

Muskrat Watershed Council



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

September 17, 2020, 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:30 pm

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Erin Dolan, Barbara Green, Andy Laird, Debbie MacDonald, David Thomassin, Jeff Reeves, Gerry Rook, Rene Coulas

Regrets: Evelyn St. Amour, Vince Gervais, Karl Lauten, Marie Janick Robitaille, Andrea Bishop, Steve Saunders, Megan Rae

Council Representatives Regrets: Claus Trost, Township of Laurentian Valley Township

Council Representative Present: Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region,

2. Adoption of Agenda

Jeff approved the agenda, Debbie seconded it.

Approval of previous minutes:

Jeff approved the minutes first, Barb seconded them.

3. Treasurer's Report

- See attached document
- Gerry approves the Financial Report

- We received an email that the Bingo Hall is looking for volunteers on October 3rd. If you would like to let Debbie know if you are available, that would be helpful.

4. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- We are looking for projects and reading farm papers. We are looking at what they are doing in the Thames Valley, to see if any of their projects could be good for Renfrew County.
- We are always on the lookout to find more farmers that would be interested in planting grasses as buffers.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Projects in Lake Dore. This is part of our watershed. This year is the first year they have reported blue green algae. It would be a good idea to look at the lake and see what we can do. David reached out to Rebecca Dalton to see if she would like to look at the lake. Typically Algonquin College students study Muskrat Lake, but it might be good to have them look at Lake Dore. It may be good to talk to the Lake Dore lake association and the North Algoma Wilberforce Township, to see if they want to partner up. We already have a contact with the lake association and they are going to join our science meetings. **Action: David will follow up and get a meeting set up.**
- The mats are out of the beach. They need to be cleaned up before we roll them up. Dave and Debbie can help Andy out tomorrow.
- The bird control project at Cobden Beach will be one we start taking a bigger look at. We'd like to put something up to try and eliminate the number of birds on top of the water treatment plan. Mayor Mike will bring the matter forward to the township.
- Cobden Marsh: We could revisit this project, but we need to find groups to partner with. Karen could talk to JP2G to see what kind of consulting we would need. We could then go to the ministry to find out what kind of permits and money we would need. We will have different types of ecological assessments that need to be done.
- Zeolite project: David will continue to work on this. We need to send water to be sampled to our partners in BC.
- We'd still like to do our stewardship projects, but we need to see what happens with Covid.
- We'd still like to continue our soil project, but we need to see what happens.
- Buffer projects. Do we want to continue on our own? Should we try to find a grant? We could look into a project to plant grasses. This winter we should think about this, and come up with a plan. We could talk to seed companies and ask about grass seed donations.

Communications & Media

- No update

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- Nothing to report. Most fundraising has been turned towards Covid 19 issues.

5. Old Business – Updates

- Karen spoke with the township to see when the hall would open. It will be at least until January.

6. Other/New Business

- Septic Tank Inspection: Barb has a friend with a cottage on Little Silver Lake. They need to have their inspection every 10 years through the conservation authority. It is a voluntary program for the people living in that jurisdiction. One issue could be that we don't have the funding to take on a project like this. If a septic inspection is covered under the townships Community Improvement Plan grant, maybe it could work. We will look into this. Currently the Renfrew County Health Unit is in charge of monitoring the septic programs. The township does have a septic inspector; however, we would need to appeal to higher levels of government for support. A different option would be to make an information package about septic systems to give out to local homeowners.
- We could look into future properties where we could help people with water quality issues at their property. We could make a contest where people need to show what improvements they are making.
- We got an update for our Cade insurance. We can add extra features if we feel like we need it. We are going to stick with the basic package. It will be paid, and show up on the next months report. Andy will put the motion forward to pay it, Jeff will first it, and Rene will second.

7. Next Meeting:

October 15, 2020

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALL WITH ENTRANCE AND PARKING THROUGH THE BACK (or online if needed).

8. Adjournment: 7:45PM

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____

Erin Dolan, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

Meeting August 20, 2020 - Scotia Account Balance

\$ 29,206.47

Business Chequing Account

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
STRIPE Membership Payments	\$57.36	Scotia monthly fee	\$ (8.00)
E-transfer Membership Payment	\$60.00	Dean~Sinclair Financial Report Payment	\$ (774.05)
		2020-CRA Annual Return Payment Reimbursement to DAM	\$ (12.00)
		Homehardware - Sand purchase Reimbursement - KC	\$ (86.22)

Total Income	\$ 117.36	Total Expenses	\$ (880.27)
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Current Amount in Scotia Account
 (Note: Float \$240.60) **\$ 28,443.56**

August 20, 2020 - BMO Account Balance

\$ 4,661.02

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
		Maintenance Fee	\$ (2.50)

Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ (2.50)
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Current Amount in BMO Account
\$ 4,658.52

