



## **MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Online through Google Meet**

**Thursday, Thursday, November 18, 2021 6:35 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, David Thomassin, Michael Gulliver, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook

**Regrets:** Andy Laird, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop, Anna Marie Blum

**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, Gerry seconded it.

##### **Approval of minutes from October 21, 2021 meeting:**

Rene approved the minutes, Dave seconded.

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

- See attached document.
- Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF): Karen and Debbie must do a report for Watersheds Canada before we get the \$500 from them. Karen has spoken to the Canadian Wildlife Federation and will send in a report this week. It will be less detailed than the last report.
- SBCNA Bingo: Payment came in today for \$319.89 for November. We now have \$7,072.61 in our Bingo account. Debbie has submitted the required 2021 budget and 2022 forecast budget to SBCNA Bingo. These were due Nov. 28. Debbie will volunteer at the Bingo on November 28. Dave will volunteer on December 19.
- Hach Water Testing Kit: The kit has come in. Cost is \$775.86. Rene moved that we pay this bill. Jeff approved the motion, Dave seconded. All were in agreement and the motion was passed. Debbie will pay the bill.
- Wix: Debbie has paid the annual Wix bill for our plan that includes the MWC website.

- Possible Scam: We received an invoice from Norton Family all-device protection saying our plan has been renewed and \$207.46 US has been debited from one of our accounts. However no money has come out of any of our accounts. Debbie will monitor this as it may be a scam.

#### 4. **Director's Reports:**

##### **Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene**

- Great lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF) Update: Karen and Debbie have submitted the required interim report on schedule. Rene thanked them both for their efforts. Karen mentioned that we need an analysis for the GLLAF grant which we have to write up. Dave will look at the data and write something for Karen. All the plants are in. We had a good volunteer turnout on Saturday despite bad weather. Planting was more difficult this year. The clay soil was hard to dig and the trees were larger, with bigger root balls. But the bigger trees may be more likely to survive. Karen wondered if YourTV might let us use photos of the students working? Debbie will put photos of the students and jp2g volunteer planters on our drive. Some tree planters are interested in attending our meetings. Karen will look into contacting them.
- Loon Boxes: Karen asked if high school volunteers would be interested in making loon boxes this winter. The high school teacher who accompanied volunteer student planters will speak to the shop teacher to find out. Karen will let Dave know if she hears back.

##### **Science Committee Update – Dave**

- Hach Kit: Dave will write up the procedure for using the kit and will take the kit and the instructions to be stored at Karen and Rene's farm. Dave moved that the kit be used only by trained people. Rene approved the motion, Gerry seconded. Authorized users will be trained this winter.
- Blue-Green Algae: There were a lot of reports this year. MWC received a report from Lake Dore the Ministry came out and took samples and it was blue-green algae containing some toxins. Mike G. said the blue-green algae bloom on Lake Dore was the worst he has ever seen. There was also a report of possible blue-green algae on Coldingham Lake near Logos Land in Horton Township. The Ministry didn't take samples there but the photos look like blue-green algae.
- Zeolite: We need to get rid of some. Dave suggested spreading it on the buffer strips along farmers' fields. Dave thinks this is a good way to test the zeolite. Rene and Dave will talk about this and report later.

##### **Communications & Media – Dave**

- Lake Stories: We posted a nice blog story this month. It generated some interaction and shares.
- Fall planting: We placed a \$35 Google ad on Facebook which boosted the number of views. Maybe this is a good way to spread the word about our activities and get more volunteers.
- Karen was interviewed about the planting by the Eganville Leader but nothing was printed. This was disappointing. Rene will contact them to find out why. Karen sent out information to four media outlets but nothing happened.
- Rene suggested it would be good to get our stories on YouTube. He suggested making a link from our website to YouTube. Dave will look into this.

## **Fundraising Committee Update – Karen**

- Karen suggested we could do a membership drive in the spring. One idea is to give cottagers copies of a booklet by Watersheds Canada, called Lake Protection Workbook, a Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners. Workbooks cost \$1.50 each. They contain self-assessment pages where cottagers can look at their own cottage property and learn how to make changes to better protect their lake. Debbie plans to give out these workbooks to members of the Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake Association. Karen suggested we might distribute them to cottagers in late June or early July. The booklet is also available electronically on the Watersheds Canada Website.

<https://watersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Lake-Protection-Workbook.pdf>

We will devote our January meeting to discussing more ideas for increasing membership.

### **5. Old Business**

**Past plantings:** It has come to our attention that some farmers and property owners are not happy with the effectiveness of our plantings. Part of the problem may be the length of time some plants were stored before being planted. Plants need to be planted in a couple of days or they don't survive. Some plants in our earlier plantings sat in sheds for two weeks and many didn't survive. We need to follow up on this and learn from any mistakes that were made. We will need to contact the property owners, Watersheds Canada and Algonquin College to discuss the problem and what can be done to fix it. We discussed who to contact first. Jeff suggested we could visit all 12 planting sites in the spring, possibly with representatives from Algonquin College and Watersheds Canada. We will start by sending an email to Watersheds Canada to say we are disappointed with the planting results and asking for advice on how to deal with the problem. Perhaps they have grant money that could help us replant? Karen will compose an email to Watersheds Canada and circulate it to us for review.

### **6. Other/New Business:**

- **Face to Face Meetings:** Dave wondered when we could resume meeting in person. We'd have to check with the township to see when they will permit in-person meetings. Covid is ramping up in Renfrew County at the moment.
- **Lake Dore:** Mike Gulliver thanked Karen and Dave for attending the Lake Dore Lake Association's AGM. He said feedback on their presentation was "crazy good." Dave thanked Karen for staying after the meeting to answer questions.

### **7. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2021 6:30 p.m.**

**NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS**

[meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk](https://meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk)

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### **8. Adjournment: 8:18 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 - November 2021	
<b>Meeting Oct. 21, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 30,914.57</b>	<b>Business Chequing Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Stripe Membership	\$ 19.12	SBCNA Bingo Shirt	\$ (36.16)
		Scotia e-transfer	\$ (1.00)
		Scotia monthly fee	\$ (8.00)
		Government Tax Payment	\$ (4.00)
		GLAF Tree Planter	\$ (900.00)
		Scotia e-transfer	\$ (1.00)
		GLAF Project Coordinator	\$ (114.90)
		Scotia e-transfer	\$ (1.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19.12</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (1,066.06)</b>
<b>Current Amount in Scotia Account</b>	<b><u>\$ 29,867.63</u></b>		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
<b>Meeting Oct. 21, 2021 - BMO Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,752.72</b>	<b>SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>	-	<b>Expenses</b>	
November 2021 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 319.89		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 319.89</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Current Amount in BMO Account</b>	<b><u>\$ 7,072.61</u></b>		