Minutes

Friday, April 25, 2014
1:00 pm

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

Present
Lou Guerriero (Acting Chair)  Margaret Casey  John Cooper
Jack Hepworth  Piret Hurrell (@2:30 pm)  Steve Inniss
Caroline Konarzewski  Leanne Leduc  Brian McElwain
Rob Milligan  Michael Peppard  Geoff Ross
Al Shaw  Paul Stueck  Ian Turnbull

Regrets
Scott Aitchison  Patricia Arney  Shane Baker
Nic Bell  Lola Bratty  Wil Brunner
Angie Corson  Louise Cragg  George Crawford
0Patsy Cross  Gord Henderson  Richard Lammers
Anna Mallin  Jan McDonnell  Don McVittie
Steve Munro  Ruth Nishikawa  Peter Sale
Peter Seybold  Debbie Vernon  Paul Wiancko
Norm Yan  Scott Young

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](mailto: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.