

Muskrat Watershed Council



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

October 15, 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, Thomas Watt, Michael Gulliver, Megan Rae

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

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, Megan seconded it.

Approval of previous minutes:

Rene approved the minutes first, Jeff seconded them.

3. Treasurer's Report

- See attached document

4. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- No update

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Zeolite- Reminder: We had an agreement with UNB that we would send them water samples for a testing program. We need to find a way to send the water to them. Dave ordered the bottles last week, and he received them today. He will send the water samples in a cooler and ship it to them. They will analyze the water in their lab, and share their results with us. Dave is wondering if we can install the Zeolite bags in before winter in the stream, so that it is ready for the spring. Dave and Rene will try to make something work to get it going for spring.
- Soil- Dave would like the Ag. Committee to pick up this project again next year.
- Stewardship- Drafted an email to Home Hardware to see if they would sponsor this project. We will need to re-evaluate in the spring to see if we would be able to continue down this venture. If we can do it in the spring, Dave would like to pursue the loon project next year.
- Lake Dore- Sent an email to MOE to develop an understanding of contributing factors to the nutrient loading. Dave believes a good starting point could be to add the lake to the sampling network (if it resumes). We could potentially do a limnology study and/or undertake a project like Love Your Lakes so homeowners understand the impacts to each property. Water quality stewardship opportunities could be worthwhile to bring awareness and get residents involved. Michael Gulliver (member of Lake Dore Lake association) has a water quality report that was done, and he will pass it along to Dave. Megan informed the council that Lake Dore is actually already on the water sampling network. The data shows that where the water was tested the total phosphorus is quite low compared to where the Snake River meets Muskrat Lake.
- Cobden Beach (birds)- Spoke with a company that does pest management, and they are willing to come to do a site visit to provide us with recommendations. We would need the township to approve the company coming onto our property, and then we could set it up. There is a cost for the assessment, but we do not have it at this time. We need to provide them a bit more detail, to get a quote. Karen will start by sending an email to Lane Cleroux, the head of Public works at the township. Dave will send the contact information for the company to Karen. We will discuss this again next month.
- Cobden Beach (winds)- A comment was made a few years ago, that our worst enemy at the beach is the wind bringing in debris to the beach. Karen and Dave looked into companies that would sell us booms to attach a net and keep debris from coming in. Through all of Dave and Karen's research the best deal appears to be an American company that Karen found. All the ministry states are that the booms need to be a certain colour to fit in with naval rules. It would be good to see what people use at marinas and beaches. We could potentially try and make something as well. Dave will ask for input at the Science committee as well.
- Cobden Marsh- Dave would like to change focus, and only look into fixing the berm. A funding opportunity came up a few weeks ago. Today they had a meeting with an engineering firm to

see if we could get a potential budget for the project. They also spoke with the township to get some answers to some questions. The focus would be fixing the two breeches of the berm, checking the integrity, and reinstating the lagoon. We need to compile all of the information and create a plan, so that we can apply for a grant someday when it comes up. We will be getting a document soon from the MPP and MP's offices detailing what grants will be coming up. There is also a grant writer at the MP's office that could potentially help us in the future.

- Natural Edge – Dave would like to know if we can tap into Watersheds Canada Natural Edge funding to do small waterfront properties. We cannot, but we can contact Watersheds Canada and see if they want to partner on a future project at Lake Dore. They do have a natural edge kit that landowners can purchase for \$250 so that they can do plantings on their own property.
- Water Management Plan – Dave believes that a water management plan would be worth looking into. We discussed this a year ago. Previously, Julie Truelove wrote one for a university course and shared it with us, but it is currently missing. Dave is taking the same course soon, and could potentially create a report for his class. Megan will ask Julie Truelove if she has a copy. Karen will look through her old documents and see if he can find it. Brian Whitehead used to have a drive of all of the documents as well; Dave will follow up with him.
- Project proposal – Dave feels that potentially our plans are not being followed through with, because we aren't writing project proposals, and we don't have a clear plan. He also feels that we need a paid employee to write the plans and work for the council. We could look into grants to help pay for an employee. Megan is only at the college until December. We also will not be able to get the college to do our water testing next summer, so we would need to find someone to do that as well. We voted as a council and everyone is in favour of searching for funding to hire an employee. Andy suggested that maybe we can use some money we have while we look for funding.

