Minutes
Friday, November 23, 2018
1:00 pm
Council Chambers – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 1N3

Present
Geoff Ross (Acting Chair) Patricia Arney Rob Attfield
Shane Baker John Cooper Paul Dinner
Don Furniss Jack Hepworth Piret Hurrell
Mara Kerry Caroline Konarzewski Pete LeMoine
Rob Milligan Peter Sale Debbie Vernon

MWC & DMM Staff
Rebecca Willison Kevin Boyle Christiane Masters

Speakers
David Bywater Katrina Krievins
Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve

Community
Cathy Oakden Cassie Weston

Welcome
Acting Chair Geoff Ross called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. He noted an addition to the agenda under New Business brought forward by Patricia Arney.

Confirmation of Minutes
MOTION by Jack Hepworth, seconded by Patricia Arney
THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 19, 2018 be approved.
CARRIED

Presentations
Highlights from the 2018 State of the Bay ecosystem health report for northern and eastern Georgian Bay – David Bywater and Katrina Krievins, Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR)

GBBR released the 2nd State of the Bay (SOTB) report this summer. SOTB gives a snapshot of the environmental health for eastern and northern Georgian Bay, from the Severn River up to Killarney and McGregor Bay. Using data and research from the Great Lakes, Lake Huron, and Georgian Bay, SOTB gives a summary of environmental conditions along Georgian Bay, identifies healthy and ecologically important areas that require protection or enhancement, and highlights gaps where more data is needed. The report includes 12 indicators, four of which were presented: water quality, the lower food web of Georgian Bay, fish communities, and climate change.

Following a question and answer period, Geoff thanked David and Katrina for their presentation.
Ontario has one of the highest per capita greenhouse gas (GHG) emission footprints in the world at approximately 12.6 tonnes and Canada’s carbon emission were ranked 10th in the world in 2018 by the Global Carbon Atlas despite being ranked 38th in population. There are a variety of free carbon footprint calculators of differing complexity and for all ages available online for people to calculate their carbon footprint and discover ways to reduce their footprint by making some adjustments in their everyday lives.

Carbon Footprint Calculators:
- https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/
- https://calc.zerofootprint.net/
- http://web.stanford.edu/group/inquiry2insight/cgi-bin/i2sea-r3b/i2s.php?page=calculate

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

**MWC Working Group**
The next meeting is Thursday, November 29th from 2-4 pm in the Birch Room at the District of Muskoka administration building offices.

**Updates & New Business**

Closure of the ECO office – Patricia Arney would like MWC to write a letter to the Provincial Government regarding the closure of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario office. She encouraged MWC and all MWC members to sign a petition on the Green Prosperity website. Rob Milligan noted that the responsibilities of the ECO office will move to the Auditor General’s office. Rob agreed that MWC should endorse the petition as well as send a letter on behalf of MWC. Geoff read the resolution and suggested that select MWC members craft a letter to send to the Province (Peter Sale, Patricia Arney, Christy Doyle).

**MOTION** by Patricia Arney, seconded Rob Milligan

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council send a letter to the Province of Ontario in response to the announced closure of the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario office.

AND THAT the letter be copied to Parry Sound-Muskoka MPP Norm Miller, Muskoka District Chair John Klinck, and other relevant ministers.

CARRIED

**Next MWC Meeting**
Friday, January 18, 2019 from 1-3 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building, located at 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge.

**Adjournment**
Geoff Ross adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.