



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

Thursday, February 17, 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 6:45 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Dave Thomassin

Regrets: Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop, Anna-Maria Blum, Jeff Reeves, Erin Dolan,

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 January , 2022 meeting:

Rene approved the minutes, Gerry seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

- See attached document.

- SBCNA Bingo: The money from SBCNA arrived in our account today. They have reopened and Bingo will resume at the end of February. There is no word yet on when they will need volunteers. Debbie posted on Facebook asking for volunteers.
- Debbie composed an email about membership, Barb looked it over. Debbie read it out for the meeting. Dave suggested some minor corrections. Debbie will send the letter to people on our membership list. Rene asked if we could also send the letter to farmers on whose land we did projects.
- We received several memberships this month as well as a \$9,000 individual donation.
- Our accounting firm, Dean Sinclair, has joined the Baker Tilly Canada Chartered Accountants firm. This change will not affect us except that they now have a different email address.
- Debbie sent out a notice about the annual general meeting of the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) which will take place on Saturday, Feb. 26 by webinar. Cost for a MWC volunteer to attend is \$45, which would be reimbursed.
- T4s are being prepared.

4. Directors' Reports

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene

- Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF):
 - Debbie helped Karen complete the final report for the GLLAF project. It has now been submitted. Tomorrow Cristina will contact Karen to let her know if any changes are needed. A few details about measurements may be required. Barb will write a piece about the project which Dave will post on our website. Debbie mentioned that once we get the rest of the GLLAF funds we can pay back our other regular MWC account, which was used in the interim.
- Newsletter:
 - The Township of Whitewater Region now has a newsletter called “The Current.” Maybe we can put an item in there. Carmen is the person to contact at the township to submit items. The Current is sent out four times a year.
- Watersheds Canada Planting Problem:
 - Watersheds Canada may have grant money coming for replanting, which could take place in 2023. Spring planting is more successful than fall planting. Rene and Karen will assist Watersheds Canada with this project. Lake Dore might also be included, as well as other sites. The idea is to pay professional planters to ensure that planting is more successful and to make it easier on MWC. We will have more details by our next meeting.

Science Committee Update – Dave

- Science Committee Meeting:
 - The MWC Science Committee met on Wednesday, February 16. Highlights are below. The next meeting will be April 20, 2022 at 1:00. Meetings will be on the third Wednesday of every even month at 1:00.
 - Highlights of Feb. 16 Science Committee Meeting:
 - Karen spoke about the GLLAF project and the soil testing project.
 - Stormwater Management Project: Brian Whitehead spoke about the stormwater management project. It is in Whitewater Region but could be beneficial to our whole watershed.
 - Greenworks: They will make a presentation to the township in mid-March. MWC will get a Youtube link to watch it live.
 - GLLAF: Karen made a presentation.
 - Zeolite: Dave spoke about what MWC has done.
 - Loon project: Dave presented the project. He mentioned that several lake associations do the loon survey - maybe the Muskrat Lake Association (MLA) could survey Muskrat Lake?
- Summer Student: The township asked if we want a summer student this year. Karen said no, because we don't have the ability to train and supervise a student.
- Soil Testing project: Dave suggested we focus on five properties this fall. Rene mentioned we should avoid competing with the Renfrew County Soil and Crop Association.
- Muskrat Lake Association: Hugh Mitchell, a fish veterinarian with a cottage on Muskrat Lake, is trying to rebuild the membership of the MLA. He asked Dave how we can help them and also expressed interest in attending one of our meetings.
- Cobden Beach: Dave praised the township for keeping the beach clean last summer. He would like to have some buoys put in. He will look into this with the appropriate authorities. Karen mentioned we received a donation to do a project at the beach. She asked if there was any way we could work with the township to do some planting between the path and the edge of the water. Dave will talk to the township about this. He will also follow up about the issue of birds at the wastewater treatment plant, near the beach.
- Cobden Marsh: Dave said we are still interested in it. There will be more discussion with the township about it. Debbie mentioned the Ottawa Valley Active Transportation Alliance that she volunteers with is thinking of making the old railway line through the marsh into an alternate path for cyclists to avoid the highway.
- Algonquin College Water Monitoring: Dave approached Algonquin College and asked if they would be interested in doing water monitoring. They said they don't have the staff and resources to do it. Also at the moment there is a work action going on so they couldn't do it now anyway. Dave will contact Sarah Hall at the college to see if she can

help. Having Algonquin students participate promotes us with students and gains us younger volunteers.

Communications & Media - Dave

- Debbie was quoted and pictured in the Renfrew Mercury regarding the fish habitat bundles project on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake. She represented MWC and the Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake Association.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- We need to find a way to send our membership letter to the general public. Perhaps we could put an item in Whitewater News?

5. Old Business

- Hach Water testing kit: Dave has checked it out. Debbie says there is online training available. Dave says this training might be helpful for non-scientific people as it gives scientific background, but there is a cost for it. For now, Dave will train Karen, Rene and Debbie to use the kit. It will be stored at Karen and Rene's. Lake associations can do measurements on their lake - Rene can go out with farmers to test creeks, etc.

6. Other/New Business

- Volunteer of the Year: Our volunteer of the Year has been chosen. The name will be posted on Facebook in April.
- Meeting in person: If the covid situation improves, we may be able to meet in person by April.

7. Next Meeting

March 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: 8:17 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____
Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY RENEWED THEIR 2022 MWC
MEMBERSHIP.

IF NOT, 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 - February 2022	
Meeting Jan. 20th, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance		\$ 28,364.27	Business Chequing Account
Income		Expenses	
2022 Membership for two people	\$ 40.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (8.00)
2021 & 2022 Membership fees for two people	\$ 80.00	Government Tax Payment	\$ (2.00)
2021 Donation	\$ 9,000.00	GLLAF Project Soil Testing	\$ (732.24)
		GLLAF Watershed Canada App	\$ (1,000.00)
		Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (1.00)
		GLLAF Project Coordinator	\$ (449.59)
		E-Transfer Fee	\$ (1.00)
Total Income	\$9,120.00	Total Expenses	\$ (2,193.83)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 35,290.44		
<small>(Note: Float \$250.00)</small>			
Meeting Jan. 20th, 2021 - BMO Account Balance		\$ 7,587.44	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account
Income		Expenses	
February 2022 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 36.25		
Total Income	\$ 36.25	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 7,623.69		