



## Minutes

Friday, May 20, 2016  
1:00 pm

Pine Room – District Municipality of Muskoka  
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

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### Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Shane Baker	Margarete Cameron
Louise Cragg	Patsy Cross	Don Furniss
Jack Hepworth	Mara Kerry	Richard Lammers
Brian Lynch	Karen Maxwell	Michael Peppard
Peter Sale	Don Smith (@1:50 pm)	Kevin Trimble
Debbie Vernon	Norm Yan	Scott Young (@1:40 pm)

### Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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### Guests

Morgan Levison	Marina Whelan	Lisa Ebel
Maureen Guerriero		

### Welcome

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

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Brian Lynch

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated April 15, 2016 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Presentations

[Climate Change – a defining public health issue for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century](#) – Morgan Levison and Marina Whelan, [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

Marina discussed the shift from considering climate change an environmental issue to a public health issue. SMDHU has worked hard to reduce their contribution to climate change internally (organizationally). They have also developed the SMDHU Climate Change Action Plan. The Vulnerability Assessment should be completed by the end of the year.

SMDHU is interested in working with MWC on blue-green algae projects. Kevin Trimble noted that we may be able to work together on water management issues, as well. Brenda Armstrong, Safe Water Coordinator, is the contact person for information about blue-green algae. Marina indicated that data is available from 2003 on about vector-borne diseases. They are very dependent on temperature and will likely become a larger issue with climate change.

Lou thanked Morgan and Marina for their presentation and offered an open invitation to MWC meetings.

### **MWC Committee Structure** – *Lou Guerriero, Muskoka Watershed Council*

Lou projected the revised organizational chart and explained the reasoning for maintaining a communications committee as well as the general working group.

Kevin reported on the "Working Group" meeting held that morning. The Working Group will operate as an umbrella committee that will have sub-committees to work on specific projects. Four main projects have been initiated:

1. Report Card – led by Lou Guerriero
2. Algae & Collaboration for WQ Monitoring – led by Peter Sale
3. Hydrology & Water Management – led by Paul Dinner and Kevin Trimble
4. Forestry – led by Steve Munro

In addition, a Communications Committee has been initiated. Michael Peppard, Margarete Cameron and Louise Cragg are sitting on the Committee, with Mike as Chair. Kevin stressed that MWC would like more people to sit on the Communications Committee and assist with communications initiatives.

Monthly "Working Group" meetings will be held and be open to everyone. The majority of the meeting time can be dedicated to one major project that needs attention and input from the group-at-large with the remainder of the meeting allowing for updates from the leads of the other ongoing projects.

The next Working Group meeting will include updates on the various sub-committees and then follow with a discussion related to the launch of the 2018 Report Card.

The number and frequency of Working Group meetings has not been set. What do people prefer? Day of the week? Time? A survey will be initiated in to get feedback.

Mara Kerry would like to sit on the Hydrology sub-committee.

Richard Lammers would like to see an update scheduled for the climate change data. He noted that new data may become available and should be included in the analysis on an ongoing basis.

### **Updates and New Business**

- DMM – Samantha Hastings reported on the Water Quality Model Review. Christy Doyle and Summer Valentine are leading the project and have made presentations to the District's Planning and Economic Development Committee and to various Area Municipalities. Community consultations will be held over the summer. The new program will enhance

protection for all lakes in Muskoka while continuing to draw on data from DMM's long-standing water quality monitoring program. Presentations will be made to MWC in the near future.

- FMW – The focus this summer is on corporate membership. FMW has withdrawn its application for charitable status.
- Provincial – Mara Kerry reported that MNRF regional biologists are currently out surveying for species at risk, stick nests, bear and moose (biodiversity values) to help inform forest management planning. Public consultations regarding the next forest management plan will begin in September. Fisheries Management Zone 15 planning is underway, including random lake sampling of eight lakes in Muskoka. Extensive fish sampling is also being carried out. A public advisory committee will be formed this fall to assist with the plan. Contact Mara ([Mara.Kerry@ontario.ca](mailto:Mara.Kerry@ontario.ca)) if you are interested in sitting on the committee. June is the peak time to listen for whip-poor-wills. Let MNRF know if you hear them. MNRF is partnering with the Toronto Zoo to re-establish turtle populations extirpated from other areas of Ontario. Bear Wise resources are available by contacting Bart Brown ([bart.brown@ontario.ca](mailto:bart.brown@ontario.ca)).
- MSE – Peter Sale encouraged people to register today if they plan to attend. The art show has 14 pieces and there will be prizes for a raffle. The 1<sup>st</sup> draft of the communiqué is being developed.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, June 17, 2016 at the Muskoka Discovery Centre. It will include a tour of the facility and the new MWC water exhibit.

### **Adjournment**

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.