



**MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Meeting Minutes**

**Online through Google Meet**

**Thursday, June 16 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 6:32 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Dave Thomassin, Evelyn St. Amour, Anna-Maria Blum

**Regrets:** Andy Laird, Gerry Rook, Andrea Bishop, Erin Dolan, Rick Adamson, David Luong

**Council Representative Present:** Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region (WWR)

**Council Representative Regrets:** Claus Trost, Township of Laurentian Valley (LV)

Before the formal meeting began, we had a presentation by Michael Thomsen of Group Indigo Parking about an Indigo cell phone app we might use to charge boat launch fees at the Cobden Boat Launch. Michael has been boating on Muskrat Lake for about 30 years and now has a cottage on the lake. He suggested using this app might help MWC generate revenue.

We would have to designate the area of the parking lot. No cash is involved. Payment is by app or by scanning a QR code. Paying by cell phone would require users to have a data plan. You could also book parking ahead of time from a home computer. A licence

plate number is required to purchase parking. There is very little set up cost but you would need signage to explain why a parking fee is being collected.

See more details of Michael's presentation - Cobden Boat Launch Program attached.

MWC members had several questions and comments:

- Does the Internet from Cobden Park extend to the beach and parking areas? Probably not.
- Could we have an honour box for the first year? Yes.
- Could we call it a boat launch fee? Yes.
- Cobden Boat launch is owned by WWR but maybe the other boat launch isn't.
- WWR currently only charges boat launch fees for tournaments. Local residents might resent parking fees as they already pay taxes. Maybe the parking fee should only be for non-residents. Maybe locals could have a laminated card on their car dashboard, like the one for using the dump.
- Perhaps WWR council should look at Horton Township's parking model first.
- Can we share Michael's presentation with the WWR council? Yes. There is no WWR council meeting in July. It could go on the agenda for August. Then it would be in the minutes and the newly-elected WWR council might discuss it in January. MWC could make a 10-minute presentation then.

## **2. Adoption of Agenda**

- Barb noted a correction to the agenda under Old Business: Beach Billboard - Anna-Maria will not be speaking on this item.
- Debbie added two items to the agenda under Other/New Business: Cows in Pumphouse Lake and Flooding on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake
- Evelyn approved the revised agenda, Debbie seconded it.

### **Approval of minutes from Thursday May 19, 2022 meeting:**

Rene approved the minutes, Evelyn seconded.

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

- See attached document.
- MWC would like to thank WWR for their generous donation of \$5,500.
- Debbie and Dave will get a silver badge or ribbon for the certificate of appreciation for jp2g. We can do a photo op to present the certificate at our AGM in August.
- Pinewood Road Update: The Township of Whitewater Region will discuss this item at their June 22, 2022 meeting.

- Debbie has dropped off our 2021 files and records for review to the accounting firm, Baker Tilly in Pembroke.
- Debbie submitted our last payroll remittance to Canada Revenue on June 10, 2022 and indicated that there will be no more employees until March of 2023.
- SBCNA Bingo:
  - Karen and Rene will volunteer on June 19, 2022.
  - Barb and Debbie will volunteer on July 17, 2022.
  - We will receive our regular contribution from SBCNA Bingo on June 20, 2022.

#### **4. Directors' Reports**

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

- Update on planting grants with Watersheds Canada:
  - We are waiting for an electric switch for watering cattle on one property. The watering system on the other property is up and running.
  - Karen and Rene went out to check the plants we planted last fall: 75-90 per cent of the plants are doing well at all three properties.

##### **Science Committee – Dave**

- Cobden Beach:
  - We need to book a date to discuss the weed mats and birds. Rene will talk about that later.
- Loon survey:
  - Anna-Maria mentioned her daughter may not be able to do the survey. Dave said we will need volunteers for Muskrat Lake and Mink Lake. Dave explained we don't have to count loons on the whole lake, we can do a sample area. Dave will speak with Anna-Maria later about this and she will try to do it.
- Loon Nesting:
  - We hope to build loon platforms this year. Dave will talk with Olmstead Home Hardware in Cobden to see if they can help us with materials.

##### **Communications & Media - Dave**

- Article posted:
  - Dave has not posted it yet but will do so soon.
- Watershed Day (stewardship):
  - Dave suggested we hold a Watershed Day on a Saturday at the same time as our AGM. We could bring in a big name attraction to encourage attendance. Mike said the Library Board is doing this at the fairgrounds. Karen said it's a

good idea but it's too late to organize it for this August. Debbie suggested we wait and see how the Library Board event works out.

