Minutes
Friday, October 20, 2017
1:00 pm

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

Present
Lou Guerriero (Chair) Brenda Armstrong Shane Baker
Margarete Cameron Margaret Casey Don Furniss
Jack Hepworth Randy Jorgensen Mara Kerry
Rob Milligan Geoff Ross Peter Sale
Kevin Trimble

Staff
Christy Doyle Rebecca Willison

Speakers
Jason Dwyer Phil Careless
(Ontario Parks) (Ontario Parks)

Community
Gillian Humphries Summer Valentine (@1:50 pm)

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

Confirmation of Minutes
MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Rob Milligan
THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated September 15, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentation
Introduction to Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands: Background and Ongoing Efforts – Jason Dwyer, Park Superintendent and Phil Careless, Park Biologist, Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

The Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park is a 33,505 hectare natural environment class park considered one of the most diverse and least disturbed natural areas found in Central Ontario. It contains 105 landform vegetation types (63 identified as critical) and has limited or no recent history of logging. Its low-rolling topography includes organic soils, flat sandy deposits, and bare bedrock uplands with shallow soil patches. As a non-operating park, it has no maintained public facilities or services.
Following general group discussion, MWC agreed to submit a letter to the provincial government to encourage the completion of a management plan for the park and to ensure that the area’s ecological integrity remains a priority.

Lou thanked Jason and Phil for their presentation.

**Muskoka Official Plan Review**

Rob Milligan outlined the comments MWC proposes to submit to DMM regarding its Muskoka Official Plan review. There will be additional opportunities to provide comments following the public meeting scheduled for November 23rd, if needed. District staff has confirmed that comments may be received until the end of January 2018.

- Don Furniss noted that MWC’s comments reflect what he would expect to receive from a Planning Advisory Committee (PAC).
- Rob Milligan suggested that MWC do more outreach about its role as the PAC.
- Peter Sale suggested that MWC watch closely when/how the area municipalities update their Official Plans and consider the extent of any changes related to the Muskoka Official Plan (once approved).
- Margaret Casey suggested that MWC might want to encourage area municipalities to update their Official Plans sooner than the required 10 years.
- Kevin Trimble noted that, as a group, we will continue to evolve the oversight/governance aspects of the PAC functions to ensure that we always seek full MWC review/sign-off.

**MOTION** by Rob Milligan, seconded by Peter Sale


CARRIED

**Updates & New Business**

Christy Doyle reported that MWC is reviewing potential grants and internship opportunities to assist with various MWC projects.

**Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, November 24th at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature presentations by CanDetec Inc on the Three Mile Lake Algae Ultrasonic Project and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit on algae reporting protocols.

**Adjournment**

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.