



# *Muskoka*

## WATERSHED COUNCIL

### Minutes

Friday, September 23, 2022  
1:00 pm  
Pine Room – District of Muskoka

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#### Present

Peter Sale (Chair)	Patricia Arney	John Cooper
Chris Cragg	Andrew Fyfe	Pete LeMoine
Rob Milligan	Cathy Oakden	David Parsons
Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross	Kevin Trimble

#### MWC Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison
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#### DMM Staff

Christiane Masters	Lauren Valliere	Julia Rodgerson
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#### Guests

Bill Heatlie	Lance DeCaire	Forrest Pengra (Seguin Twp)
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#### Welcome

MWC Chair Peter Sale called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm with roundtable introductions. He welcomed everyone and noted that MWC meetings will have more discussion and participation by members and fewer presentations. Peter highlighted a few of the many activities that MWC has undertaken during the summer.

MWC Director David Parsons provided an Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

#### Confirmation of Minutes

#### MOTION

Moved by Patricia Arney, seconded by Mike Peppard

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 17, 2022 be approved.

**CARRIED**

## **IWM and Community Round Table**

MWC Director and CRT Chair Kevin Trimble gave a presentation on the [status, goals and objectives](#) of the IWM Community Roundtable (CRT) and then led a discussion about how MWC members can participate in the next steps of the CRT.

An excerpt from a presentation on the 12 technical projects being undertaken by the District of Muskoka by Glenn Cunnington was shown to provide some context of the IWM Making Waves Initiative and the CRT. Kevin highlighted some of the stakeholders represented on the CRT.

Pete LeMoine noted how the tasks for the CRT outlined on the last slide are very similar to the tasks for MWC.

## **Strategic Planning**

MWC Director Pete LeMoine and MWC member Geoff Ross, co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Subcommittee, provided an overview of the Strategic Planning Workshop held on September 16<sup>th</sup>. A second workshop will be held with the same group to review the draft document that is the result of the first workshop.

### *Key items from the workshop*

- MWC recently celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and became incorporated in 2019 so it's an ideal time to revisit our mission, goals, objectives, etc.
- In 20 years what do we want to have accomplished?
- We will need funding to expand our programs and initiatives.
- Do we want to become more activist or less activist? Be apolitical?
- Can we do something impactful with the data we collect?
- How can we make the people who live here more passionate about the environment?

Discussion at the MWC meeting: *What do you think MWC is not doing well and what would you like to see MWC become?*

- Geoff Ross would like MWC to become more activist and be more forceful about the things we are recommending instead of just putting information out there.
- Mike Peppard would like MWC to take a larger role in educating municipal councillors and staff. Andrew Fyfe suggested looking to the Georgian Bay Biosphere to learn from their successes with educating municipalities.
- Chris Cragg would like to see MWC do a better job of getting our policy recommendations incorporated into official plans.
- Andrew Fyfe would like to see MWC get better buy-in by industry.

- Kevin Trimble would like MWC to put proactive watershed-wide goals in place in the IWM plan for municipalities.

The target is to have a draft strategic plan available for review before Christmas.

## 2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card

Rebecca Willison gave a brief presentation about forming a Sub-committee to develop the [2023 Muskoka Watershed Report Card](#), noting that a number of MWC and community members have already expressed interest in sitting on the Sub-committee.

MWC members expressed the desire to keep as many of the indicators the same as possible in order to better see trends over time, however it was noted that there may be some useful information coming out of the Making Waves IWM project that can feed into the Report Card. It was noted that the 4-page Report Card is a valuable but will need to be refreshed with a new look.

Peter Sale will organize an initial meeting for the Sub-committee. He suggested that the Fundraising Committee should seek grants and funding for the Report Card instead of the Sub-committee.

Peter would like the Report Card to come out in June 2023.

## Project Updates

- **MWC Governance** – David Parsons reported that a draft Interim Policy and Procedures document has been developed. Once approved, the document will be used until the Strategic Plan has been completed and the resulting information can be incorporated.
- **Review of Draft Official Plans** – Peter Sale reported that MWC is striving to review the draft official plans for each municipality and providing comments. Comments have been submitted to Seguin and Muskoka Lakes, and Lake of Bays and Bracebridge official plan reviews are coming up soon. There was some discussion about when in the process MWC should provide comments, and how detailed we should get, and how detailed we can get, given available resources. Peter thanked the members that helped developed the responses to date and encouraged other members to get involved as well.
- **Algae Monitoring Program** – Peter Sale reported that 12 lake associations participated in the Algae Monitoring Program this year. Sampling is wrapping up this fall and then a meeting will be held for the volunteers to solicit their input on the program.
- **Love Your Lake** – Rebecca Willison reported that one student was hired this summer through the Canada Summer Jobs program to carry out shoreline assessments on Ril Lake and Echo Lake in Lake of Bays, Bass Lake in Muskoka Lakes, and Morrison Lake in Gravenhurst. Almost 700 surveys were completed. The last stages of the program will be completed by the end of November.
- **Delegation to Municipal Councils** – Peter Sale reported that delegations have been given to all watershed municipalities (except Perry Township) over the course of the summer to provide an update on MWC activities and the CRT. A follow-up letter was recently sent to the six Muskoka lower-tier municipalities, Seguin, and Algonquin Highlands advising them that MWC plans to delegate again, following the municipal elections, seeking funding towards our 2023 program and

seeking municipal representation on the CRT. The remaining non-Muskoka municipalities will be contacted following municipal elections seeking municipal representation on the CRT.

