



Muskoka

WATERSHED COUNCIL

Minutes

Friday, January 27, 2017

1:00 pm

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

Present

Lou Guerriero (Chair)	Shane Baker	Don Furniss
Jack Hepworth	Piret Hurrell	Caroline Konarzewski
Jenn LeMesurier	Victoria McDonald	Steve Munro
Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross	Peter Sale
Don Smith	Kevin Trimble (Vice Chair)	Amanda Vincent

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison
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Guests

Christina Hunter	Sandy Schofield	Bill Dickinson
Mary Beth Hartill	David Story	Gareth Cockwell
Ken Riley	Summer Valentine	Neil Hutchinson
Brenda Armstrong		

Welcome

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

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION by Caroline Konarzewski, seconded by Kevin Trimble

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated November 18, 2016 be approved.

CARRIED

Presentations

[Great Muskoka Paddling Experience](#) Update – Sandy Schofield, GMPE Organizing Committee

Sandy provided a brief summary of the very successful event held last Thanksgiving weekend and the plans for the 2017 race, scheduled for October 7th. Sandy presented Lou and Kevin with a cheque for \$4,000, which will support the development of the 2018 Report Card.

[Little Sprouts Eco-Club: Planting a Seed – Educating Children on the Environment through Hands-on Learning](#) – Christina Hunter, [Muskoka Conservancy](#)

Christina promotes hands-on learning for children as it allows children to directly observe and understand what is happening, gives children the confidence to do it themselves, teaches important life skills, instills a natural love for learning and love of nature, and increases their sense of achievement. She started the [Little Sprouts Eco-Club](#) in Muskoka about a year and a half ago. Between 20 and 50 children participate each month and the Facebook group has 324 members. More recently, a club has been started in the Orillia area with 84 Facebook members in the group.

Christy thanked Christine for her presentation and for all of her work educating Muskoka's young about the environment.

Preparing Muskoka's Forests for Climate Change – Steve Munro, [Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.](#)

Steve gave the presentation he developed on managing forests for climate change and answered questions from the council. He anticipates giving a version of the presentation to various audiences across the watershed over the next several months.

Lou thanked Steve for his presentation.

Updates & New Business

- Draft Correspondence: MWC Chair's letter to District Chair John Klinck re: Official Plan Amendment #45 (Lake System Health)

MOTION by Caroline Konarzewski, seconded by Piret Hurrell

THAT the letter re: Official Plan Amendment (OPA, 45) dated January 27, 2017 be submitted to The District Municipality of Muskoka on behalf of Muskoka Watershed Council.

CARRIED

- MWC Working Group – Kevin Trimble and Geoff Ross, Committee Co-Chairs
Geoff and Kevin gave a short presentation outlining the draft Working Group mandate and suggested meeting dates for the next several months. The membership of the Working Group is fluid as MWC members are encouraged to attend when projects of interest are discussed. The meetings will alternate monthly between Friday mornings and Thursday afternoons.

Peter Sale reported that the Algae Sub-committee is making progress. He is thankful to have the assistance of some excellent scientists, but progress is slow in terms of developing a monitoring program. The last meeting included a discussion about a 1986 public perceptions survey that was conducted and the possibility of re-doing the survey to see how attitudes have changed.

- 2018 Report Card – Lou Guerriero reported that progress is being made on the direction the next Report Card will take. More volunteers are needed to assist.

- Christy confirmed that the 2017 Muskoka Stewardship Conference topic is [50 Shades of Green](#) (Algae) and will be held in the Port Carling Community Centre on May 12th. Registration is open.
- DMM Update – Christy Doyle
 - Christy outlined the Planning Advisory Committee Request from District Council

MOTION by Geoff Ross, seconded by Kevin Trimble

THAT Muskoka Watershed Council Chair Lou Guerriero, on behalf of MWC, will confirm MWC's interest in fulfilling the role of Planning Advisory Committee as requested by The District Municipality of Muskoka.

CARRIED

Don Smith, as a District Councillor, is wary of the proposal as it may impact the “energy and focus” of MWC, which is predominantly the natural environment. He is concerned where this will lead in the future, and that it may shift the focus of MWC.

Kevin is strongly in favour of the proposal as it is what MWC is already doing.

Don Furniss thinks it is an honour to be asked to fulfill this role and that it is a good opportunity for MWC.

Peter Sale wants it to be clear that we remain independent. He wants to reiterate to Algonquin Highlands and Seguin that we will continue to provide advice to them. MWC doesn't want to be seen as a committee of District.

- Provincial Update – Amanda Vincent provided updates on two provincial initiatives. Bill 39, [An Act to amend the Aggregate Resources Act and the Mining Act](#), is in legislative assembly with hearings scheduled for February 23rd and March 2nd. The deadline to submit comments on the Bill is March 2nd. There are currently 400 licenses on private land in Parry Sound-Muskoka and 60 permits.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's report [Naturally Resilient: MNRF's Natural Resource Climate Adaptation Strategy \(2017 -2021\)](#) was posted to the [EBR](#) on January 25th. Comments will be accepted until March 13th. The strategy is based on a foundation of five goals:

- (1) Mainstream Adaptation
- (2) Build Resilience and Biodiversity
- (3) Increase Science, Research and Knowledge
- (4) Increase Awareness and Motivation
- (5) Optimize Services and Response

The strategy outlines 23 specific actions MNRF will take in pursuit of these goals, across the ministry's policy, science, operations, and service delivery activities. The actions build on existing climate change adaptation efforts and support future initiatives over the next five years.

- Communications Committee Update – Michael Peppard reviewed the recent actions of the Committee. A survey will be sent to Sub-committee chairs in order to develop a communications calendar for the upcoming year.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, February 17, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration building in Bracebridge. Presentations will include:

- Graduate Student Showcase: the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change/Dorset Lab
- Endocrine Disrupting Compounds – MWC EDC Sub-committee
- Species at Risk Bat Project – RiverStone Environmental Solutions Inc.

Adjournment

Lou Guerriero adjourned the meeting at 3:15 pm.