



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, June 23, 2023

12:30 pm

Muskoka Steamship and Discovery Centre (275 Steamship Bay Rd, Gravenhurst)

Present

Peter Sale (Chair)

John Cooper

Peter Kelley

David Parsons

Nancy Alcock

Andrew Fyfe

Richard Lammers

Michael Peppard

Patricia Arney

Peter Johnston

Pete LeMoine

Kevin Trimble

MWC Staff

Rebecca Willison

DMM Staff

Glenn Cunnington

Lauren Valliere

Christy Doyle

Christiane Masters

Julia Rodgerson

Guests

Don Furniss

Vivian Dawson

Caroline Konarzewski

Ann Curley

Greg Padulo

Susan Mazan

Brenda Jones

Peter Dawson

Sandy Cairns

Kathleen Padulo

Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

MWC members and volunteers enjoyed lunch catered by Well Fed before the meeting began.

Welcome

MWC Chair Peter Sale called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm. MWC guest Ann Curley provided an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

Peter thanked Pete LeMoine and Peter Johnston for organizing the event, and Ann Curley and the Muskoka Discovery Centre for their ongoing support. He thanked all MWC members and volunteers that sit on various committees, the Community Roundtable, past members, program participants, DMM staff and municipal councillors for contributing the success of MWC. He gave a special thank you to the members of the Board for their tireless work over the past year. He noted that the 6th Muskoka Watershed Report Card will be released this year and will report on trends in addition to current condition. He thanked the members of the Report Card Sub-committee.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION

Moved by Pete LeMoine, seconded by Kevin Trimble

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated May 19, 2023, be approved.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

Doug Cross Stewardship Recognition Program

Peter presented the Doug Cross Stewardship Recognition Award to long-time MWC member Richard Lammers.

Richard joined MWC in 2012 and has contributed to many MWC projects since then, most notably participating on the Climate Change Sub-committee where he was instrumental in the development of the "Planning for Climate Change in Muskoka" publication released in 2016. Richard's professional background as a Research Associate Professor in the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire, studying the dynamics of global and regional-scale hydrology with an emphasis on human interactions within the hydrological cycle and on high latitude hydrological systems, means that he is the one MWC looks to when it's time to use global climate change models to predict the likely impacts Muskoka will see as our climate changes.



More recently Richard has volunteered extensive amounts of time on IWM as a technical advisor for the District of Muskoka's Making Waves initiative as well as sitting on MWC's Community Roundtable. Richard has also used his expertise to develop the Climate Change section of the upcoming 2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card.

Project Updates

- **Integrated Watershed Management** – Kevin Trimble reported that the CRT is embarking on a reporting exercise with a dozen volunteers working in different subject matter areas to pull out ideas for next steps from the recently completed Making Waves reports. They have identified an urgent need to communicate more and accelerate our interactions with other ENGOs in the Muskoka region.
- **2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card** – David Parsons reported that the Report Card Sub-committee is working on looking at the trends in the indicators. Most of the chapters are

completed and are undergoing review. David has been compiling the Background Report and Julia Rodgeron is spearheading the development of the 4-page summary Report Card.

- **Algae Monitoring Program** – Peter Sale reported that there was a training workshop held for the sampling volunteers last Friday. There are 14 lakes now enrolled in the program. He provided a brief overview of the program, noting that so far, we have learned that algae dynamics is way more complicated than we thought.
- **Strategic Plan** – Pete LeMoine reported that the final draft of the Strategic Plan will be brought to MWC in September.

Partner Updates

None.

New Business

- Peter Sale noted that this is the last MWC meeting until September.
- MWC delegations to all lower tier municipalities in MWC will begin in July.
- MWC would like to hold a workshop for municipal staff and councillors on IWM. Topics to be covered include what IWM is, why MWC is advocating for it, and what IWM means for municipalities.

Presentation

“The Muskoka Story” Exhibit – Ann Curley, Muskoka Discovery Centre

Ann talked about the development of the Muskoka Discovery Centre’s new exhibit ‘The Muskoka Story’, which includes three amazing and insightful world class exhibits about the Muskoka we all love and cherish. Starting with the Indigenous presence in Muskoka for more than 10,000 years, then focusing on the last 250 years of development and finishing with an electrified Wanda III as a symbol of our need for sustainability in all parts of our life.

After answering some questions, Peter thanked Ann for her great presentation. Ann then gave a guided tour of the new Indigenous exhibit.



Next MWC Meeting

MWC’s next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 22nd and will take place at in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building and will feature the 2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card and MWC’s new Strategic Plan.

Adjournment

Peter Sale adjourned the meeting at 2:50 pm.