



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
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Speakers

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

Community

Cathy Oakden	Cassie Weston
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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.

[Simple Ways to Improve your Carbon Footprint](#) – Kevin Boyle, Climate Change Initiatives Coordinator, District of Muskoka

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/>
- <https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>
- <http://web.stanford.edu/group/inquiry2insight/cgi-bin/i2sea-r3b/i2s.php?page=calculate>

Kevin reviewed some of the ways to reduce your carbon footprint by making changes in your travel, diet and home, and highlighted the AffordAbility Fund (<https://www.affordabilityfund.org/>), where people can sign up to receive a free energy-saving kit.

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.