- **Communications** – Pete LeMoine reported that an article was submitted to the Georgian Bay Biosphere's State of the Bay report written by Kevin Trimble and Neil Hutchinson. Pete noted that the Living in Cottage Country handbook is the best communications piece that MWC has. When Pete delegated to a couple of municipalities he suggested that a copy of the handbook be included in a package to short-term rentals. He suggested that MWC could better highlight that the handbook is not just for waterfront residents. He noted that MWC is always looking for volunteers with communications experience to assist MWC.

### **Partner Updates**

- **District of Muskoka** – Christy Doyle reported that DMM just applied for funding for a third phase of floodplain mapping. The New Leaf Climate Change Action Plan is moving ahead with some grant applications submitted, and that the GIS department recently received some recognition for their floodplain mapping app on the Muskoka GeoHub.

### **New Business**

- **Volunteers needed:** a member of MWC is needed to sit on the Finance Committee and a number of volunteers are needed for the new Fundraising Committee (may or may not be a member of MWC). Another MWC member is also needed for sit on the Membership Committee. Peter Sale noted that every MWC member should be looking for a committee or sub-committee to volunteer on, that makes use of their various skills.
- MWC is in the process of getting a cell phone and dedicated phone number.
- Members need to send in a photo and bio for the [website](#) if they haven't already.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 pm. This will be a hybrid meeting held in the community room at the Muskoka Paramedic Services and Fire Hall (225 Taylor Road, Bracebridge) and through Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

Peter Sale adjourned the meeting at 3:05 pm.

# CRT STATUS AND PATH FORWARD

*September 23, 2022*

## OUTLINE

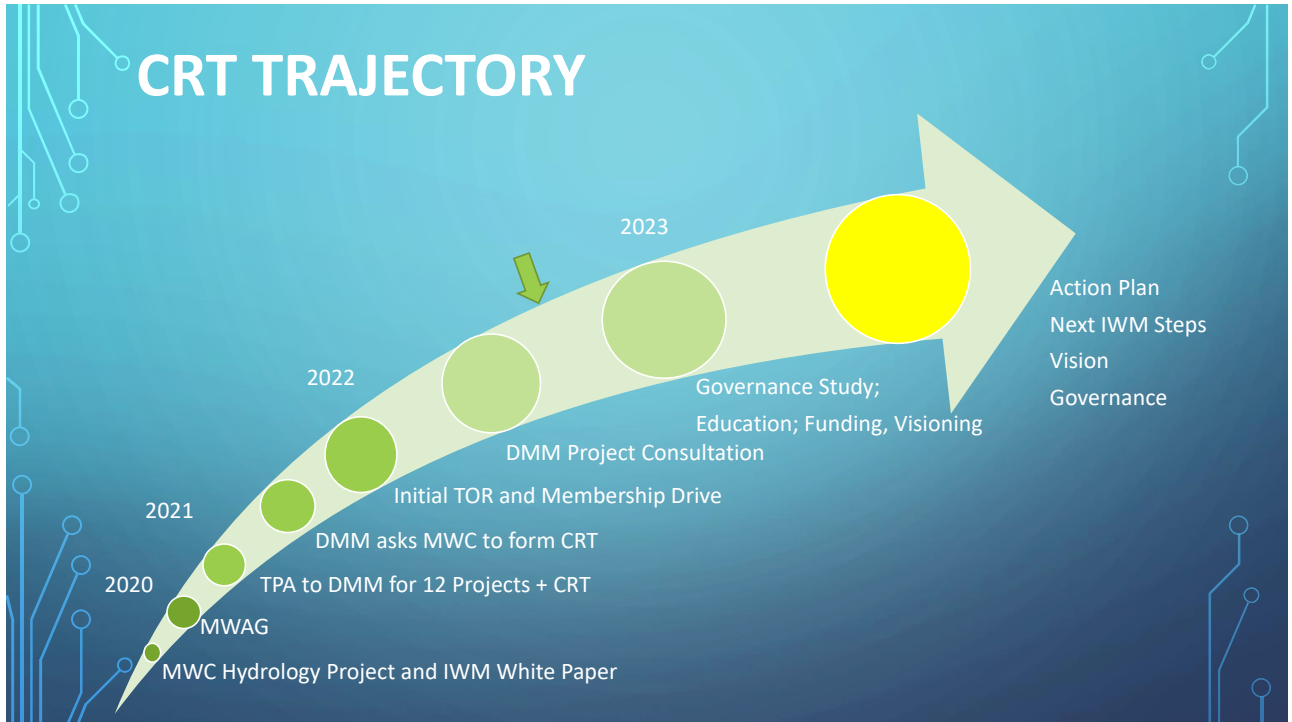
- Overall goals and current missions
- Current Status
- Path Forward – Action Plan and where we fit in IWM process
- Ongoing Tasks

