



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, April 25, 2014

1:00 pm

Pine Room – District Municipality of Muskoka
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge

Present

Lou Guerriero (Acting Chair)
Jack Hepworth
Caroline Konarzewski
Rob Milligan
Al Shaw

Margaret Casey
Piret Hurrell (@2:30 pm)
Leeanne Leduc
Michael Peppard
Paul Stueck

John Cooper
Steve Inniss
Brian McElwain
Geoff Ross
Ian Turnbull

Regrets

Scott Aitchison
Nic Bell
Angie Corson
OPatsy Cross
Anna Mallin
Steve Munro
Peter Seybold
Norm Yan

Patricia Arney
Lola Bratty
Louise Cragg
Gord Henderson
Jan McDonnell
Ruth Nishikawa
Debbie Vernon
Scott Young

Shane Baker
Wil Brunner
George Crawford
Richard Lammers
Don McVittie
Peter Sale
Paul Wiancko

Staff

Judi Brouse

Samantha Hastings

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Katie Paroschy

Victoria McDonald

Welcome

Lou Guerriero called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm. Judi introduced Katie Paroschy who will be the new lab technician at the Dorset Environmental Science Centre for the next year.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Rob Milligan, seconded by Margaret Casey

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated March 21, 2014 be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

- None

Presentations

[Water Quality Monitoring & Reporting](#) – Rebecca Willison, District of Muskoka

Rebecca provided an overview of the District of Muskoka's Lake System Health Water Quality Monitoring Program.

[Biological Monitoring with Benthic Macroinvertebrates in Muskoka](#) – Katie Paroschy

Katie discussed the importance of biological monitoring and how benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring is carried out.

Margaret Casey suggested promoting the terrestrial monitoring program ahead of the projected issues with invasive forest species.

[FrogWatch](#) – Caroline Konarzewski

Caroline discussed the FrogWatch program she implemented for Lake of Bays. She has about 12 active volunteers submitting data to the NatureWatch website and another 40 people who receive information about the program.

[Other Monitoring](#) – Judi Brouse, Muskoka Watershed Council

Judi would like to see MWC get involved in actively promoting citizen biological monitoring programs. She reviewed many of the available programs, including ones for birds and others for invasive species. Jack noted that we need to recruit champions for the programs. Leeanne suggested talking to high school environmental groups to recruit volunteers. It was suggested that 2 or 3 programs be the focus. Ian suggested that it should go to the Strategic Directions Committee for fleshing out.

Chair's Items

- Judi reported that the Love Your Lake program will be carried on 800 properties on Lake of Bays this summer with \$15,000 from the Canadian Wildlife Federation. A student will be hired to carry out the program. The EcoAction application for the project was unsuccessful.
- Judi reported on the sponsorship recently received for the 2014 Muskoka Summit on the Environment. She encouraged everyone to register.
- The crowd-funding campaign for the report card ends today.
- Raffle tickets need to be sold and bought.

Muskoka Watershed Report Card

The second draft of the 2014 Report Card was shown at the meeting and MWC members were asked for comment. There was some discussion about how to reach the non-seasonal non-waterfront residents and also about the delivery vehicle. Judi explained some of the interactive features that will be incorporated into the digital Report Card.

Activity Report

- *April 2014 Activity Report* – was distributed with the agenda and reviewed at the meeting.
 - Executive Committee – Nothing to report.
 - Policy & Research – Discussed the Stewardship Chart and input can be sent to Judi (jbrouse@muskokawatershed.org). Comments still coming in for the Handbook. Vision for MWC discussion about how to move forward.
 - Strategic Directions – Will be talking about promoting citizen monitoring.
 - Communications – Nothing to report.

Updates and New Business

- None

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, May 23, 2014 beginning at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka Administration Building.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.