



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, April 19, 2013

1:00 pm

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

Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Piret Hurrell
Richard Lammers
Geoff Ross
Paul Stueck
Scott Young

Allyn Abbott
Patsy Cross
Gord Henderson
Neil Hutchinson
Anna Mallin
Peter Sale
Ian Turnbull

Shane Baker
Lou Guerriero
Jack Hepworth
Steve Inniss
Steve Munro
Peter Seybold
Debbie Vernon

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Tom Clark
Caroline Konarzewski
Brian McElwain
Rob Milligan
Al Shaw

Nic Bell
Louise Cragg
Mary McCulley
Don McVittie
Ruth Nishikawa
Paul Wiancko

Lola Bratty
George Crawford
Jan McDonnell
Greg Mierle
Michael Peppard

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Marg French

Guests

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. She announced that Friends of the Muskoka Watershed has officially taken over as the non-profit organization in the MWC model. She encouraged all MWC members to buy a membership in FMW.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Shane Baker, seconded by Patsy Cross

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 22, 2013 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- MTO Notice of Study Completion for G.W.P. 5006-05-00 (Highway 60 Improvements)
- CFIA Pest Risk Management Document – Regulated Areas for Emerald Ash Borer
- Fairy Lake Association “Don’t Feed the Birds” initiative

A letter will be sent to the Fairy Lake Association supporting the initiative but indicating that we are unable to provide financial support.

Presentation

[The HESL Award](#) – Neil Hutchinson, Hutchinson Environmental Science Ltd.

Neil announced a new annual student research award to assist with water research in the Muskoka River Watershed through the Friends of the Muskoka Watershed. HESL will provide \$5,000 to be matched by \$2,000 from the research body.

[The Impact of Invasive Species on Muskoka's Forests](#) – Steve Munro, Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. Steve talked about the impact of the Asian Long-horned Beetle, Beach Bark Disease and Emerald Ash Borer on Muskoka's forests. Westwind is concerned with the changes to the regulated area for EAB to include everything south of the French River, which means that moving firewood from southern Ontario to Muskoka will no longer be restricted. Westwind would like to work with MWC on promotion and education workshops.

EAB has not infested Muskoka yet, but if you spot the EAB you can let Westwind know. Learn more about the Emerald Ash Borer, including identification, on the [CFIA website](#).

MOTION by Margaret Casey, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT MWC partner with Westwind on workshops and public awareness about the Emerald Ash Borer and that MWC submit a letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency asking them to retain the existing regulated areas.

CARRIED

Patricia thanked Steve for his presentation.

[Issues on Georgian Bay](#) – Patsy Cross, Georgian Bay Forever

Global News Video – [Great Lakes water levels](#)

Water levels are the most pressing issue. Low levels are a result of both climate change and changes to the outflow at the St. Clair River.

Patricia thanked Patsy for her presentation.

[CWN Research in the Muskoka River Watershed: An Update](#) – Judi Brouse, Muskoka Watershed Council

A CWN End-Users meeting will be held on April 22, 2013.

Patricia thanked Judi for her presentation.

Chair's Items

- Update on Friends of the Muskoka Watershed – Incorporation papers have been received and office space has yet to be determined.

- Earth Day Event in Huntsville on April 20th will feature a presentation by Peter Sale.
- Member biographies and photos for the website should be sent to Rebecca at rwillison@muskokawatershed.org. The biographies received to date are available at <http://www.muskokawatershed.org/about-us/council-committees/muskoka-watershed-council/>.
- Muskoka Trails Council held their AGM on April 18th.
- The Yellow Fish Program has received a lot of media attention. Scott Young provided an overview of the program.
- MSE topic ideas can be sent to Judi Brouse at jbrouse@muskokawatershed.org.

Activity Report

- *April 2013 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - **Executive Committee** – have been working on the creation of Friends of the Muskoka Watershed.
 - **Policy & Research Committee** – Student project from the University of Guelph on the impact of road salt on Muskoka's lakes.
 - **Strategic Directions** – Background reports on land, water and wetlands are moving forward.
 - **Communications** – Preliminary sources of funding for the Report Card have been found but not yet confirmed.

Updates and New Business

- [Muskoka Stewardship Conference](#) – April 27th at Nipissing University in Bracebridge. Theme: What Are You Watching?
- MWC has been asked to assist the University of Waterloo on putting on a day-long event featuring the Stockholm prize winner in aquatic science on July 3rd.
- Scott Young reported on the Safe Quiet Waters meeting held the morning of April 19th. He distributed "Boater's Code" brochures. <http://safequiet.ca/>
- Peter Seybold reported that the MLA is in the process of finalizing their WQ monitoring program for this summer. Beacon Environmental will be the consultant overseeing the program.
- Debbie Vernon questioned what the impact of the Algonquin Land Claim will have on Muskoka.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, May 17, 2013 in the Council Chambers at The District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.