## ULTIMATE GOALS

- **Development of an Integrated Watershed Management Plan for the Muskoka River Watershed**
- **The formation of a governing body to oversee ongoing implementation/adaptation of the IWM Plan**

## IMMEDIATE MISSIONS

- **Consultation and Input on DMM Projects**
- **Vision and Action Plan**
  - **Watershed Vision**
  - **Governance and Funding Model**
  - **Gap Analysis and Next Steps**



## CRT STATUS

- **Membership - ~45; typically 15-20 active at meetings**
- **Governance Study – \$75,000 from MECP; study ongoing**
- **Municipalities – all approached; most are willing to participate**

## CRT STATUS

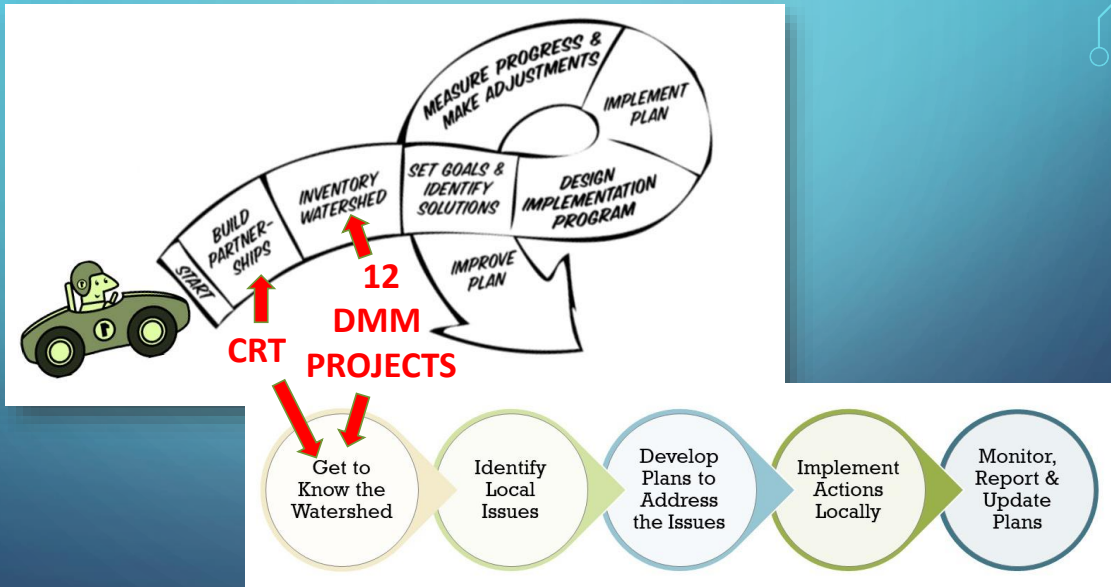
- DMM project consultation – ongoing; completion later this fall
- Education – many presentations and discussions, starting a long road
- TOR – needs a lot of work
- Vision and Action Plan – discussed but not really started

## DMM PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Presentation to DMM Community and Planning Services Committee by Glenn Cunningham*



## WHERE DOES EVERYTHING FIT?



## WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?



## PATH FORWARD

- Finish consultation and ramp up education and creation of a vision
- Expand membership, engagement, and education levels
- Education: Understanding that the status quo is not working – need something better

## PATH FORWARD

- Agreeing on common issues among broad stakeholders
- Developing a shared vision for our future and threats to that future
- Developing a workplan and tools to get there (studies, governance, funding, measurable goals)

## OUTSTANDING TASKS REQUIRING LEADERSHIP

Task Group	Status	Leaders
Membership	New and dormant members	Geoff (Kevin and Peter will help)
Educational Priorities & Mtg Planning	Needs topics in sequence, speakers...	???
Managing Governance Study	Ongoing	Geoff / Kevin
Municipal Council Follow-ups	All approached for participation	???
Communications	Should be blended w MWC	???
Terms of Reference	Old working draft to be revisited	Geoff / Kevin
Funding	Grant sources....politicians	???



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# 2023 REPORT CARD



- ▶ Reform the Report Card Sub-committee to:
  - ▶ Develop indicators and set benchmarks
  - ▶ Analyze data
  - ▶ Develop reporting and communication pieces
  - ▶ Raise funds and seek grants
- ▶ Potential Members
 

Geoff R	David P	Neil H
Richard L	Jo-Anne G	Kevin T
Peter S	Chris C	Cameron VB
Rachel P	????	



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# 2023 REPORT CARD



- ▶ Immediate action: seek and apply for funding to hire an intern to spearhead the creation of the Report Card (i.e. FedNor Youth Internship program).
- ▶ Priority action: identify a Sub-committee Chair.



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