



## Minutes

Friday, April 23, 2021  
1:00 pm  
Zoom Online Meeting

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### Present

Geoff Ross (Chair)  
John Cooper  
Allen Edwards  
Richard Lammers  
Daryle Moffatt  
Norman Yan

Nancy Alcock  
Chris Cragg  
Piret Hurrell  
Pete LeMoine  
Michael Peppard

Patricia Arney  
Louise Cragg  
Caroline Konarzewski  
Karen Maxwell  
Kevin Trimble

### Staff

Christy Doyle  
Cassie Weston

Rebecca Willison  
Craig Little

Samantha Hastings (@ 2pm)  
Christiane Masters

### Presenter

Kevin Boyle  
*District of Muskoka*

### Guests

John Gordon  
Caleb Timmermann

Jo-Anne Goodwin  
Helen Thompson

John Klinck  
Randal Jorgensen

### Welcome

Geoff Ross called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. In honour of National Volunteer Week, he thanked the wonderful MWC members and volunteers for all that they do to support and move forward MWC initiatives and watershed health.

### Confirmation of Minutes

### MOTION

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 26, 2021 be approved.

**CARRIED (by consent)**

## Presentation

[Muskoka Climate Change Action Plan and Community Action Plan](#) – Kevin Boyle, Climate Change Initiatives Coordinator, District of Muskoka

Kevin gave a presentation on the District of Muskoka's recently released corporate climate change action plan as well as the launch of the Community Action Plan (CAP), designed to reduce community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. He discussed adaptation to issues like flooding and noted how many buildings and properties in Muskoka are susceptible to flooding based on the newest floodplain mapping. An Engage Muskoka webpage has been set up for the Community Action Plan at <https://www.engagemuskoka.ca/greenhouse-gas-initiative>.

He also highlighted the [Municipal Climate Lens Tool](#) from the Clean Air Partnership being piloted for inclusion in DMM staff reports.

Following a question and answer period, Geoff thanked Kevin for his presentation.

## Provincial Watershed Initiative Updates and Discussion of Next Steps for MWC

- [Provincial Transfer Payment Agreement Update](#) – Christy Doyle gave a brief presentation on the Provincial funding and timelines for the Muskoka Watershed Initiatives project. There is over \$4M to for the District to carry out 16 projects.
- [Community Roundtable](#) – Geoff Ross gave a brief presentation on the formation of the Community Roundtable (CRT). Key considerations include the tight timeline for the formation of the CRT, and how to keep MWC apprised of the progress. Potential membership, recruitment, and functions of the CRT were highlighted. It is expected that the CRT will be struck by the end of June.
  - Chris Cragg noted that lake associations should be added to list of potential members.
  - Richard Lammers questioned whether there has been any discussion about what to do if there aren't enough people participating and what to do if specific sectors aren't represented? Geoff responded that a clear Terms of Reference (TOR) should help with recruitment.
  - Pete LeMoine noted that the Working Groupe meeting on Thursday will include a lengthy discussion on the CRT.
  - Samantha Hastings acknowledged the effort that Geoff and Patricia Arney, together with many others, have put into developing the draft Terms of Reference.

## Project Updates

- MWC Strategic Plan – Karen Maxwell reported on the progress of the strategic review. She also discussed the development of a survey to gather member biographies for the website and to gauge interest in continuing on as a MWC member. She noted the need for people to volunteer and participate.

- MWC Communications – Pete LeMoine reported that media releases were sent out for [World Water Day](#) and [Earth Day](#). He noted that the majority of communications for the next while will likely focus on integrated watershed management (IWM) and the Muskoka Watershed Initiative. MWC members have been out in the community giving presentations on a number of topics including water management, climate change, and healthy shorelines.

### **Partner Updates**

- Town of Huntsville – Nancy Alcock reported that the Town of Huntsville has a resolution to declare a climate emergency going to council in May.
- Township of Lake of Bays – Mike Peppard reported that LOB has a motion coming forward at their June 1st council meeting to declare a climate emergency.
- Township of Muskoka Lakes – Allen Edwards reported that the first draft of the Official Plan will be brought forward on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Bracebridge Horticultural Society - Piret Hurrell reported that there are two volunteers participating in the Suzuki Foundation's [Butterflyway Project](#) to become rangers.

### **New Business**

Karen noted that there will be a discussion about an Indigenous land acknowledgement at the Working Group meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm through Zoom. Barb Veale, Director of Planning and Watershed Management for the Halton Region Conservation Authority, will be presenting on Integrated Watershed Management and stakeholder engagement.

### **Adjournment**

Geoff Ross adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.



