of the lakes. The draw down targets were

achieved in most lakes with in the watershed but others were not on account of the early melt. MNRF dams are currently set for optimal discharge through the spring freshet.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, April 15, 2016 in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration office, 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge beginning at 1:00 pm. The meeting will feature the release of the Phragmites ID card and presentations about control programs.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.