



## Minutes

Friday, June 22, 2018

1:00 pm

The Village Square  
1198 Vankoughnet Rd, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1X1

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### Present

Kevin Trimble (Chair)  
Margarete Cameron  
Paul Dinner  
Mara Kerry  
Peter Sale

Patricia Arney  
Chris Cragg  
Lou Guerriero  
Karen Maxwell  
Don Smith (until 2 pm)

Rob Atfield  
Louise Cragg  
Jack Hepworth  
Michael Peppard  
Norman Yan

### Staff

Christy Doyle

Rebecca Willison

Cassie Weston

### Speakers

Roly Harmon

### Community

John Klinck  
Emily Crowder  
Aaron Emms

Jamie Delaney  
Teslyn Heron

Christiane Masters  
Jake Knowles

### Welcome

Kevin Trimble called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He thanked all of the volunteers at MWC events and projects over the year, especially those who helped with the Report Card.

Kevin's welcome was followed by roundtable introductions.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Karen Maxwell, seconded by Jack Hepworth

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated April 20, 2018 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

None

### Presentations

Vankoughnet: A Sense of Place – *Roly Harmon*

Christy Doyle introduced Roly, who presented a brief overview of the environment and history of Vankoughnet. Vankoughnet crosses three watersheds: Muskoka River, Black River and Severn River. After answering a few questions, Kevin thanked Roly for his talk.

### [2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card](#) – Cassie Weston & Lou Guerriero

Lou Guerriero provided an introduction to the Report Card followed by a presentation by Cassie Weston that discussed the grades for each indicator as well as an overall grade for each subwatershed. Cassie highlighted some of the actions individuals can take to help collect data and/or improve watershed health. She outlined upcoming media and communications for the Report Card and then walked attendees through the online Report Card story map.

Kevin highlighted the need for MWC members to understand the Report Card so they can accurately discuss and promote it in the community. The correct talking points need to be understood.

Christy led a discussion about the overall quaternary watershed grade maps, and following group discussion it was decided that the indicators wouldn't be rolled up into an overall grade.

The Report Card will be formally launched on July 19, 2018 at the Muskoka Discovery Centre.

### **MWC Working Group Initiatives**

- Peter Sale reported that the Algae Sub-committee will be meeting in the near future to plan what they will do about the algae project. He would like to see more MWC members participate in the Sub-committee.
- Kevin reinforced the need for people to join and participate in the Working Group and various Sub-committees, regardless of scientific backgrounds. Assistance with communications and project planning and review is needed.

### **Updates & New Business**

- **District Updates** (Engineering and Public Works) – Jamie Delaney reported that EPW is undertaking an Invasive Species Strategy and will be visiting all Area Municipalities in Muskoka to promote inventorying their roads for Invasive species and reporting them to EDDMapS. Target species are Phragmites, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed. EPW and the Township of Muskoka Lakes are working with Scales Nature Park through the START program to put up turtle signs with the hotline number in select known turtle hot spots. EPW is also investigating turtle fencing to prevent turtles from nesting on the side of the road. Jamie highlighted the wood ash project they are working on with Friends of the Muskoka Watershed.
- **Provincial Update** – Ministry of Natural Resource and Forestry's Mara Kerry reported that there is a new government starting next week and there is a freeze on hiring and travel, etc. There may be some significant policy changes coming for various ministries.
- **Friends of Muskoka Watershed (FMW) Update** – Norman Yan reported that Shelley Arnott gave a presentation that included a slide with the District's WQ data. Her research is showing that Muskoka *Daphnia* are more sensitive to chloride than previous thought - even lower than the 40 mg/L threshold established by Norm in a previous study.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, September 21, 2018 beginning at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge.

The meeting will focus on MWC's upcoming hydrology project with a presentation by Dr. Robert Metcalfe, a Research Scientist in the Aquatics Research and Monitoring Section of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and an Adjunct Professor with the Environmental & Life Sciences Graduate Program at Trent University.

### **Adjournment**

Kevin Trimble adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.