



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)
Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

In person: Basement of the Whitewater Township Building, 44 Main Street, Cobden ON
Online through Google Meet

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

2. Introductions and Record of Attendance

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Barbara Green, Debbie MacDonald, Greg Stasyna, Claus Trost, Amanda Walt, Michael Walt

Regrets: Rick Adamson, Anna-Maria Blum, Yuanbo Gan, Andy Laird, Jeff Reeves, Gerry Rook, Evelyn St. Amour, Dave Thomassin

Council Representative Regrets:

Connie Tabbert, Township of Whitewater Region

Chris Olmstead, Township of Whitewater Region

3. Meeting Rules - Karen

Karen reminded everyone to respect the agenda and to keep side conversations to a minimum so people attending online can hear the discussion.

4. Meeting roles - Karen

Note taker: Amanda

Timekeeper: Debbie

5. **Adoption of Agenda**

Rene approved the agenda, Debbie seconded it.

6. **Approval of minutes from November 21, 2024 meeting:**

Claus approved the minutes, Amanda seconded.

7. **Treasurer's Report- Debbie**

See attached treasurer's report.

SBCNA Bingo

Our January BINGO money hasn't come in yet. Our next volunteer dates and volunteers are as follows. All volunteer times are on Sundays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Jan. 26, 2025 Debbie and Karen or Rene

February 23, 2025 Debbie and Claus

March 23, 2025 Debbie and Laurie Patterson.

Bingo official Andrew Trehan emailed Debbie to remind Bingo volunteers of the dress code. A collared shirt must be worn. Yoga or stretchy pants, crocs, and flip flops are not permitted.

Ordering shirts

Debbie hasn't ordered new MWC shirts yet. Please let her know if you need one.

The new shirts will have white writing on them, which is more visible than the black we had before.

Reimbursement for gas expenses

MWC had planned to reimburse Rick Adamson and Pete Stewart for gas expenses. These volunteers provided boats to help MWC install fish bundles in Mink Lake. But both said they would prefer to receive a complimentary membership instead of a reimbursement. Debbie moved that we give them each a complimentary MWC membership in lieu of reimbursement for gas expenses. Michael seconded the motion.

8. **Directors' Reports**

Agricultural Committee - Karen

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop Update - Karen

A poster is being prepared for distribution to advertise this workshop which MWC is organizing in collaboration with Soil and Crop and the Renfrew County Stewardship Council. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 1 and Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. at the Barr Line Community Centre for Admaston Bromley. The workshop will also be mentioned at the annual farmers' breakfast in February. MWC will put out a blog post about the workshop and will donate money to cover part of the lunch.

Science Committee – Karen

Algonquin College presentations

MWC attended Dave's students' presentations at Algonquin College on Dec. 13, 2024, which were interesting.

Invasive Species grant

The deadline for applying for an invasive species grant was Jan. 15, 2025. Unfortunately MWC was not able to prepare a grant proposal in time.

Algonquin student volunteers

MWC received an email from Algonquin College asking if we have any opportunities for Algonquin environmental technician students to offer their volunteer time on any of our upcoming projects, work days or committees. This could be for an hour or two on a single day or for a regular commitment. Opportunities could be for current or future projects and could include field days, planting days, committees etc. MWC will contact Algonquin College to invite the students to attend our monthly meetings. We will discuss projects the students could help with at our February meeting.

Communications & Media - Amanda

Ice Pressure ridge on Muskrat Lake

Amanda and Mike said a large pressure ridge has formed in the ice on Muskrat Lake, across from Hendry Lane. This can present a danger to walkers, skiers, ATVs and snowmobiles as there is open water near it. Amanda will write a blog with photos and warnings which she will post on our website. She will also send this information to township representative Connie Tabbert.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

No report

9. Old Business - Karen

Wildfire Community Preparedness Day

There's a \$500 grant available for organizing a Wildfire Community Preparedness Day that would inform residents about how to prepare their property to prevent wildfires. The workshop could be held between May and late summer. This item has been placed in our "parking lot" for further discussion. This could be something we could either do as a project or make people aware of or just do a blog item about. Amanda will contact Connie to see if the township is doing anything about this.

Fish Bundles 2025

Neither Muskrat Lake nor Lake Dore have been on Watersheds Canada's fish bundles list yet, so we could possibly do that as a project this year. Rene said to go ahead and perhaps if Algonquin College students want to help they can, or we can just do it on our own.

Cottage Life Magazine offer

This magazine has an offer coming up where they will give some trial subscriptions to Cottage Life magazine if people buy a membership to MWC. Maybe this could be an incentive or a thank you for buying a membership? Claus will check with the magazine to clarify exactly what they are offering. We'd have to make sure people would be responsible for signing up for any magazine subscription themselves.

Membership Drive 2025

MWC needs a membership drive to get more volunteers and raise awareness. A discussion followed on how to do this. Should we hire high school students to go door to door or get volunteers to do this? Karen said all lake associations she has worked with that have large memberships go door to door. At Round Lake they have information bags with names of local businesses, the name of the lake association etc. that they hand out. We will make membership drive the main topic for our February meeting. Barb will write a letter to our regular volunteers to encourage them to attend or to send us their ideas on how to go about a membership drive and what they would think about MWC hiring and training people to go around the watershed with information and a membership ask.

10. Other/New Business

Beach Sign - Claus

Two of the paid advertising beach signs are made up. Claus will install them. A 12" x 16" sign will cost \$100 per year plus \$50 for making the sign for the first year. This will be an introductory offer. After that, the cost will be \$175 per year. Claus will go out to a few more businesses to see if there is interest. Amanda and Michael will go to Whitewater Brewing. We have room for a total of 15 or 16 advertising signs including the two we already have. One space will be kept available for the township.

Secretary coverage - Barb

Barb will be away in March and April. Debbie and Amanda will cover secretarial duties, including sending out agendas and writing up meeting minutes for those months.

11. Next Meeting

Thursday, February 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

In person: Basement of the Whitewater Township Building, 44 Main Street, Cobden

Online: Through Google Meet

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12. Adjournment: 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL	&	TREASURER'S REPORT - Jan 2025	
Meeting Nov 21st , 2024 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 53,264.94	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
		Scotia Monthly Fee	
Total Income	\$0.00	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 53,264.94		
New Float \$150			
Meeting Nov 21st , 2024 - BMO Account Balance	\$ 17,586.47	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income	-	Expenses	
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit -			
Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 17,586.47		