



Minutes

Friday, October 18, 2019

1:00 pm

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

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)
Lisa Barry
John Cooper
Karen Maxwell

Nancy Alcock (left @2:25 pm)
Sandy Cairns
Paul Dinner
Michael Peppard

Rob Attfield
Margaret Casey
Pete LeMoine
Peter Sale

MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle
Rochelle Jeffries
Samantha Hastings

Rebecca Willison
Jamie Delaney

Christiane Masters
Kevin Boyle

Presenters

Jack G. Imhof
Aquatic Ecologist and Watershed Scientist

Guests

John Roberts
John Gordon
Judi Brouse

Tracey Rast
Jacquie Godard
Esther Giesbrecht

Julie Cayley
Barry Davidson

Welcome

MWC Chair Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm with roundtable introductions of MWC members.

- [MWAG presentation](#) – brief introduction to the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG).

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Pete LeMoine, seconded by Michael Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated September 20, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Articles

- [Mother Nature thinks we are all deadbeats in Muskoka](#) by Geoff Ross

Presentation

[The Watershed as an Ecological Unit: Creating Context for Rational Management](#) – Jack G. Imhof, Aquatic Ecologist and Watershed Scientist

The presentation was recorded and will be available on MWC's [YouTube channel](#) in the near future.

Kevin Trimble thanked Mr. Imhof for his presentation. The meeting proceeded into a discussion led by Kevin on the draft white paper produced by the Watershed Management Sub-committee titled "The Case for Integrated Watershed Management in Muskoka" and distributed with the agenda.

MWC Working Group

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 7th from 2-4 pm in the Birch Room at the District of Muskoka administration building.

- **Media/Communications** – Pete LeMoine reported that the 6th article was published online and that many more articles are in the works. The next couple of articles will be about wetlands written by Peter Sale, and Javier Cappella is drafting one article about the importance of forests in the watershed and another on road salts and forests.
- **Strategic Planning** – Karen Maxwell reported that the new Strategic Planning Sub-committee met in the morning for a brief meeting. She highlighted why MWC is undertaking strategic planning at this point in time. What is MWC's vision and how do we get there? Where are we now and where are we going? The Sub-committee will be reaching out to both internal and external stakeholders in the future for their input, as well. They plan to develop surveys and communications pieces.
- **Road Salt** – Christy Doyle reported that the District/MWC public information session has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 13th at the paramedic station in Bracebridge. A number of speakers are planned intended to raise awareness of the proper use of road salt.

Updates

- Christy Doyle reported that the District of Muskoka expects its floodplain mapping project to conclude by spring 2020. Spring flooding delayed the consultant's analysis and extended the project timeline. She highlighted the District's ongoing climate change program, including the development of a corporate climate action plan.
- Jamie Delaney reported that a DMM Waste Management memo being considered at the October 23rd EPW Committee meeting recommends the [elimination of bin sites across Muskoka](#) in accordance with provincial legislation. He noted that this initiative should have a positive impact on the environment.
- Samantha Hastings recently attended a municipal administrator's conference that included discussions about the regional review and funding opportunities from the province.

New Business

- Kevin Trimble sent a letter to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit on behalf of MWC about its algae reporting protocols and to request a meeting to discuss issues and improvements.
- Judi Brouse announced that a new event, Muskoka Earth Festival, is being organized to take place on May 30, 2020 at the Bracebridge Fairgrounds. The goal of the Earth Festival is to move people from talking to taking action. How can each one of us have an earth-friendly lifestyle? Volunteers needed.

Next Meeting

The next Muskoka Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 29th beginning at 1 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.