



Minutes

Friday, November 24, 2017

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Rob Attfield	Shane Baker
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Caroline Konarzewski
Pete LeMoine	Karen Maxwell	Jan McDonnell
Rob Milligan	Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross
Peter Sale	Don Smith (@1:30 pm)	Kevin Trimble
Norman Yan		

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
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Speakers

Dennis Gregor (CanDetec Inc)	Karen Kivilahti (Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit)
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Community

Susan Walker	Bill Walker	Trish Thornton
Ken Riley	Gordon Roberts	Pat Schofield (left @ 1:20 pm)
Sandy Schofield (left @ 1:20 pm)	John Klinck	Andrea Ross (@ 2 pm)
Jamie Delaney (@1:30 pm)		

Welcome

Chair Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

Sandy Schofield, chair of the GMPE Organizing Committee, presented Lou with a cheque for \$1,000 from the [Great Muskoka Paddling Experience](#) held in October.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Peter Sale, seconded by Kevin Trimble

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 20, 2017 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- MWC letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry re: Queen Elizabeth II Wildlands Provincial Park

Presentations

[Algal Blooms: A Public Health Perspective](#) – Karen Kivilahti, [Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit](#)

Only about 30%-50% of cyanobacteria blooms produce toxins. However, SMDHU acts as though all confirmed blooms may be toxic and issues warnings/advisories accordingly, typically:

- Avoid using the water for drinking, preparing infant formula, food/drink, brushing teeth, bathing/showering
- Do not swim where a bloom is visible
- Do not allow pets to drink or swim
- Avoid watering your lawn or gardens with surface water
- Avoid eating fish caught from the lake

Karen noted that toxins can also be present without a visual bloom occurring. SMDHU is undertaking a pilot project to develop a rapid field test using a test strip to check for toxins in blooms.

Lou thanked Karen for her presentation.

[Three Mile Lake Algae Ultrasound Project](#) – Dennis Gregor, *CanDetec Inc.*

Dennis discussed the ultrasound technology that can be used to control the growth of algae. He provided an update on the Three Mile Lake pilot project that was carried out in 2017. Two units were deployed in the lake in August and were removed on October 28th. Issues kept the units from being deployed earlier in the summer, as planned. Dennis noted that there were no significant differences in Chlorophyll a levels between the control area on the lake and the test areas. He wasn't able to demonstrate a clear benefit to using ultrasound technology on Three Mile Lake and discussion ensued about the efficacy of the project. He suggested continuing the project in 2018 with an additional unit.

Lou thanked Dennis for his presentation

Updates & New Business

- Lou thanked Andrea Ross for her donation of \$3,600 from her art show this past summer.
- MWC Working Group – Kevin Trimble reported on the last meeting held November 2nd. Draft minutes from the meeting were included with the agenda. The 2018 Report Card, Algae, Hydrology, and the Official Plan Review were all discussed at the meeting.
- Muskoka Official Plan Review – Rob Milligan reported on the second Official Plan review public meeting held November 23rd. Approximately 300 people attended. Some issues were raised at the meeting around the proposed water quality policies, however most of the comments were about the proposed resort policies. MWC's comments were well received and most were incorporated into the second draft of the Official Plan. MWC is anticipating developing additional comments on the second draft, which are due by the end of January. If developed, these comments will be brought forward to MWC in January for review.

When reviewing the 2nd draft of the OP, priorities may include integrated watershed planning, water management, and adaptation to climate change. MWC may want to consider private road and cluster development and their impacts on habitat fragmentation.

Samantha Hastings thanked MWC for the considerable work MWC has put in to develop its comments. Samantha has offered to meet with the Planning Sub-committee and the DMM planning team to review MWC's comments. Samantha noted that DMM tries to take bold steps to protect the environment in Muskoka through policy, with its ongoing support of MWC as an example.

- District of Muskoka – Christy Doyle provided a brief update on the Floodplain Mapping project, which is expected to start before the end of 2017. Christy also noted that the Lake System Health Program annual report is expected to be delivered to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in mid-Winter 2018.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, January 19th at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. The meeting will outline MWC's 2018 work plan and the roles of MWC members.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:20 pm.