



## Minutes

Friday, November 18, 2016

1:00 pm

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

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### Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Nancy Alcock	Patricia Arney
Shane Baker	Margarete Cameron	Margaret Casey
John Cooper	Patsy Cross	Paul Dinner
Don Furniss (@2:30 pm)	Gord Henderson	Piret Hurrell
Randy Jorgensen	Caroline Konarzewski	Jenn LeMesurier
Brian Lynch	Anna Mallin	Karen Maxwell
Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross	Peter Sale
Kevin Trimble (Vice Chair)		

### Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison
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### Guests

Summer Valentine	Ryan Sorichetti	Dusa Sorichetti
Andrew Paterson	Jim Rusak	Steve Stone
Susan Walker	Bill Walker	

### Welcome

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

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Shane Baker, seconded by Michael Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 14, 2016 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

A copy of a letter sent by MWC Chair Lou Guerriero to Dr. Norman Yan and the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed Board of Directors was distributed with the agenda.

## **Presentations**

[Predicting Algae Bloom Dynamics in a Changing Climate](#) - Ryan Sorichetti, Postdoctoral Research Scientist, York University

Globally, algae are growing in places where previously algae never was found. Algae blooms are no longer strictly associated with eutrophic lakes.

In Ontario and beyond, algae blooms are being reported later and later in the year. Ryan's research is framing a new context for algal blooms in lakes. Ryan is considering the linkages between algal blooms and climate change as well as the lake's physical and chemical attributes. The overarching factor that impacts the physical structure of lakes is climate change. These impacts must be understood before other attributes can be considered. Different depth lakes will respond to climate change differently, which will impact the timing of algae blooms.

Ryan's key research questions are:

- 1) What are the linkages between algal blooms and climate change?
- 2) Which lakes are at highest risk for algal blooms under climate change scenarios?

Ryan has found that:

- Climate and algal dynamics are changing
- Climate → lake physical structure (temperature/mixing) → lake chemistry and biology
- We must first understand how climate affects lake physics and in turn, biology (algal dynamics)
- Understanding effects of climate change = national water strategy

Christy thanked Ryan for his presentation and announced that the topic of the 2017 Muskoka Stewardship Conference will be algae ("50 Shades of Green"). The conference is being planned for spring 2017.

[Shaping Muskoka: Official Plan Review](#) - Summer Valentine, Director of Planning, District Municipality of Muskoka

The District of Muskoka is undertaking an Official Plan Review to explore and update the policy framework that guides growth and physical change across Muskoka for the next 20 years. The review will incorporate provincial objectives and community-driven priorities to support a prosperous economy, a healthy environment, and vibrant communities through updated land use planning policies.

The work plan for the project spans approximately 18 months and the first stage began in the spring of 2016 with the compilation of several years of background work into a series of fact-based policy background papers. Stage 2 is intended to set up the framework for the balance of the review by using policy background papers, provincial requirements, and a working session with the District of Muskoka Planning and Economic Development Committee to develop preliminary policy directions. Public consultation is being planned on the directions before the report is finalized.

Stage 3 will take place this winter with the consultant developing draft policies based on the preliminary directions and will begin to reach out to aboriginal communities. Stage 4 includes the bulk of the public consultation and is timed for the late spring and summer 2017 to include seasonal

residents. Stage 5 will see the policies revised from the feedback from public consultations and the plan will be put forward for consideration of adoption by Muskoka District Council. After that, the document will be sent to the Province for approval, which could take 6 months or more.

Learn more about the Official Plan Review Process and how to participate on the District of Muskoka website at <http://www.muskoka.on.ca/en/work-and-invest/The-Muskoka-Official-Plan-Review.aspx>.

Lou thanked Summer for her presentation.

### **Updates & New Business**

- MWC Working Group – Kevin Trimble and Geoff Ross provided an overview of the activities of the Working Group, focussing on the Sub-committees (which include Algae, Forestry, Hydrology, Communications, and MWC's 2018 Report Card).
  - 13 people attended the working group meeting held at the beginning of November. The Working Group received updates from five Sub-committees.
  - Steve Munro, chair of the Forestry Sub-committee, updated the Working Group on his efforts promoting how to get Muskoka's forests ready for climate change. Steve will be giving a related presentation to MWC on January 27<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers for the Sub-committee are needed.
  - The Working Group discussed Provincial Bill 73 (and the related requirement for the District of Muskoka to designate a planning advisory committee) and whether MWC should fill this role for DMM. Support for MWC undertaking this role was expressed.
  - Volunteers are needed to provide input into the Muskoka Official Plan review on behalf of MWC.
  - The Hydrology Sub-committee is scoping its project.
  - There will be a forthcoming work plan for the 2018 Report Card. Volunteers are required to help develop the Report Card.
  - Kevin would like input from MWC members on the frequency, date and time of the Working Group meetings.
- Communications Committee - Margarete Cameron reported on three projects they are undertaking over the winter, including:
  - Reviewing MWC's distribution list to ensure it is up to date.
  - Developing packages to send to organizations/associations with seasonally appropriate MWC information and resources.
  - Developing a communications calendar.
- Partner Organizations Update
  - DMM – Christy Doyle outlined the new legislative requirement for upper-tier municipalities to implement a Planning Advisory Committee, as required through Bill 73. The District's Planning and Economic Development Committee will consider requesting MWC to fulfill this role at its next Committee meeting. Given MWC's long-standing mandate and role in engaging and advising municipalities on high-level and broad-scale planning related matters, and also given its composition of citizens with varied perspectives from across

Muskoka, MWC may be well positioned to accept this role. Should District resolve to request MWC to consider fulfilling this request, MWC could provide the District with a draft terms of reference to ensure that MWC remains independent from DMM. A request may come from PED to MWC regarding this issue.

Christy also reported on the progress of the District's water quality model review (OPA 45). The draft set of policies is available on the [DMM website](#) for public review. MWC volunteers are developing comments. Draft comments will come to MWC in January for approval before they are submitted.

- o Provincial Update – Mara Kerry has been seconded to a supervisory role at MNRF so she is unable to attend MWC meetings in the coming months, but MNRF's Amanda Vincent is planning to attend in her place. Christy noted that the Invasive Species Act is now in force. There will be a related presentation to MWC in the spring.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, January 27, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature two presentations:

- 1) Muskoka Conservancy's Little Sprouts Eco-Club; and
- 2) Preparing your Forest for Climate Change.

### **Adjournment**

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.