



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

July 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, Barbara Green, Anna Marie Blum, Gerry Rook

Regrets:

Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop

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, Dave seconded it.

Approval of minutes from June 17, 2021 meeting:

Jeff approved the minutes, Dave seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report

- See attached document.

- Debbie dropped off our financial records to be reviewed by Dean and Sinclair last Tuesday with a deadline of one week before our AGM.
- SBCNA charity Bingo: We are still in good standing with the Bingo organizers even though there has been no recent activity in our BMO Bingo account. The SBCNA charity Bingo is reopening as of Friday July 16. Our scheduled volunteer date is July 18, 2021 from 4-6 pm. Debbie will attend. We need two volunteers to take part in this fund-raising opportunity so Debbie will send out an email to find a second person. If no one comes forward, Karen will attend.

4. **Director's Reports:**

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen

- Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF) Program Update - The MWC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each of the landowners involved in the project. The MOU gives us permission to be on the landowner's property and absolves us of responsibility for any possible accidents. We have purchased supplies and some fencing has started. We will need planting volunteers in October.
- Membership Growth - We need more members to keep our charitable organization status and to share the workload (taking minutes, doing paperwork for grant applications, volunteering for the Bingo fundraiser etc.) and to support us financially by paying annual membership fees. Possible ideas discussed to increase membership were:
 - A. setting up booths at local fairs and events: for the Beachburg Fair July 23-25, 2021, we will liaise with Andy to set up a booth Friday night. Barb and Debbie will attend on Sunday 11-5. Others may cover the other days. Masks must be worn.
 - B. distributing brochures door to door and to local businesses. Anna-Maria will do this for cottagers and Anna-Maria will pick them up.
 - C. involving high school environmental clubs whose members may wish to earn volunteer hours (students would need to be supervised)
 - D. canvassing existing members to remind them to pay their annual membership fee (with a draw for a prize for members who renew by a certain date) Dave and Debbie will work on this.
 - E. Handing out brochures at events prior to the fall election
 - F. writing more lake stories - they are more often read than other information on our website.
 - G. sending out MWC information with the tax bill so everyone will receive it (requires township council's permission - deadline is end of August for the October tax bill)
 - H. handing out brochures at vaccination clinics
 - I. including MWC information in the township's home visit welcome package for new residents.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Blue green algae: several MWC members sent Dave pictures of possible blue-green algae. The health unit tested at 854 Fought Road (boat launch near the Pentecostal camp) on July 10. On July 12 they reported blue green algae was present but no toxins were found. But since some

types of blue green algae can produce toxins, both the MWC and the health unit have posted information on their websites about precautions to take when blue-green algae is present.

- Lake Dore: Dave spoke about the possibility of using remote sensing to track water levels, algal movement and movement of vegetation. A satellite takes the photos, we would pay someone to analyze the data. It's not cheap - perhaps we could apply for a grant to pay for it. Dave has asked our summer student to look into it.
- Loon Survey: Dave surveyed Muskrat Lake and found 18 loon families. Dave will talk later with Debbie and Mike Gulliver to set up a date to survey Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake and Lake Dore.
- Loon boxes: Karen mentioned we have some reclaimed material to build the boxes but some of it is rotten.
- Cobden Beach: The beach mats are now installed. The swimming raft is out. The aerators are working and seem to be resulting in less muck on the lake bottom. Whitewater township is keeping the beach very clean. Bird control measures on the roof of the beach house are not yet completed.
- Townships: It would be good if various townships could keep the MWC informed of planned road work so we could work together to make mitigation plans in the best interest of the watershed. Mayor Moore mentioned three levels of government are involved: the Ontario Ministry of Transport, Renfrew County and the Township of Whitewater Region. We should contact Lane Cleroux to find out how to get on all three email lists.

Communications & Media – Dave

- Director of Communications & Media: Dave will take on this role for now but we will continue to look for a new director.
- Please send in your lake stories. More people read them than read many of our science posts. Dave will write a story for next week. Debbie is working on one. Karen will ask Ava to gather some facts about loons that we can post.
- Reporting blue-green algae: Ava made a form for people to report sightings. Dave will send this out but not right away. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MOECP) does not require a photo of the blue-green algae but does need the date, time and place of the sighting as well as the weather conditions.
- Your TV: Tiana of Your TV is on vacation but when she gets back we will start making videos. An interview at the beach will be the first story. We could also do videos of the fence installation, Rene cutting hay and showing a buffer zone, interviews with landowners on whose properties we have done plantings through Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge program. These could be filmed from the water or the air. Ava will narrate the video in a voice over.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- Karen spoke to Simply K, a Montreal-based company that offers free online services to help not-for-profit organizations with fundraising. There are several advantages to this program: they have people to help you set up your account, you can do raffles online, and the program sends donors an instant receipt. We would like to try it but first Karen will contact Carmen at the township for information about licences required to sell raffle tickets. We would also have to find out how it would work with our bank accounts.

5. **Old Business – Updates - Dave**

- Beach Sign: We reworded part of Ava’s draft for the beach sign. Dave moved that we pay \$100 to Boyd Signs in Pembroke. The motion was approved by Jeff and seconded by Rene. All were in favour.
- Water testing kit: Debbie hasn’t received an invoice for the kit yet. Dave will look into it. We decided the kit will be kept strictly for MWC use and not loaned out.

6. **Other/New Business**

- Sharing the agenda: We agreed to discontinue sending out our agenda early in the week before meetings. The original idea was that this would encourage more participation but it hasn’t worked. Agendas will now be sent out the day of the meeting. Agenda items will be sent to the secretary no later than the day before the meeting.
- AGM We will hold a virtual AGM, like last year. There will be no guest speaker. Karen will introduce and Mayor Moore will make some opening remarks. Directors should be prepared to be acclaimed in their existing roles. The meeting will be on our usual meeting night, Thursday, August 19 at 6:30 pm.

7. **Next Meeting: Thursday, August 19 at 6:30 pm on Google Meet:**

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

8. Adjournment: 8:42 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 - July 2021	
Meeting June 17, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 27,661.49	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Summer Student Salary	\$ (675.41)
Canada Summer Jobs	\$ 3,044.00	E-transfer Service Charge	\$ (1.00)
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Scotia Service Charge	\$ (8.00)
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Summer Student Salary	\$ (675.41)
		E-transfer Service Charge	\$ (1.00)
Total Income	\$3,101.36	Total Expenses	\$ (1,360.82)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 29,402.03		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting June 17, 2021 - BMO Account Balance	\$ 5,680.77	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income	-	Expenses	
Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 5,680.77		