



Minutes

Friday, November 27, 2020
1:00 pm
Zoom Online Meeting

Present

Geoff Ross (Chair)	Nancy Alcock	Patricia Arney
Margaret Casey	John Cooper	Chris Cragg
Allen Edwards	Caroline Konarzewski	Richard Lammers
Pete LeMoine	Karen Maxwell	Daryle Moffatt
Michael Peppard	Aaron Rusak (@ 2 pm)	Peter Sale
Kevin Trimble		

Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
Rochelle Jeffries	Kevin Boyle	Craig Little

Presenters

Dr. Ellen Field <i>Lakehead University</i>	Holly Groome <i>TLDSB Staff</i>	Sage van Kooten <i>TLDSB Student</i>
Ryder Lytle <i>TLDSB Student</i>	Megan James <i>TLDSB Student</i>	Olivia Melle <i>TLDSB Student</i>
Jessica Kellow <i>TLDSB Student</i>	Maddy Rauch <i>TLDSB Student</i>	Kaylee Kelly <i>TLDSB Student</i>
Graham Good <i>DMM Manager of Geomatics</i>		

Guests

Veronica Uzielli	Lizanne Brunskill	Ken Harper
Ann Curley	Cathy Oakden	Wendy Somerville
Caleb Timmermann	Sue McKenzie	Paul Kuebler
Anne Lindsay		

Welcome

Geoff Ross called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm by welcoming everyone.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated October 23, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED (by consent)

Correspondence

- Letter to Climate Action Muskoka in support of their resolution to declare a climate emergency.

Presentations

Trillium Lakelands District School Board [Climate Change Action Plan](#) – *Student Representatives from the TLDSB G7 Student Summit*

The G7 Student Senate, with representatives from each of the seven secondary schools in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB), released a Climate Change Action Plan in 2020. The plan comprises ten phases of equal importance, ranging from mental health and student advocacy to carbon-conscious transportation. It stresses the importance of ensuring generational justice through holistic and systematic change. By seeking guidance from community Elders and Indigenous peoples, TLDSB recognized their responsibility as stewards of mother earth as their most important job. Together, TLDSB will set the standard and take proactive action to promote a sustainable environmental education model.

Following a question and answer period, Geoff thanked the students for their presentation.

[Communication and Education: trim tabs for climate truth and action](#) – *Dr. Ellen Field, Lakehead University*



Geoff thanked Dr. Field for her excellent presentation.

Project Updates

- Integrated Watershed Management – Kevin Trimble reported that the development of newspaper articles continues, as well as talk on how to encourage the inclusion of IWM in local official plans. There will be more discussion on these two topics at the December Working Group meeting. He then introduced the water management paper developed by Chris Cragg.

MOTION

Moved by Kevin Trimble, seconded by Patricia Arney

THAT the paper titled "[The Evolution of Water Management in the Muskoka River Watershed](#)" by Chris Cragg dated November 2020 be approved and posted to the MWC website.

CARRIED

- Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group – Patricia Arney reported that MWAG is waiting on the Province to decide how to proceed, but that they are cautiously optimistic. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) has begun implementation of its flood plan in response to the Flood Advisor's report last spring.
- Algae Monitoring Program – Peter Sale reported that the Algae Sub-committee met to discuss the 2019 results and changes to the 2021 program. The program is still on track to be more broadly implemented in 2022. He noted that there has been a considerable increase in the number of blue-green algae blooms this year.
- MWC Strategic Plan – Karen Maxwell reported that the MWC member survey was released today and encouraged all MWC members to take a few minutes and fill it out. The survey for the general MWC community and a media release are both scheduled for release next week. Karen stressed how important the information is that we are trying to collect through the surveys.
- Official Plan Reviews – Geoff Ross reported on the progress made by the sub-committee developing a paper on Official Plan (OP) policies, primarily related to IWM, cumulative impacts, climate change, etc. This will be an agenda item at the December Working Group meeting.
- MWC Communications – Pete LeMoine reported that the December Working Group meeting will focus on the development of articles about IWM as well as other topics and encouraged all MWC members interested in helping with communications to attend and participate.

Partner Updates

- District of Muskoka – Christy Doyle reported that the Muskoka Climate Strategy and Muskoka Climate Change Action Plan was approved by the Community and Planning Services Committee (CPS) and will go to District Council for approval in December. Nancy Alcock and Mike Peppard reported that the approval of the Muskoka Climate Strategy at CPS was unanimous and the Committee was thrilled with the presentation and the program and is excited to take it to District Council for approval. Christy reported that the federal government announced additional funding for the National Disaster Mitigation Program and DMM is applying for funding to continue the floodplain mapping program. She also noted that the Province has signed the service agreement for the DESC lab technician position.
- Seguin Township – Daryle Moffatt reported that he does not have an update on the Seguin Official Plan review process, but that ICECAP will be presenting an update to municipal councils over the next month, including Seguin. Seguin is looking into regulations for emissions (air and water) for cannabis operations should they come to Seguin.
- Township of Muskoka Lakes – Allen Edwards reported that the TML Official Plan and Strategic Plan reviews are both moving forward. He also provided his support for the Muskoka Climate Strategy.
- Muskoka GeoHub – Graham Good provided an overview of the [Muskoka GeoHub](#), a new online portal that allows the public to access important geographical information in Muskoka.

New Business

None.

Next MWC Meeting

Friday, January 22nd at 1:00 pm through Zoom. This meeting will be MWC's Annual General Meeting.

Adjournment

Geoff Ross adjourned the meeting at 3:10 pm.