



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

Thursday, September 16, 2021 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Monik Robichaud

Regrets: David Thomassin, Rene Coulas, Anna Marie Blum, Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop

Council Representative Present: Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

Council Representative Regrets: Claus Trost, Township of Laurentian Valley Township

2. Adoption of Agenda

Gerry approved the agenda, Jeff seconded it.

Approval of minutes from July 15, 2021 meeting:

Debbie approved the minutes, Jeff seconded.

Before proceeding with the formal agenda, Monik Robichaud introduced herself. She has been a cottager on the north side of Muskrat Lake for one and a half years. She loves the lake but is very concerned about the blue-green algae situation. When a cottage neighbour told her about the MWC she decided to attend a meeting to find out what MWC is doing about it. Karen told her about some of the MWC initiatives designed to keep nutrients out of the lake, such as planting

45,000 trees along the shoreline over three years and installing agricultural fencing to keep farm animals away from the water.

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

- See attached document.
- Debbie has fixed an auto login problem for PayPal.
- SBCNA Bingo: As of November 1, 2021, they will be looking for volunteers. Only one fully-vaccinated volunteer at a time will be permitted. Debbie volunteered for November.
- Debbie completed an awareness report for Canada Summer Jobs, which includes the final claim survey and activity report.
- Debbie is now working on the Canada Revenue charity tax report. She needs to remove the names of MWC Directors who have left and put in the date they left. Karen will send her the dates.

4. **Director's Reports:**

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen

- Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF): We need to send in a procurement report by September 30. We also need to pick a date for planting the 3,000 to 5,000 plants. Karen will contact Maureen at Ferguson Forestry. October 23 and 30 were suggested as possible planting dates. For volunteers, perhaps Dave could contact the person on the Petawawa base who wanted to help? Perhaps we could also get a school or another group to help with the planting? For the animal fencing and alternative watering system, Karen will contact the landowner soon.
- Watersheds Canada: A meeting was held with Chloe Lajoie, Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge Program Manager, to look at seven properties on Lake Dore for possible shoreline rehabilitation. The properties are all interconnected and cover up to 2,000 feet of shoreline on the side of the lake that gets a lot of wave action. We are hoping to plant something natural if we can get a grant. Watersheds Canada and MWC are looking into this.

Science Committee Update – Karen (for Dave)

- Cobden Beach:
 - Water Quality - no update
 - Pump: The pump needs to have the compressor shut down. Rene will contact Andy Laird to get this done.
 - Mats: Saturday, September 18 at 8:30 a.m. was the time picked to remove the beach mats. Karen, Dave, Debbie, Jeff and Rene volunteered to help.
- Lake Dore Presentation: On August 28, Dave and Karen made a presentation at the Lake Dore Property Owners' Association's annual general meeting, which was held outside. There was a fairly good turnout. There is a weed problem in the lake - a floating island of cattails. Not much can be done about that. The association had 98 members before covid, now they have 55. Their activities included a paddle/cycling/hike or run triathlon and a garbage pick up for Mother's Day.

- Water Testing Kit: The kit was shipped out September 15 or 16 and should arrive by September 20.

Communications & Media – Karen (for Dave)

- Your TV: no update
- Lake Stories: no update
- We did a September blog story on leeches.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- No update, we are still looking for grants.

5. Old Business

- Watersheds Canada/Algonquin College shoreline restoration, Muskrat Lake: Barb. While kayaking recently, Barb met a couple of Muskrat Lake cottagers whose property had been selected for shoreline restoration last year. They were not pleased with the procedure or the outcome. They said the Algonquin College students came to plant when they were not there. Most of the plants died and the lady has now planted other plants in their place. This experience left them feeling the project was a waste of time and money and they are now reluctant to participate in MWC. Karen explained MWC's only role was in identifying the properties. Nevertheless, one wonders if some sort of follow up might be in order?
- Beach Signs: Karen (for Dave) Dave needs to find the price of the signs, he couldn't remember if MWC said to go ahead with buying them. Jeff suggested we should check with the Township of Whitewater Region (TWR) . Karen said the signs have to be similar to the way TWR does theirs. Karen will ask Dave to look at a template and contact Jordan at TWR.
- Boat Launch Fees - no update

6. Other/New Business

- Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS)- Barb spoke about an article called A Blooming Question in the Queen's Alumni Review about the QUBS's role in studying blue-green algae. She wondered if we might be able to collaborate with QUBS in the future?
<https://www.queensu.ca/gazette/alumnireview/stories/blooming-question>

7. Next Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

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8. Adjournment: 7:35 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 - September 2021	
Meeting July 15, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 31,246.73	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Scotia Service Charge	\$ (8.00)
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	Summer Student Salary	\$ (675.41)
Miscellaneous PayPal Payment -Membership Payment	\$ 19.12	E-transfer Service Charge	\$ (1.00)
PayPal purchase error reimbursement	\$ 26.45	PayPal Purchase error	\$ (26.45)
Total Income	\$83.81	Total Expenses	\$ (710.86)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 30,619.68		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting July 15, 2021 - BMO Account Balance	\$ 5,680.77	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income	-	Expenses	
August 2021 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 362.69		
Total Income	\$ 362.69	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 6,043.46		