



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, November 23, 2012
1:00 pm

Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Patricia Arney (Chair)
Ben Boivin
Lou Guerriero
Piret Hurrell
Mary McCulley
Geoff Ross
Scott Young

Allyn Abbott
Margaret Casey
Isobel Heathcote
Richard Lammers
Rob Milligan (@ 1:45 pm)
Peter Sale

Shane Baker
Patsy Cross
Gord Henderson
Anna Mallin
Steve Munro
Al Shaw

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Tom Clark
Neil Hutchinson
Jan McDonnell
Ruth Nishikawa
Peter Seybold
Debbie Vernon

Nic Bell
Louise Cragg
Steve Inniss
Don McVittie
Michael Peppard
Paul Stueck
Paul Wiancko

Lola Bratty
Jack Hepworth
Caroline Konarzewski
Greg Mierle
Ken Riley
Ian Turnbull

Staff

Judi Brouse

Rebecca Willison

Marg French (@ 1:30 pm)

Guests

Chris Marshall
George Crawford

Brian McElwain
Winston Young

Anna DeSellas

Welcome

Patricia Arney called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm with roundtable introductions. Patricia thanked the municipal councillors for their input at the last meeting on how MWC can help them.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Scott Young, seconded by Gord Henderson

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 19, 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- Submission of MWC Comments to the Provincial Policy Statement EBR posting

Presentation

[Lake Partner Program](#) - Anna DeSellas, Lake Partner Program Coordinator

- Anna stressed the importance of standardizing data collection methods in order to compare datasets between organizations.
- For data collected prior to 2001, Anna suggests using an average of that data to compare to post 2001 readings.
- The data indicates that lakes are stratifying more strongly than they used to.

Patricia Arney thanked Anna for her presentation.

MWC Terms of Reference

Patricia Arney provided the rationale for developing a Terms of Reference for Muskoka Watershed Council. She highlighted some of the changes in governance pertaining to the operation of non-profit organizations. There was some discussion about what constitutes [political activities](#).

Updates and New Business

- *November 2012 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - Policy & Research Committee – Peter Sale summarized the activities of the P&R Committee. The Committee is looking at how to use algae as an indicator in the Report Card and is also looking at developing a “Planning for the Environment” handbook.

Aggregate Resources Position Paper

MOTION by Piret Hurrell, seconded by Ben Boivin

THAT the ‘Aggregate Resources Position Paper’ dated October 2005 and revised March 2012 be approved.

CARRIED

- Strategic Directions Committee – Al Shaw provided an overview of the Water Indicators Workshop held on November 5th. The workshop brought together a number of people involved in water quality in Muskoka to discuss what indicators MWC should use to report on water in future Report Cards. Phosphorus, clarity, benthic, calcium and algae were suggested.
- Communications Committee – Steve Inniss is investigating how to make the web-component of the next Report Card more interactive. Patricia reported that a new MWC domain (muskokawatershed.org) has been set up and the website is in the process of being moved.
- Member Organizations Update
 - Scott Young – The [Yellow Fish Road](#) program through Trout Unlimited is being organized around Earth Day 2013. Scott is looking for volunteers to help coordinate the program in other Muskoka communities. Interested people should contact Scott at dsy4@vianet.ca.
 - Peter Sale – An Earth Day event is being planned in Huntsville and MWC has been offered the opportunity to participate.

- Margaret Casey – The [Ontario Forestry Association](#) is holding its Annual Conference on Friday, February 8th at the Nottawasaga Inn near Alliston.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, January 18, 2013 in the Council Chambers at the District Municipality of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Patricia Arney adjourned the meeting at 2:35 pm.