



## Minutes

Friday, October 19, 2012  
1:00 pm

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

---

### Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)	Shane Baker	Ben Boivin
Lola Bratty	Margaret Casey	Tom Clark
Patsy Cross	Lou Guerriero	Isobel Heathcote
Gord Henderson	Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell
Steve Inniss	Anna Mallin	Mary McCulley
Jan McDonnell	Rob Milligan	Michael Peppard
Geoff Ross	Peter Sale	Peter Seybold
Ian Turnbull	Debbie Vernon	Paul Wiancko
Scott Young		

### Regrets

Allyn Abbott	Scott Aitchison	Nic Bell
Louise Cragg	Neil Hutchinson	Caroline Konarzewski
Richard Lammers	Don McVittie	Greg Mierle
Steve Munro	Ruth Nishikawa	Ken Riley
Al Shaw	Paul Stueck	

### Staff

Judi Brouse	Rebecca Willison	Marg French
-------------	------------------	-------------

### Guests

Chris Marshall	Wendy Gibson	Kimberly Kennedy
----------------	--------------	------------------

### Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm with a review of the minutes.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Piret Hurrell, seconded by Mary McCulley

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated September 21, 2012 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- Letter to MP Tony Clement from the Fox Lake Association re: closure of the ELA
- Provincial Policy Statement Review – Public Meetings
- DMM OP Review - Resorts and Tourism Workshop

## Chair's Items

- Great Muskoka Paddling Experience – The event was well attended in spite of the poor weather and it received quite a bit of media coverage both before and after the event.
- Patricia Arney gave a presentation to District Planning Committee for the DMM Official Plan Review.

## Review of Provincial Policy Statement

A memo was distributed prior to the meeting and a presentation was given by Judi Brouse outlining the [draft policies relevant to MWC](#).

Isobel Heathcote expressed concern about whether submitting comments to the government on Environmental Bill of Rights postings was considered advocacy. It was the consensus of the Council that both the Terms of Reference agreed upon between MHF and DMM and the policy statement prepared by the Canada Revenue Agency permits this type of submission.

The memo will be taken forward to the Executive Committee who will finalize any comments to be submitted.

Comments on the memo can be sent to Judi at [jbrouse@muskokaheritage.org](mailto:jbrouse@muskokaheritage.org).

## Discussion: What Can MWC Do For You?

Paul Wiancko (GB) – (1) GB Report Card; (2) GB water levels and loss of wetlands, support initiatives going forward with the federal government and US government with regards to water levels; (3) water quality testing for bacteria and nutrients; (4) 'planning for the environment' handbook.

Scott Young (BR) – keep doing what we have been doing: (1) keep assessing and reporting on the health of Muskoka's ecosystems; (2) keep identifying and promoting best practices; (3) keep channelling the efforts of Muskoka's volunteers; (4) keep promoting and facilitating stewardship; (5) keep being a reliable resource for individuals, municipalities, lake associations and others; (6) keep communicating the green message; (7) keep creating goodwill.

Shane Baker (LOB) – (1) continue social networking program; (2) shoreline mapping of structures; (3) develop information for building officials and real estate agents to distribute; (4) education and outreach (especially to the unconverted).

Ruth Nishikawa (ML) – (1) education; (2) promote awareness of other nutrients of concern i.e. nitrogen; (3) calcium decline.

Gord Henderson (AH) – (1) develop ways to get the message into the hands of the people who impact the watershed; (2) repeat the same message each year so people are reminded; (3) get out to lakes, marinas, appreciation events, customer appreciation events on lakes, regattas etc. Haliburton County has developed a [Shoreline Tree Preservation by-law](#). The [Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners Associations](#) has been formed as an umbrella organization in Haliburton County.

Lola Bratty (GR) – (1) training for building & planning staff and council on importance of water quality and the environment; (2) frontline staff training for septic reinspections (develop standards on frequency, etc); (3) building code setbacks – educate on importance of maintaining larger setbacks; (4) education – packaging of materials in print or electronically – to help people understand why things are the way they are; (5) development standards guidelines; (6) facilitate meetings between Area Municipal staff to look for ways to collaborate; (7) stormwater and infrastructure mapping; (8) good wetland mapping; (9) e-Bulletins; (10) waterfront handbook.

Jack Hepworth (SE) – (1) reports to Seguin council and presentations to Seguin council; (2) promote neighbours working together – gives strength and leverage since branding of Muskoka is much stronger than Seguin or West Parry Sound – Muskoka River Watershed is the stewardship identity; (3) role of buffers; (4) ecosystem services; (5) septic reinspections; (6) enhance our work with lake associations; (7) recognition program for achieving the 10 actions in the sustainability guide – should have something similar in Muskoka.

Chris Marshall (HT) – (1) reinforce importance of shorelines ([good/bad shoreline graphic](#)); (2) handbook to explain why setback, etc.

Debbie Vernon (Real Estate) – (1) info on by-laws etc (handbook); (2) septic system info packages. *The Real Estate Association may be able to provide funding if a request is submitted by letter. They also have a realtor care foundation that provides grants.*

Peter Seybold (MLA) – (1) provide resources and materials. *MLA is wrapping up its draft annual water quality report, is working to interact with other larger and smaller association, is trying to improve communications, and is distributing MLA packages with MWC information in them.*

Wendy Gibson (LOBA) – (1) wetland mapping; (2) higher level/strategic analysis of issues that can be shared with other organizations so they have a basis to make comments. *LOBA is developing a welcome package for residents.*

Jan McDonnell (MNR) – *MNR is able to provide technical expertise as needed.*

Peter Sale indicated that MWC wants to do what we can to help, but we are limited by money and time. We also need to show how valuable MWC is when we seek funding.

### **MWC Program Updates**

- [MWC Website](#) – Rebecca Willison provided an overview of the [MWC website](#), highlighting features of interest to MWC members, such as the Upcoming Meeting Calendar, Watershed Blog, and lecture videos.
- [Muskoka Summit on the Environment](#) – Patricia Arney demonstrated the [MSE website](#), featuring the videos of each presentation from the Biodiversity Summit held last June.

### **Updates and New Business**

- *October 2012 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
- Seguin Township Funding Request  
**MOTION** by Geoff Ross, seconded by Ben Boivin  
    THAT Muskoka Watershed Council request \$500 from Seguin Township to assist in developing communications products.

### **CARRIED**

- The Navigable Waters Protection Act is to be replaced by the Navigation Protection Act, a piece of legislation included in bill C-45, the government's second omnibus Budget Implementation Act. The Act lists the major waterways for which regulatory approval is required prior to the placement or construction of a work and apply the common law to protect navigation in unlisted waterways.
- Shane Baker – Sustainability Exchange 2012 Conference in Huntsville on October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Judi Brouse – MWC will be holding a Water Indicators Workshop on November 5<sup>th</sup>. Let Judi know if you plan to attend.

**Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, November 23, 2012 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

**Adjournment**

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.