



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

April 15, 2021 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, David Thomassin, Jeff Reeves, Megan Rae, Barbara Green, Michael Gulliver, Gerry Rook

Regrets: Erin Dolan, Andy Laird, Evelyn St. Amour

Council Representative Present: Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Debbie approved the agenda, Jeff seconded.

Approval of minutes from February 18, 2021 meeting:

Dave approved the minutes, Rene seconded.

Approval of minutes from March 18, 2021 meeting:

Jeff approved the minutes, Dave seconded.

Before proceeding with the formal agenda, Karen introduced Kelsey Edwards, who has been hired to work jointly with Rene as Co-Project Coordinator for the Great Lakes Local Action

Fund project (GLLAF). Kelsey grew up on a Cobden dairy farm and will be graduating this year from the Farm Management Program at the Macdonald campus of McGill University.

3. **Treasurer's Report - Debbie MacDonald**

- See attached document.
- Maple Real Estate has made a \$750 donation which is enough to purchase about 600 trees in honour of Earth Day - Megan has taken photos with the cheque and will post them on social media on April 22.
- Debbie reimbursed herself \$94.47 for the payment she made for Wix mail account.
- A new bank account has been opened for the GLLAF and \$30,000 was deposited on April 14.
- There will be no Charity Bingo until May. Drive - in Bingo will start Sat. May 8 and will continue each Saturday in May and June. The Drive -In Bingo needs 10 volunteers. Karen volunteered to be one of them. Debbie will fill in our report with the Bingo organizers so they can keep us on their list as a charity. More information will follow.

4. **Director's Reports:**

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- GLLAF: Kelsey Edwards has been hired as Co-Project Coordinator, working with Rene. They have done two site visits with two sets of landowners. The first landowners are interested in fencing and a water system - the water system has been ordered. The second landowners are interested in fencing and tree planting. We need to order the fencing soon. M & R Feeds has good prices but we need to get the order in soon to get the best price. Rene has also contacted several other landowners for planning purposes. Karen and Kelsey will do site plans. They will contact the GLLAF steering committee in a couple of weeks.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Lake Dore: The focus for Algonquin College's intern this summer is more on doing social analysis than water quality analysis, so we will have her work on a project in this area. With the addition of the social study the college will conduct site visits at a property where students can go to do projects. A property owner in of North Algoma Wilberforce township has property where students can go to do projects. We will see what projects we can do. Dave has a research project to do next May. If Royal Roads accepts it he could possibly do his project through the Lake Dore initiative. Dave will talk after the meeting with Mike Gulliver, representative of the Lake Dore Property Owners' Association. Karen asked if there are properties on Lake Dore that would like shoreline rehabilitation. Mike will ask at their next meeting and get back to Karen. If any property owners are interested, Karen will send Mike the link to Watersheds Canada's video about shoreline naturalization. Karen and Mike will talk more after the meeting about Karen

attending the association meeting as a guest to answer questions and extend the invite on our behalf.

- Loon: The MWC was offered a donation of up to \$300 from an individual, which can be used for loon boxes. Dave will send Karen the email about this project. Perhaps we could invite families or groups to make loon boxes. Dave said there were seven loon families on the lake last year, it's too early to say how many there are this year. Karen said it could be a late fall or winter project. Someone from the Petawawa base had volunteered to help us, maybe this could be a project for them? A discussion followed about whether it is best to supply the building materials or to ask people to buy them and then reimburse them when the loon box is completed. It was suggested that someone could go out in a kayak and take photos of good locations for the boxes.
- Cobden Beach: Our Ministry of Natural Resources permit only allows us to put in the weed mats after June 30. Megan said we will need to wait until then unless we can get a proper permit to do it sooner.

Communications & Media – Megan Rae

- Social Media Update: Megan took photos at Karen and Rene's of the Zeolite installation. She used these photos in a blog post which received more than 100 views on FaceBook and Instagram. Megan will write a blog about the GLLAF project. It will feature an overview of the project, what we plan to do and the major players (the steering committee, project coordinators and M&R Feeds). It will be published once we receive confirmation from GLLAF representatives. We have received many emails from cottage owners through social media which repeat the same questions about blue-green algae, whether it is safe to swim in the lake or to eat the fish etc. Megan is creating a Frequently Asked Questions document to answer these questions. Megan stressed the importance of wearing masks in any photos we post during the pandemic. Karen and Megan will meet with Kelsey on April 24 to help Kelsey learn how to use the app for site planning.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen Coulas & Dave Thomassin

- Growing Canada's Forest Program: Karen said this is a pretty big grant. She has sent the information to Julie Sylvestre at Algonquin College to see if it is something Algonquin could partner on maybe next year or in the future.
- Dave said at first glance the Canada Revenue Agency's Community Building Fund - Operating Stream grant may not be a good fit for us, unless we could partner with the township? Maybe the beach could fall under this grant's tourism category. The application deadline is April 23, 2021 which is too short notice for this year. Mayor Moore suggested putting this item on the MWC agenda for November to consider for next year.

- Karen will attend a virtual meeting of the National Capital Environmental Nonprofit Network (NCENN) on April 23. The topics to be discussed are interns, intern sharing and how to get funding for interns.

5. Old Business - Updates - Karen Coulas & Dave Thomassin

- Cottage Succession Seminar: Karen got an email this week from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA). They are doing virtual sessions on cottage succession this year. We can do that or they can keep us on their list for an in-person session in 2022. We approved a motion to wait for an in-person session in 2022. Dave approved the motion, Debbie seconded. Karen will apply to FOCA for a 2022 session.
- Signs: Dave contacted a local sign producer about pricing for a sign at the Cobden Beach about the bubblers (aeration system) and the MWC. They will look into it and give us a price quote. Dave will send Megan an email with details about what we want on our sign. Suggestions were to place the sign where people will see it when they see the bubblers so it can answer their questions. The sign could contain a QR code that people can scan to find out more about the MWC and to make a donation. Mayor Moore mentioned the bigger the sign is the harder it is to support the weather.

6. Other/New Business

- AGM: Alexa is willing to present as a guest speaker to explain what she is doing at Lake Dore.
- New Director Position: Dave proposed that we create a new Indigenous Knowledge Director position to include the Algonquin First Nation. Dave has a person in mind for this position and will ask him.
- GLLAF: Members of the steering committee for the Great Lake Local Action Fund will meet at a later date.

7. Next Meeting: May 20, 2021

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

- 8. Adjournment: 7:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____

Barbara Green, Interim Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL		TREASURER'S REPORT - April 2021	
Meeting March 18, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 28,523.18	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
Deposit	\$ 750.00	Wix Mail Payment Reimbursement	\$ (94.47)
		E-transfer Fee	\$ (1.00)
		Scotia Service Charge	\$ (8.00)
Total Income	\$750.00	Total Expenses	\$ (103.47)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 29,169.71		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting March 18, - BMO Account Balance	\$ 5,163.56	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income		Expenses	
Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 5,163.56		