

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Erin Dolan, Dave Thomassin

Regrets: Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, 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

Rene approved the agenda, Debbie seconded it.

Approval of minutes from December 16, 2021 meeting:

Debbie approved the minutes, Rene seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

- See attached document.
- SBCNA Bingo:
 - We may not receive a payment from SBCNA Bingo in February since the Bingo hall may not be open. They are still not requiring volunteers at this time and may not until March. To maintain our eligibility for monthly payments, starting in February we will need to acknowledge our support from SBCNA on our website and Facebook page.

4. Directors' Reports

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene

- **GLLAF:**

- As part of the Great Lakes Local Action Fund project, Rene took 27 soil samples at five farms. Five samples were taken from five fields at each farm. Two samples were also taken at another site to evaluate the effect of zeolite in reducing nutrient levels. The test results came back today. Rene and Karen we will pass the results along soon to the farmers who took part. On July 31, 2022, a Zoom meeting is planned to show farmers how to interpret these results and how to use them to make better decisions about the use of fertilizers on their fields.

Science Committee Update – Dave

- Cobden Beach:

- Due to a miscommunication, the aerators weren't turned off this fall but they are off now. In future, they will need to be turned off by November 15. Dave would like to buy three more weed mats and leave them in all year. He thinks removing the mats each year does more damage than just leaving them in. Dave will talk to one of his contacts at the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry about this. Karen needs to know the Ministry approves leaving mats in all year before we buy more mats.

- Zeolite:

- Dave will meet with Rene in the next few weeks. They may may install some zeolite buffers along stream banks.

- Loons:

- Loon Count : We will do the loon count again next year. Dave will do Muskrat Lake, Debbie will do Olmstead-Jeffrey Lakes, Mike Gulliver will do Lake Dore. We will need a volunteer for Mink Lake.
- Loon platforms: Karen asked a school if they could participate in making platforms but they were too busy to do it. We will talk more about this project in the spring.

- Science Committee Meetings:

- Dave will restart Science Committee meetings in February. He will send out a notice to science committee members. Meetings will be held every second month: in February, April and June.

Communications & Media - Dave

- It was a quiet month except for a few items posted by Debbie and Karen.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- No update.

5. Old Business

- GLLAF:

- This project is starting to wind up. There are a few bills left to pay: one is to M& R Feeds - we are over our amount and will have to pay a bit more. GLLAF needs an analysis of water samples - Dave will help with that, possibly using data we already have from past samples, maybe from the information done for the township for the Muskrat River. Debbie will help Karen with the final report, which is due February 18. Debbie has the financial part up to date so it shouldn't be that hard. We had to pay Watersheds Canada \$1,000 from the GLLAF funding for use of their app which allowed us to make a planting plan. This was required as part of the project.

- Planting Issue Update:

- Karen and Rene met with Barb King, president of Watersheds Canada, and Chloe Lajoie, Natural Edge Coordinator for Watersheds Canada. They discussed lessons learned and possible contributors to the issue of some landowners being dissatisfied with plantings. This was Watersheds Canada's first time doing such a project. They are quite willing to do some replants at cottage sites and on agricultural properties.
- Rene said there is a possibility of a fairly large funding grant that could be used for agricultural replanting. It has a short deadline. We'd need to create a steering committee. Watersheds Canada would get the funding and MWC would oversee our part of the project. Next Thursday Rene and Karen will meet again with Watersheds Canada and will find out more about whether they will get the funding. It would be about a \$50,000 grant.
- A discussion followed about who would oversee this project if the funding comes through. It is not possible for us to oversee the project. We'd need a project coordinator to oversee it for six months. Jeff suggested partnering with another group, such as the Ottawa Riverkeeper, so we don't have to supervise the project. Dave suggested maybe Watersheds Canada could hire and supervise their own project manager. Debbie mentioned Watersheds Canada hired a girl last October as a brush bundles coordinator for that project on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lakes, so there is a precedent. Debbie suggested maybe Watersheds Canada could hire an Algonquin College student to coordinate. We could assist Watersheds Canada - we don't have to be the lead. Karen mentioned they want to talk to Tom Dolan about using mechanical planters to replant the plants.

6. Other/New Business

- Invitation:

We were invited last May to join Eco Pembroke, an environmental job-fair project . There is no fee for non-profits. It's an in-person event on Friday, May 13-Saturday, May 14 at the Pembroke

Memorial Centre (PMC). Barb & Debbie could volunteer, depending on the covid situation. Deadline to respond is the end of March.

- Ideas for Membership:

We brainstormed ideas to increase membership. Several ideas were discussed:

- Directly emailing former members: Debbie will send Barb information and she will compose a letter asking past and present members to renew their memberships. This can be done by making an e-transfer to our e-mail address: muskratwatershedcouncil@gmail.com. We could promote the video Karen and Rene made in our letter.
- Advertising on our web page: Karen will write up a membership app for our web page.
- Giving a prize for renewers: Erin suggested posting on our website that people can win a prize if they renew their membership.
- Adding a request for membership renewal at the end of the MWC Minutes (Jeff). He also suggested we could email our current membership list and include some videos. He said we shouldn't forget the trailer park - maybe we could have an open house in their store once covid ends.
- Making a slideshow or a YouTube video about the GLLAF project with landowners explaining what we have done. (Rene). At the end we could ask for new members. Dave said we could ask a St. Joseph HS student who has helped us in the past to make a slide show or a video. We could offer volunteer hours in exchange.
- Getting all the addresses around the lake and mailing out information about the MWC..
- Putting a note in with the tax slips.
- Putting a plastic bag on doorknobs with information about MWC.
- Making a booklet about businesses around the lake and information along with information about about MWC. Getting the businesses to sponsor the booklet. Whitewater Region has an online listing of businesses.
- Placing regular articles in Whitewater News. Barb could help with this but will need topics and background information.
- Organizing a presentation from L'il Ray's reptiles about different species native to the watershed. (Dave) This might cost about \$110.
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7. **Next Meeting**

February 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

8. Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____

Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MWC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022!

COST IS \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP

IT'S EASY TO RENEW - JUST SEND AN E-TRANSFER TO:

muskratwatershedcouncil@gmail.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 - January 2022	
Meeting Dec. 16th, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 28,033.97	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
Canadian WildLife Federation	\$ 500.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (8.00)
2022 Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Karen Coulas-GLLAF Project Supplies-Reimbursement	\$ (239.82)
2022 Membership Payment	\$ 40.00	Scotia e-transfer	\$ (1.00)
2022 Membership Payment	\$ 20.00		
Total Income	\$579.12	Total Expenses	\$ (248.82)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 28,364.27		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting Dec. 16th, 2021 - BMO Account Balance	\$ 7,072.61	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income	-	Expenses	
December 2021 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 263.55		
January 2022 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 251.28		
Total Income	\$ 514.83	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 7,587.44		