Communications & Media

- Natural Edge Program – Fall planting starts next week. There are 5 property owners. Due to Covid 19 restrictions we can't have volunteers help plant, so we need to hire tree planters for the majority of the sites. The sites are a little more rugged, so they are better suited to the tree planters. The Algonquin College Environment program still wants to come out and help. We are only allowed groups of 20 people at a time, at outdoor events, so we cannot use all of the students. The Outdoor Naturalist program will help. We were able to get funding from 2/3 of the groups that Megan applied to. We were able to get the CIP grant from Whitewater Township, and the Cabelas grant. This will cover the cost of \$5000 requested by Watersheds Canada to cover the cost of the tree planters. This is the final year of the Natural Edge program. Part of the agreement with Trillium is that we need to write a final evaluation on the project to show we made an impact on the community, and the environment has been improved. Megan wrote the final evaluation, and it is currently in draft mode.
- Watershed Mapping Project- This was done by a Carleton University student. She reached out to Julie about water quality information. We supplied her with information and asked her to look into certain things for us. She finished the project and created a website. The website was

not working properly when Megan looked this morning. It was really well done. Megan will hopefully present it by December.

- Microcystin Sampling Project – The three month pilot project is done. Julie and Megan sampled 6 different water sites over the three months. They did get a few positive microcystin readings in the month of July. To definitely decide if the test was worthwhile, Megan needs to take some time to go through the data gathered.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- Inspirational Fundraising Webinar – Friday October 23rd. Karen, Debbie, and Barb are attending. They are hoping to get some good fundraising ideas. It is a free seminar.
- Value Village Fund drive program – This is similar to a bottle drive, but with clothing, books, and household goods. They pay 15 cents per pound, 10 cents per pound, and 2 cents per pound for each category. Typically 120 bags collected would make about \$320 for the charity. It is a great idea, but it may conflict with the event the community already does every year called The Big Give.
- If we are able to do a member drive in the spring, Karen would like to put together packets that we can drop off on people's doorsteps to learn about the council and the lake. Karen would like us to think of things we can put in the kit to distribute. We will revisit this idea in February.

5. Old Business – Updates

- Canadian Agricultural Partnership Places to Grow Funding Program: The township was informed that they were successful in obtaining a \$35 000 grant in which we through our support behind.
- Improvement contest- We spoke previously about the idea of a contest where people send in photos of their property improvements. We will revisit this topic another day. Our contest participation has been very low lately, so we want to be strategic with choosing a topic for a contest. Megan proposes that we put a call out for people that want to show off their improvements, and feature them in a blog.

6. Other/New Business

- Continued Meet meetings option after Covid – Karen wants to know if we want to keep having an online meeting option after Covid. We would need to have a better meeting etiquette, and possibly have a better speaker. People are in favour of having the meet option. At a past meeting that we had an online and in person option, we had issues with people talking at the same time. We will need to find a better solution for speakers / people taking turns speaking for this to work. We can try a few different things and see how it works.

7. Next Meeting:

November 19, 2020

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

8. Adjournment: 8:47PM

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____
Erin Dolan, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____
Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

Meeting Sept 17, 2020 - Scotia Account Balance

\$ 28,443.56

Business Chequing Account

Income

Expenses

	\$
Service charge (Monthly fee & statement prep)	(8.00)
	\$
Scotia monthly fee	(1.00)
	\$
FOCA Renewal Reimbursement	(146.00)
	\$
2020-Cade Insurance	(1,254.96)

Total Income

\$0.00

Total Expenses

\$
(1,409.96)

Current Amount in Scotia Account

\$ 27,033.60

(Note: Float \$240.60)

Sept 17, 2020 - BMO Account Balance

\$ 4,656.02

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

Income

Expenses

	\$
Maintenance Fee	(2.50)

Total Income

\$ -

Total Expenses

\$
(2.50)

Current Amount in BMO Account

\$ 4,653.52

