



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)
Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 21, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

In person: Basement of the Whitewater Township Building, 44 Main Street, Cobden ON
Online through Google Meet

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

1. Welcome and Call to Order

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

2. Introductions and Record of Attendance

Attendance:

Present: Rick Adamson, Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Yuanbo Gan, Barbara Green, Debbie MacDonald, Evelyn St. Amour, Greg Stasyna, Sherry Stasyna, Dave Thomassin, Claus Trost, Amanda Walt

Algonquin College Students: Keshav, Julie-Anne, Cameron

Regrets: Anna-Maria Blum, Jeff Reeves, Gerry Rook, Andy Laird, Michael Walt

Council Representative Present:

Connie Tabbert, Township of Whitewater Region

Council Representative Regrets:

Chris Olmstead, Township of Whitewater Region

3. Meeting Rules - Karen

4. Meeting roles discussion - Karen

Note taker: Amanda

Timekeeper: Debbie

5. **Adoption of Agenda**

Claus approved the agenda, Dave seconded it.

6. **Approval of minutes from January 18, 2024 meeting:**

Rene approved the minutes, Debbie seconded.

7. **Special Presentation - Algonquin College students**

Algonquin College environmental technology students, Keshav, Julie-Anne and Cameron made a presentation called *Understanding Water Quality parameters for the Muskrat Watershed*. The presentation was part of a project for a Land and Stewardship class.

The students spoke about how to use field equipment for collecting samples and how to analyze the data collected. Equipment used included the Hach and Horiba testing kits as well as handheld chlorinators. The students discussed the different things they measured in their sampling and how each is important to wildlife.

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

See attached treasurer's report

SBCNA Bingo

Our next Bingo volunteer date is Dec. 1, 2024 from 3:30 to 5:30. Claus volunteered to attend with Debbie. The volunteer schedule is not available yet for the end of the year.

Reimbursements

- Debbie will reimburse Greg and Rick for gas used for their boats during the fish bundles project.
- Karen will reimburse four Algonquin College students \$40 for the cost of four drone licenses needed to conduct drone flights over the Coulas farm and the Whitewater Township landfill to look for data that could be provided using remote sensing of the two properties.

9. **Directors' Reports**

Agricultural Committee -Karen

No report

Science Committee – Dave

Algonquin student presentations:

MWC members are invited to attend presentations by Dave's Algonquin College environmental technology students. Presentations will take place on December 13, 2024, from 9:30 to 12:00 in room 200, Algonquin College, and will cover these five projects:

1. Mink Lake Fish Habitat Enhancement: Students placed fish bundles in Mink Lake to improve aquatic habitats. They engaged volunteers, conducted lake profiling, and identified improvement areas for lake health. Deliverables included a training session, habitat protocol, and stakeholder collaboration.
2. Vertical Garden Installation: Students established a herb garden at the Pembroke Campus, selecting the location, designing planting plans, and promoting sustainable practices to staff and students. This project emphasized community involvement and on-campus sustainability.
3. Campus Weather Station: Students installed and operationalized a weather station. They selected a secure location, created proposals, and developed a stewardship activity for a local school, fostering environmental awareness.
4. Agricultural Remote Sensing: This project involved drone imagery analysis for BMP recommendations on a farm and the Whitewater Township Landfill. Students used Pix4D software, validated data through ground truthing, and performed tests with specialized equipment.
5. Biodiversity Study and Invasive Species Mapping: Students surveyed biodiversity across selected plots, mapped invasive species using Avenza, and created protocols for monitoring eco-regions, promoting informed ecological management.

Algonquin Updates

Algonquin College is cutting back on some courses. The Level 1 Environmental Management and Assessment course and the Water and Waste Water Management Course have been cancelled due to low registration. Level 1 environmental technician students will be the last group for the fall and winter semesters. Dave's fall class will move to a summer class.

Water Testing 2025

This will take place from May to October. We will revise where we will be testing, and hope to focus more on creeks and catchment areas than lakes.

Cobden Marsh

The Ministry of Transportation's road work will be finished in 2025. By 2026 MWC should be able to find a project in the Cobden Marsh and apply for a grant.

Summer Students

MWC will not be able to take on summer students this year. There is not enough time to plan this as we don't have a specific project in mind and also this year we have no one available to supervise students.

Communications & Media - Amanda

No update

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

No update

10. Old Business

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) Fall Seminar Update - Barb and Yuanbo

Barb and Yuanbo attended this virtual seminar on Saturday November 9, 2024. The theme was Healthy Shorelines and attendees heard presentations from FOCA and guest speakers on a variety of related topics. A summary of the seminar prepared by FOCA is attached to the e-mail with these minutes. Please have a look through this information and let Karen know if it inspires any possible projects for MWC.

11. Other/New Business

Member Drive - Karen

We need to increase MWC membership. Karen suggested possibly involving high school volunteers to deliver flyers about MWC. Please bring any other ideas of how we can increase membership to our January meeting for further discussion.

Education Plan - Karen

We need to think of some small educational projects we can do in elementary and high schools. Dave mentioned Megan Rae had put together some ideas. As an elementary teacher, Erin Dolan might also be able to help. These educational projects would be useful to make MWC's name and mission better known in the community.

12. Next Meeting

Please note there will be no MWC meeting in December. Our next meeting will be on

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

In person: Basement of the Whitewater Township Building, 44 Main Street, Cobden

Online: Through Google Meet

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13. Adjournment: 7:52 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 - Nov 2024	
Meeting Oct 17th, 2024 - Scotia Account Balance		\$ 53,403.22	Business Chequing Account	
Income			Expenses	
2024 Membership	\$ 20.00		Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (8.00)
2024 Stripe Membership	\$ 19.12		Scotia e-transfer Fee	\$ (1.00)
			Cash Reimbursement-Pontoon use to close Cobden Beach	\$ (100.00)
			Fall FOCA MTG-Reimbursement-B. Green & Yaunbo Gan	\$ (90.40)
Total Income	\$39.12	Total Expenses	\$ (199.40)	
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 53,242.94			
New Float \$150				
Meeting Sept 26th, 2024 - BMO Account Balance		\$ 14,981.43	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income		-	Expenses	
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit - OCT deposit	\$ 882.20			
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit - NOV deposit	\$ 759.72			
Total Income	\$ 1,641.92	Total Expenses	\$ -	
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 16,623.35			