



## Minutes

Friday, November 27, 2015

1:00 pm

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

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### Present

Peter Sale (Chair)	Patricia Arney	Shane Baker
Margaret Casey	Patsy Cross	Lou Guerriero
Gord Henderson	Piret Hurrell	Caroline Konarzewski
Brian Lynch	Anna Mallin	Victoria McDonald
Jan McDonnell	Michael Peppard	Geoff Ross
Don Smith	Paul Stueck	Kevin Trimble
Ian Turnbull	Debbie Vernon	Norm Yan

### Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Paul Grinnell
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### Guests

David Bywater	Gault McTaggart	Steve Stone
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### Welcome

Peter Sale called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

### Confirmation of Minutes

**MOTION** by Margaret Casey, seconded by Lou Guerriero

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 16, 2015 be approved.

**CARRIED**

### Correspondence

- Letter to DMM EPW Committee re: Phragmites
- Letter to Province re: Proposed Wetland Management Strategy (posted on the EBR)

### Chair's Items

- MWC plans to submit comments to the EBR posting regarding review of the Aggregates Resources Act based on MWC's position paper.

## **Presentation**

[Navigating Through the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve](#) - David Bywater, State of the Bay Program Coordinator, [Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve](#)

Designated by UNESCO in 2004, the Georgian Bay Biosphere Reserve (GBBR) is an area of 347,000 hectares that stretches 200 km along the eastern coast from Port Severn to the French River, in the world's largest freshwater archipelago, also known as the 30,000 Islands. Following the mandate of UNESCO World Biosphere Reserves, the GBBR is to be an international model of sustainability for eastern Georgian Bay, while protecting the ecological values of the region. The GBBR model aims to integrate core protected areas (such as provincial and national parks), surrounding buffer areas (mostly Crown Lands) and an outer transition area of communities that support sustainable development.

David outlined several key GBBR initiatives including the Lessons in a Backpack program and the State of the Bay Report. He discussed the Coordinated Nutrient Monitoring Strategy for Eastern Georgian Bay, where one of the key objectives of the program is to conserve critical aquatic habitats and species, as well as to reduce pollution.

In response to a question, David emphasized that GBBR has no regulatory authority and does not comment on planning matters or develop position papers.

Christy Doyle thanked David for his presentation and expressed her interest in working together in the future as the 2018 Muskoka Watershed Report Card and the State of the Bay Report move forward.

## **Activity Report**

- Policy & Research Committee – Geoff Ross reported on the activities of the committee, including the progress of the Crown land papers and the update of the stormwater management paper. The EDCs paper is in draft form and will be reviewed by the committee at a future meeting. Geoff invited MWC members and friends to attend a future committee meeting and assist on one of the projects. A list of projects will be circulated in the future.
- Strategic Directions Committee – Ian Turnbull provided an update on the Community Engagement project including the results of the surveys and input received during the meetings. Almost 400 people participated in the meetings. A paper is being drafted incorporating the input.

## **Updates and New Business**

- Mike Peppard, MWC member and host of Hunter's Bay Radio's Green Tapestry Program (Thursday mornings at 10:30 am) is always looking for guests, especially from the southern part of Muskoka. Christy reported that Hunter's Bay Radio have donated Public Service Announcements to MWC with a variety of stewardship messages related to the handbook.
- DMM – Christy reported that MWC, through DMM, received funding from Smart and Caring Muskoka through the Muskoka Community Foundation to produce a Phragmites Quick PIC for identifying and reporting this invasive species. A workshop on developing a management plan for invasive species is happening next week in Midland. MWC and DMM will be attending.
- FMW – Norman Yan and Paul Grinnell reported that FMW will be starting a membership drive soon. Membership renewal forms were distributed at the meeting. A road map and philosophy has also

been developed. FMW is looking for funding to carry out a research project with John Colbourne. MWC and FMW are working with the Muskoka Discovery Centre to develop an exhibit about water. GMPE raised \$4,500 for MWC and the cheque was presented last week. More than just water is a tagline FMW is using on all of their materials.

- Muskoka Summit on the Environment – Peter Sale reported that the committee is still looking for a sixth speaker. The next meeting takes place on Monday at 4:00 pm.

#### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, January 22, 2015 in the Council Chambers at the District of Muskoka administration office, 70 Pine Street in Bracebridge beginning at 1:00 pm.

#### **Adjournment**

Peter Sale adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.