



Minutes

Friday, May 22, 2015
1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Acting Chair)	Nancy Alcock	Patricia Arney
Shane Baker	Margaret Casey	Don Furniss
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Randy Jorgensen
Brian Lynch	Victoria McDonald	Geoff Ross
Al Shaw	Don Smith	Kevin Trimble
Norm Yan		

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
Lyndsie McGregor		

Guests

Frank Jonkman	Steve Auger	Yvon Gravel
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Welcome

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

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Norman Yan, seconded by Geoff Ross

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated April 17, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Chair's Items

- Lou distributed a short questionnaire asking MWC members what we are doing well and what we can improve on.

Presentations

[Improving Municipal Drains](#) – Frank Jonkman, Drainage Superintendent/Stormwater Management, Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury

Frank deals with water management, primarily in terms of drainage in rural areas using municipal drains. He discussed a project that was undertaken in the Holland Marsh over the past several years. Two-step channel design is much more effective than the traditional trapezoidal channel design for things like removing phosphorus although it uses up more land. He discussed various design features that can be incorporated into drainage projects to increase the environmental value of the project. Water does not have the legal right to flow downhill according to the drainage act. A municipal drain is essentially the same as a ditch but there are different regulations governing them.

Following some questions, Lou thanked Frank for his presentation.

[The Need for Change! The Lake Simcoe Story](#) - Steve Auger, Department of Integrated Watershed Management, Stormwater Management Specialist, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority

A study was carried out in 2010 to determine the effectiveness of stormwater management ponds in the Lake Simcoe Watershed. The study found that a lack of maintenance of stormwater management ponds result in 1.1 T/y loading increase. LSRCA is carrying out a LID demonstration project in each municipality around the horn of Lake Simcoe. Steve discussed using Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) to implement better site design to make use of better infiltration.

Lou thanked Steve for his very informative presentation.

Activity Report

The May 2015 Activity Report was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.

- Executive Committee – The Power Generation Position Paper has been approved and will go to MWC for endorsement in June.
- Policy & Research – Geoff Ross reported on the activities of the Committee.
- Strategic Directions – Christy Doyle reported on the progress of the Community Expectations project. The next meeting of the Climate Change Impacts Subcommittee will occur June 2nd. MWC members are welcome to attend and provide input.
- Communications – Lyndsie McGregor reported on upcoming awareness days, specifically MWC's activities during Paddling Week June 5th to 14th. The Muskoka Stewardship Conference, held on May 2nd, went well. Presentations from the conference are posted to the website and videos will be available soon.

Updates and New Business

- Environmental Lecture Series on June 11th. "Taking to the Water: Personal and Group Exploration" by Steve Cairns, Assistant Professor at Nipissing University.
- A workshop on dealing with beavers is being organized with the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in August. A lecture will also be held.
- FMW – Norm Yan reported that the HESL Award was given to Michael Schmidt from Trent University. The project is on road salt. The Land Between video has been shot and will be completed soon. The Protecting Muskoka membership program is moving forward. Lyndsie attended the Trillium Foundation training session last week. Norm will be giving a talk on his "crazy ideas" at the AGM on June 19th. The Love Your Lake program is continuing on Lake of Bays with funding from Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation.
- DMM – Samantha Hastings reported that the summer students have begun their field season and will be out collecting water samples and working with lake associations.

- Caroline Konarzewski is giving a free FrogWatch workshop on June 4th at Gagnon's YIG Community Room in Bracebridge.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Rosseau. The FMW AGM will occur in the morning followed by a volunteer recognition lunch, presentation by Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and a guided walk around the property.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.