# Provincial Funding for Protecting the Muskoka River Watershed

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APRIL 23, 2021

## Context

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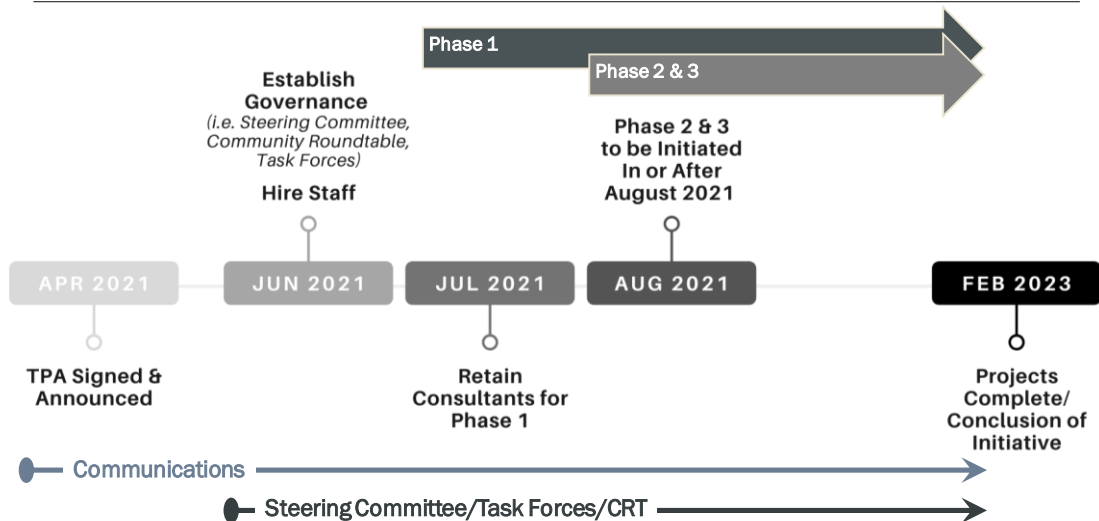
- On April 20, 2021, the Province announced an initial investment of over \$4.25 million to fund 16 projects to help reduce the impacts of flooding and address the watershed health of the Muskoka River Watershed.
- The projects were awarded based on the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group's recommendations.
- The District of Muskoka will receive \$4.16M to advance 12 separate projects, in addition to leading the organizational structure and communications efforts to support these projects.
- The Town of Bracebridge will receive the remainder of the provincial funding to carry out a siltation and bathymetry (depth of water in rivers or lakes) study to review options and develop recommendations for the management of sediment at the delta of the Muskoka River to Lake Muskoka.
- Additional projects are in development, and the potential for additional provincial funds exists.

# Phased Approach

Phase 1 Projects	Phase 2 Projects	Phase 3 Projects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including Hydrogeologic model, floodplain mapping, natural capital inventory, ID structural mitigation measures, and MRWMP operational adjustments</li> <li>Approx. \$3.1M</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including scoping study for MRWMP review, flood mitigation modification review, land use policy review</li> <li>Approx. \$425K</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including watershed health indicators, water quality indicators, shoreline erosion study, public access inventory</li> <li>Approx. \$194K</li> </ul>

\* With the remainder of provincial funding allocated for staffing and administrative costs

# Project Timeline



# Immediate Next Steps

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- Form Steering Committee
- Hire Staff
- MWC to establish Community Roundtable and task forces
- Draft communications plan
- Draft and release project RFPs



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WATERSHED COUNCIL

# Update on the Community Roundtable (CRT)

Geoff Ross, Chair

April 23, 2021

## Motion Passed March 26

THAT MWC agrees in principle to form a Community Roundtable in order to assist in advancing Muskoka watershed initiatives, as requested by the District of Muskoka;

AND THAT a small group of MWC members continue to work with the District to further refine the terms of reference for the Community Roundtable and associated task forces



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# What/Why/Who/When/How of CRT

## Key Considerations

### **CRT is Inclusive ... ALL Stakeholders**

- DMM
- MECP
- MNRF
- MAH
- MWC
- MWAG
- 13 Municipalities
- Power Producers
- Economic Sectors – many
- First Nations
- NGO's
- Science Community



## Large CRT Can be Unwieldy

Need 2 levels:

### 1. Steering Committee

- MECP (2)
- DMM (2)
- MWC (2)



### 2. Full Community Roundtable



## CRT Terms of Reference - 2 Levels ?

### Steering Committee

Mandate, Funding, Accountability - need control

- Develops **overarching Terms of Reference** to initiate CRT
- Goals/Outcomes
- Timelines
- Budget

### Community Roundtable

Once formed, develops **process Terms of Reference**

- Vision
- How do we get to IWM
- How decisions are made



## CRT: Who is on it? How to assemble?

- Inclusive but not too large?
- Represent sector versus self-interest?
- Commitment to time and work?
- Continuity?



### Proposed Approach

- MWC issues invitation, incl. to sectors for nomination
- Steering Committee retains mandate to:
  - Approve members
  - Limit size of CRT
- Transparent process



## Role/Mandate of CRT

- Advisory body to the DMM Council on implementing IWM
- Oversight by Steering Committee
- Sector perspectives & knowledge re:
  - Threats to watershed health
  - Impacts on health of sector
  - Options/considerations for IWM
- Input/Oversight/Guidance to Task Forces
- Assists with the public communication plan