- Recruiting Volunteers:
  - Karen suggested we go around the lake and get volunteers. She suggested giving out small plants to people to encourage them to join. Jeff suggested we could give out free plants from a central location, without going around the lake.
  - We could send out a letter to the landowners on whose properties we completed projects, thanking them and asking them to support us. Handwritten notes might be nice.
  - We have a list of names and addresses of all the people around the lake. We could have "Mussie" ask people for support.
  - Anna-Maria mentioned that many people near her cottage want to help and want to know specifically what we need them for. We need to clearly define the project and then ask for help. People want to make a short-term commitment. For example, we could ask for volunteers to build loon boxes. We could do it in the park. We could buy the supplies and pick the day. Anna-Maria could get quotes on supplies. We could do this project in the fall so the loon boxes would be ready for spring. Debbie suggested gathering materials over the summer and getting student volunteers in the fall.
  - Rene made a motion to draft a letter to send to lake residents and to allocate \$400 for loon box supplies. Debbie seconded. Karen' and Rene's daughter, Kristy, will write the letter. Anna-Maria suggested sending an informational brochure along with the letter. Karen will ask Carmen at WWR about mailing addresses.

#### **Fundraising Committee - Karen**

- No update. Karen is still looking for a fund-matching grant for a smaller project, such something at the berm.

#### **5. Old Business**

- Nextdoor (social media platform):
  - The council decided not to use this platform but to continue with Facebook.
- Cobden Beach:
  - Beach Sign: - Anna-Maria put together a rough draft. She sent it to Krueger Signs in Cobden and got some feedback. She needs to send them the pdf of the image. Anna-Maria knows of a graphic designer in Ottawa who charges \$75/ hour. She will send him the information and get a quote. Rene moved that we approve \$300 to make the sign. Debbie seconded the motion. Anna-Maria will let us know the price quote.

- Beach Billboard- Dave will get a price for the billboard map of the lake. Rene will donate labour. Rene will get a quote. ???
- Beach mats: Rene said we need six mats in all. We have three so we will need to purchase one more kit of three mats. Rene will order them and Dave can pick them up or else they can be mailed. Debbie, Rene, Dave and Jeff will install them sometime between June 27-30 at 9:00 a.m.
- Aeration System: Rene said only one pump is now working. **We will contact WeedsBGone for parts. We need to buy two kits at \$390 each. This price includes taxes and shipping but Dave could also pick them up.** Dave moved that we (**approve \$ ??? how much?**) to buy the kits. Jeff seconded the motion. Dave asked if we could we put the aerators on a timer to make them last longer. Rene said starting and stopping them would put more strain on the system than just leaving them on. Since we are no longer buying enzymes at a cost of \$4000/ year, the pumps need to be left running.
- Zeolite: Rene would like to dispose of the zeolite. He feels it didn't work so we shouldn't spend any more time on it. Dave would like to see it put into ditches. Rene and Dave will talk more about this when they meet to put in the weed mats.

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

- Program Plans /Committees - Karen:
  - When we come up with an idea such as billboards etc. we need to put together a committee to do it. Rene and Dave have agreed to work on billboards. Anna-Maria and Dave will cork on loon boxes.
- Cows in Pumphouse Lake - Debbie:
  - A landowner has put a herd of cattle near the lake, which could cause water pollution from cow dung leaching into the lake. Rene said there is no legal recourse. Rene may go out and meet with the landowner. Perhaps if we had a grant we could offer him funding for fencing and a cattle watering system?
- Flooding on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake - Debbie:
  - Two beaver dams were taken down on the property of the residents who have applied to build a new campground. This caused the water level in the lake to rise by 22 inches. Landowners on the lake are irate. Although water levels are now going down, many people wanted to get on the lake association's mailing list because of this. John Yakabuski even knows about it. WWR offered sandbags.

## **7. Next Meeting**

July 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

**NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING IN PERSON AT THE WHITEWATER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 44 MAIN STREET, COBDEN**

**AND**

**ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS**

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

**+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)**

**8.** Adjournment: 8:50 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](mailto: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 - June 2022	
<b>Meeting May 19th, 2022 - Scotia Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 37,512.06</b>	<b>Business Chequing Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
2022 Membership donation	\$ 19.12	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (9.00)
2022 - Whitewater Region Contribution	\$ 5,500.00	Promotional Material Printing	\$ (79.10)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,519.12</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (88.10)</b>
<b>Current Amount in Scotia Account</b>	<b>\$ 42,943.08</b>		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
<b>Meeting May 19th, 2022 - BMO Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,379.35</b>	<b>SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>	-	<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Current Amount in BMO Account</b>	<b>\$ 9,379.35</b>		