



Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2019

1:00 pm

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

Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)
Will Barbour
Margarete Cameron
Chris Cragg
Don Furniss
Pete LeMoine
Geoff Ross
Norman Yan

Nancy Alcock
Lisa Barry
Margaret Casey
Louise Cragg
Lou Guerriero
Daryle Moffatt
Peter Sale

Rob Attfield
Sandy Cairns
John Cooper
Paul Dinner
Neil Hutchinson
Michael Peppard
Andrew Struthers

MWC & DMM Staff

Christy Doyle
Rochelle Jeffries

Rebecca Willison
Jamie Delaney

Christiane Masters
Kevin Boyle (@ 2:00 pm)

Presenters

Lewis Molot
York University

Guests

John Klinck
Danielle Lanthier
Betty Isbister
Shakira Azan
Jacquie Godard
Renee Recoskie
John Hunter

Jamie Nairn
Ken Riley
John Roberts
Esther Griesbrecht
Steven Holden
Laura Stevens
Jan Hunter

Keith Somers
Bill Heatlie
Andy Metelka
Paul Grinnell
Steph Sabeau
Brenda Armstrong

Welcome

MWC Chair Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm with roundtable introductions.

- Kevin reported that there are four MWC members that sit on the Province's Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG). MWAG met earlier this week and finalized the mandate and terms of reference for the advisory group.
- Kevin met with Doug McNeil, the Province's Special Advisor for Flooding, last week and reported that there is a very short remaining timeline associated with this appointment (approximately 2 months).
- Kevin reported that Muskoka Watershed Council officially became incorporated as a non-profit organization in July.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Andrew Struthers, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 21, 2019 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Letter to Ontario's Special Advisor on Flooding re: Muskoka Watershed Flood Mitigation
- Email response re: HydroSweepers
- Letter to Dockside Publishing re: Banish the YUCK, There's No Need to Put Up with the Weeds article/ad

Communications

- [Connecting the Drops: Case for Muskoka's integrated watershed management](#)
- [We need more than an update to the Muskoka River water management plan](#)
- [Integrated watershed management can manage Muskoka's environment](#)
- [Why talk about models when we need to stop real floods in Muskoka?](#)
- [What are algae doing in Muskoka's lakes?](#)

Presentation

[Harmful Algal Blooms in Ontario Lakes: Causes and Management](#) – Dr. Lewis Molot, York University

Dr. Norman Yan introduced Dr. Lou Molot. Dr. Molot highlighted some of the common threats to the water quality of inland lakes, including algal blooms. He explained eutrophication, phosphorus dynamics and algal bloom ecology.

He noted that new research has revealed that anoxia in water can cause ferrous iron to be released from the sediments, which allows cyanobacteria to become dominant in warm water. While it is difficult to manage iron, we can ensure that there is adequate oxygen concentrations at the sediment/water boundary to prevent blooms.

One idea to potentially accomplish this in oligotrophic lakes is through the use of an aerator. Both anoxia and temperature are implicated in bloom formation. Can we identify the cyanobacteria nurseries in oligotrophic lakes and focus management actions to these areas?

Following a question and answer period, Dr. Peter Sale thanked Dr. Molot for his presentation.

Executive Committee

Kevin Trimble provided a brief update of the meeting held on September 19th. The Committee discussed MWC's actions and activities around the spring flooding event, the initiation of a strategic review process for MWC, and the financial report, among other topics.

MWC Working Group

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3rd from 2-4 pm in the Tamarack Room at the District of Muskoka administration building offices.

- **Media/Communications** – Pete LeMoine highlighted the five newspaper articles published in the local media over the summer. The project continues into the fall and Pete encouraged volunteers to help coordinate the articles and a storyteller to help craft the storyline.
- **Hydrology Sub-committee** – Kevin Trimble indicated that the project is moving towards developing a watershed strategy that includes more than just hydrology. The sub-committee is moving in three directions: communications, watershed modelling, and developing an outline for a white paper on watershed management.
- **Algae Sub-committee** – Peter Sale reported on the progress of the pilot program to monitor algae in four local lakes to develop a method to harness volunteers to collect water samples.
- **Road Salt** – Kevin Trimble announced that a District/MWC public information session is being organized for this fall.

Updates

- Daryle Moffatt reported that Seguin Township is looking into algae blooms, specifically how they impact property values and the health unit's process for informing the public. They are encouraging the health unit to develop different reporting to better reflect the extent or severity of each bloom and not be overly cautious.
- Christy Doyle reported that the District of Muskoka has been active on the environment front, hosting an interjurisdictional climate change meeting this morning with the SMDHU. The Floodplain Mapping project is expected to be finalized in early 2020. She also highlighted the success of working with various students this year to help advance MWC and DMM initiatives, notably the algae monitoring pilot project.
- Jamie Delaney reported on the District of Muskoka's effort to update their waste management strategy to ensure that they are complying with new provincial legislation.
- Norm Yan provided an update on Friends of the Muskoka Watershed's AshMuskoka program. FMW is looking for a building to store the ash in.

New Business

- Provincial Policy Statement – Christy Doyle outlined the Provincial review of this key document and asked whether MWC would like to respond formally to the PPS review. Comments are due by October 21st. Mike Peppard is concerned about some of the proposed changes and would like to see MWC submit comments. Chris Cragg is concerned about the lack of tax breaks for protecting wetlands. Christy suggested sending a link to the PPS Review to all interested MWC members together with some additional supporting documents. She requested that interested MWC members provide comments to staff by October 1st. A draft will be prepared together with the Chair and submitted on behalf of MWC in October, as is done with MWC responses to EBR postings.
- The Great Muskoka Paddling Experience is taking place on Saturday, October 12th.
- Peter Sale noted that there are a number of articles about climate change (in Nature magazine, The Economist, National Geographic, etc) this week outlining that humans are not doing enough to address climate change. He emphasized the importance of the climate change crisis and noted that Canada is not ranking well in action.

Next Meeting

The next Muskoka Watershed Council meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18th at 1 pm in the Pine Room at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge. The meeting will feature a presentation on integrated watershed management by Jack Imhof.

Adjournment

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.