



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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 20, 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](https://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 6:33 p.m.

**2. Introductions and Record of Attendance**

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Gabriella Blum, Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Gerry Rook, Evelyn St. Amour, Claus Trost, Amanda Walt, Brian Whitehead

**Council Representative Present:**

Connie Tabbert, Township of Whitewater Region

**Regrets:** Rick Adamson, Andy Laird, Jeff Reeves, Michael Walt, Barbara Green, Greg Stasyna, Anna Maria Blum, Yuanbo Gan, Dave Thomassin,

**Council Representative Regrets:**

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**

Minutes and Note taker: Amanda

Timekeeper: Debbie

**5. Adoption of Agenda**

Debbie approved the agenda, Rene seconded it.

**6. Approval of minutes from Feb 20, 2025 meeting:**

Claus approved the minutes; Gerry seconded.

## 7. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

See attached treasurer's report.

Question asked regarding the risk of not using Lottery Trust account funds. Claus answered that it could affect future application review.

Another question was raised with regards to the eligibility to use funds for other charities. Claus answered that in the charity/lottery language, all expenses are called "donations" which consists of 2 types. Type 1 donations could donate funds to other charities that do similar work. Type 2 donations can include spending on our projects.

SBCNA Bingo

- Our next volunteer dates and volunteers are as follows. All volunteer times are on Sundays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
  - March 23, 2025 Debbie and Laurie Patterson.
  - April 20, 2025 Debbie and Evelyn St. Amour
- The schedule for beyond April 2025 isn't out yet.

New MWC shirts

- Shirts have arrived and were distributed in person for those in attendance

## 8. Directors' Reports

### Agricultural Committee - Karen

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop Update – Karen

- The Environmental Farm Plan Workshop was held March 01 and 08th. It was a two-day workshop. Had 7 people attend. Could only go to the second meeting if you were at the first and bad winter weather stopped people on the first day.
- Soil and Crop Ontario provided the information and instructions. Renfrew County Stewardship Council and MWC provided lunch for the 2-day workshop that ran from 10 to 3 Sat. March 01 and March 08.
- Hard time getting word out, last minute registrations
- Rene – info got out but, workbook versions confusion (version 4 versus 5 coming out), attendance issues with all classes
- People in attendance provided positive feedback

Soil Workshop - Karen

- Rene and Karen attended the Farmers Breakfast who had A&L Laboratories as the keynote speaker.
- They have a 3-tier course on fertilizer and understanding soil/manure analysis on your farm which ensures correct and effective fertilization and improved erosion control. Each course is a 1.5-day course
- They offered to come and do the course here if we wanted to partner.
- Claus motions to go ahead – Gerry seconded

### Science Committee – Dave

- Dave was not in attendance so could not provide update on County Forester

## **Communications & Media - Amanda**

Cottage Life subscription incentive

- Email campaign / social post with Cottage Life subscription incentive, Amanda will create campaign within next week
- Pay for FB post promotion (approx. \$35)
- Rene approved; Debbie seconded

Marketing membership drive assistance

- Anna Maria & Gabriella have updates and options for assistance, Amanda to review and provide feedback.

Matthew Henley – seminar, Cottage Estate Planning and Succession

- Perhaps he could present at AGM, could also look at FOCA offerings

Grant for Marketing Assistance

- Same group that provided CSRF
- For marketing assistance (approx. \$5K), not sure will be approved but submitted by deadline, we'll see if approved

## **Fundraising Committee Update - Karen**

No report

### **9. Old Business - Karen**

Water Testing – Karen

- Debbie will take devices in for recalibrating so testing can begin in May (Horiba)
- Need a plan for testing sites and schedule

Cobden Public School Project – Karen (5 minutes)

- Karen & Rene met with Erin, school looking at Medicine Wheel and Garden around end of May
- Wanted MWC to speak or provide presentation, or donation of plants (Ferguson – small seedlings, \$2.19 per plant), Claus says Bingo would cover that.
- Could provide info that they could share our content or access to Drive for her to put together what she needs.

Eco Fair – Pembroke Memorial Centre – May 9<sup>th</sup> (4pm-8pm) - May 10<sup>th</sup> (10am-3pm)

- Karen to prepare a gift basket door prize as our entrance fee-by May 8<sup>th</sup>. Lots to see!
- Debbie and Barb will man the exhibit booth and welcome any additional volunteers

Beach Sign - Claus

- Email sent to BEI – no response.

**10. Other/New Business - Karen**

Whitewater Township Delegation – Dave has more details.

- Karen - Mayor made an offer to put together a letter to support our council – letters of support, plus council support at meetings.

Project Ideas

- Call out to all for anything that may be positive for environment.

Chair / Co-Chair Roles

- Rene wants to step away from Co-Chair and someone to get trained on meeting equipment.
- Risk of having Chair and Co-Chair from same household.
- AGM – perhaps a nomination committee should be established, to get people for key roles.

MWC policies are due for an update

- Brian Whitehead indicates policies are outdated and not fit for current needs.
- Brian could help with updates (former Science Committee member).
- Will put proposal together for next meeting.

Next Meeting

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Please note: Barbara Green will be away in April. Debbie and Amanda will fill in to send agendas, take notes and circulate meeting minutes.

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

**Online: Through Google Meet**

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**11. Adjournment: 7:34 p.m.**

**Minutes recorded and submitted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Amanda Walt, Director Media & Communications Muskrat Watershed Council

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MWC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025!  
COST IS \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP**

IT'S EASY TO RENEW - JUST SEND AN E-TRANSFER TO:  
[treasurer@muskratwatershedcouncil.com](mailto:treasurer@muskratwatershedcouncil.com) (Please put your name and email address  
in the message box so we can email your tax receipt.)

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL		&	TREASURER'S REPORT - March 2025	
<b>Meeting Feb 20 , 2025 - Scotia Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 53,326.44</b>	<b>Business Chequing Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>			<b>Expenses</b>	
2025-Memberships	\$	116.48	Scotia Monthly fee	\$ (9.00)
			Scotia e-transfer fee	\$ (1.00)
			FOCA Mtg Reimbursement - D. Macdonald	\$ (45.20)
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$116.48</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (55.20)</b>
<b>Current Amount in Scotia Account</b>		<b>\$ 53,387.72</b>		
<b>New Float \$150</b>				
<b>Meeting Feb 20, 2025 - BMO Account Balance</b>		<b>\$ 19,565.86</b>	<b>SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>		-	<b>Expenses</b>	
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit - March 2025	\$	889.40	BMO e-transfer fee	\$ (1.50)
			MWC Logo Shirts	\$ (481.38)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>889.40</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (482.88)</b>
<b>Current Amount in BMO Account</b>		<b>\$ 19,972.38</b>		