



## Minutes

Friday, May 28, 2021  
1:00 pm  
Zoom Online Meeting

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### Present

Geoff Ross (Chair)	Nancy Alcock	Patricia Arney
Lisa Barry	John Cooper	Chris Cragg
Louise Cragg	Allen Edwards	Piret Hurrell
Caroline Konarzewski	Richard Lammers	Pete LeMoine
Karen Maxwell	Daryle Moffatt	Michael Peppard
Kevin Trimble		

### Staff

Christy Doyle	Rebecca Willison	Samantha Hastings
Cassie Weston	Craig Little	Christiane Masters
Kevin Boyle	Jacquie Evans	Glenn Cunnington

### Presenters

Barb Veale <i>Halton Region Conservation Authority</i>	Alanna Crawford <i>Muskoka Brewery</i>	Kelly Watson <i>Muskoka Brewery</i>
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### Guests

David Sculati	Jo-Anne Goodwin	Cameron von Bratt
Susan Mazan	Stephen Sims	Gordon Roberts
Ian Clendening	Wendy Somerville	

### Welcome

Geoff Ross called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. He announced that this will be the last MWC meeting until September, but noted that many MWC projects are continuing over the summer months and sub-committees will continue to meet.

### Confirmation of Minutes

### MOTION

THAT the minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated April 23, 2021 be approved.

**CARRIED (by consent)**

Christy Doyle introduced Glenn Cunnington, who has joined the District of Muskoka as a project manager for the Muskoka Watershed Initiatives program and will work closely with MWC members and staff.

## **Presentations**

**[Integrated Watershed Management: Pitfalls, Prospects, and Perspective](#)** – Barb Veale, Director of Planning and Watershed Management, Halton Region Conservation Authority

Barb Veale discussed what Integrated Watershed Management is and isn't and, based on her extensive experience in this field, highlighted the challenges and lessons learned associated with setting up a collaborative decision-making governance model. She also discussed governance and implementation needs and challenges.

Following a question and answer period, Geoff thanked Barb for her very informative presentation.

**Blue Community Project** – Alanna Crawford and Kelly Watson, Muskoka Brewery

The Blue Communities Project encourages municipalities to support the idea of a water commons framework, recognizing that water is a shared resource for all, by passing resolutions that:

- Recognize water and sanitation as human rights.
- Ban or phase out the sale of bottled water in municipal facilities and at municipal events.
- Promote publicly financed, owned, and operated water and wastewater services.

Kelly and Alanna outlined the four steps to become a [Blue Community](#) and highlighted cooperation with the District of Muskoka.

Following a question and answer period, Geoff thanked Alanna and Kelly for their presentation.

## **Project Updates**

- **Community Round Table** – Geoff Ross reported that there has been much discussion on this topic and noted that a stand-alone meeting will be scheduled in the near future.
- **MWC Strategic Plan** – Karen Maxwell reported that the thought leader interviews will be wrapped up mid-June. While only a small number of people responded, the input received has been invaluable. The data collected will be used to conduct a SWOT analysis in the fall and will be brought forward to a future meeting.
- **MWC Membership Survey** – Karen Maxwell reported that there has been a good response to the survey and noted that a more formal process for adding new members will be instituted through an orientation for new members in August.
- **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement** – Karen Maxwell reported that there was good support at the Working Group meeting for implementing an acknowledgement at MWC meetings. This will commence in September.
- **Algae Monitoring Program** – Peter Sale reported that the second year of the pilot project is underway. In addition to the regular sampling regime, a protocol is being piloted to sample bloom

events if they occur over the course of the sampling season. He noted that the program is not intended to solve the problem of algal blooms, but rather to collect data on the occurrence of blooms.

- **MWC Communications** – Pete LeMoine reported that no articles are in the queue for publishing but encouraged MWC members to submit articles on topics of interest related to watershed health. Pete introduced Cassie Weston, the new IWM Communications Specialist for the District of Muskoka, and she provided some highlights on the materials she has been developing in conjunction with the District of Muskoka's communications team, including a draft communications and engagement plan for IWM. The plan consists of two streams: stream 1 is a broad public education plan about IWM and stream 2 is geared towards raising awareness of the IWM projects and communicating the deliverables. The plan also includes some sample branding for IWM to appeal to the public, key messages, and important milestones.

### **Partner Updates**

- **Township of Muskoka Lakes** – Allen Edwards provided an update on the most recent public meeting. A draft of the Official Plan is expected by August.
- **Township of Algonquin Highlands** – Lisa Barry reported that committees haven't been meeting since COVID-19 struck due to technical difficulties. Some municipalities in Haliburton are installing charging stations for electric vehicles. Haliburton County is developing a shoreline preservation by-law. The Township is undertaking a Zoning By-law review, and plans to develop a dark sky by-law.
- **Muskoka Steamships & Discovery Centre** – Kevin Boyle thanked MWC on behalf of the MSDC for participating in their stewardship webinar series.

### **New Business**

None.

### **Next MWC Meeting**

Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

### **Adjournment**

Geoff Ross adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.