



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

March 18, 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 6:30 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, David Thomassin, Jeff Reeves, Megan Rae, Barbara Green, Anna Marie Blum

Regrets:

Erin Dolan, Andy Laird, Gerry Rook, Thomas Watt, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Vince Gervais, Karl Lauten, Marie Janick Robitaille, 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

Dave Thomassin proposed changes to the Science Committee part of the agenda, removing the Update on Agricultural Runoff Survey with the Township

of Whitewater Region and adding updates on Zeolite and on the Township Grant Application. The motion to approve the amended agenda was moved by Dave and seconded by Rene.

Approval of previous minutes:

Since the minutes from the February 18, 2021 meeting were sent out late we will wait until our next meeting to approve them.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

- See attached document.
- Debbie noted we received a \$1,000 donation from someone on Jeffreys Lake. We will send the donor a certificate to recognize this large donation.
- Debbie asked to be reimbursed \$94 for the WIX mailbox she renewed. We will not renew the WIX mailbox next year as we will change to a cheaper google account. Dave moved to refund her, Rene seconded.
- Debbie noted the SBCNA bingo program will not resume with volunteers until at least November, depending on the covid vaccine rollout.
- Dave does not need MWC reimbursement of \$63.94 for containers for water testing he purchased, as he was able to sell them.

4. **Director's Reports:**

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- Karen noted the final version of the Great Lakes Action Fund grant application was sent for signing today. We should receive our first instalment soon. We are obligated to provide three stream bank rehabilitations and one farm fencing/cattle watering system. We must also provide workshops and educational opportunities, stewardship and site assessments. The first step is to set up a steering committee. Rene volunteered to chair it. Karen Coulas, Gerry Rook, Jeff Reeves and Debbie Macdonald agreed to be committee members. Dave proposed a motion to accept the committee as proposed, Jeff seconded.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Canada Summer Jobs: We need to decide whether to go with Algonquin College or with the Township of Whitewater Region. The township can pay 59¢/km mileage for our student or MWC could cover mileage. The township

would like to participate in job posting and interviews. Dave and Megan are both leaning towards choosing the township. Dave suggests Karen and Dave be on the interview committee. If we get the funding it would be in April. Megan mentioned Canada Summer Jobs is only an eight-week program. Eco Action has a longer program. Karen will look into Eco Action.

- Zeolite: As an experiment to test the effectiveness of Zeolite to remove phosphorus from farm runoff, Dave, Rene and Karen have installed Zeolite on streams in two locations on Rene and Karen's property. In one location they used bags of Zeolite to build a wall for water to flow over. In the other, the bags were placed on the bottom of the stream bed. Rene will also fill barrels with different sizes of Zeolite and install them. The Zeolite will later be removed and tested for phosphorus content. The idea is to remove the Zeolite after the experiment and put it on the fields so the phosphorus will enrich the fields. We may need more bags for the Zeolite but we will wait for now before ordering more. Megan will meet with Rene over the weekend to take photos of the Zeolite project to post on our website and Facebook page.
- Jeffreys Lake: Dave emailed Melissa Dakers of Watersheds Canada who asked him to write a sentence describing the MWC's work, which he did.
- Canada Healthy Communities Initiative: MWC will work with the township, Civitan and Whitewater Cycling to improve the shorelines, fix the berm and build a 1,735-metre-long loop and a safe cycling connection to avoid Highway 17. The project will include benches, bike racks and picnic day structures. Mayor Moore said some crushed stone was added to the berm but it washed out so we will have to get the berm fixed. Everything MWC asked for from the township has been addressed. Some MWC members will be asked to be on a steering committee if the project is authorized. The steering committee will meet during daytime hours. Debbie requested the name of the other partners who are working on fish habitat. Dave will look for this information.
- Algonquin College Project Support (sampling, Lake Dore, Muskrat Lake profile and intern): Dave emailed the lakes association. Mike Gulliver will represent Lake Dore and will provide a boat. We are currently talking with Alexa Mantifel from Algonquin College. They will meet with us if MWC approves. Mike and Alexa will work out their schedules between them. Rene moved that we go ahead with this, Debbie seconded.
- Cobden Beach for Summer 2021: Concerning the problem of birds roosting on the roof of the wastewater treatment plant and soiling the beach, Dave reached out to Lane Cleroux, Public Works Manager at the Township of Whitewater Region, who will look at our recommendations for implementation.

- Stewardship Project for Summer 2021: Loon boxes: Dave can't find anyone to donate materials to build them. It's hard to get lumber at the moment. Rene suggested Dave provide a list of needed materials, which he did.

Communications & Media – Megan Rae

- No updates this month.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen Coulas

- We have been offered a possible small donation - the donor is deciding between the MWC and two other groups. Karen told the donor the amount of the proposed donation would be enough to buy 600 trees or plants.

5. Old Business – Updates

- Billboards: Dave suggests instead of billboards, we could extend our current three-year permit to put up signs at the beach and put up a sign with scannable QR codes on it: one code to link to information about the MWC and one to link to our donation page. Dave will contact Sun Signs to ask about making these. Mike will ask Ivan at WWT about extending our three-year signage permit.
- Great Lakes Action Fund: see Agricultural Committee Update above
- Love Your Lake Microgrant Program: Karen applied for the LYL Microgrant Program but the LYL computer program crashed. She will reapply tomorrow.

6. Other/New Business

- The MWC team introduced themselves and welcomed new volunteer, Anna Maria Blum, a cottager who grew up on Muskrat Lake and who is anxious to help out.
- Volunteer of the Year 2021 is Debbie Macdonald. Megan will do a write-up for the website. Barb will interview Debbie and write an article for the August newsletter.
- Mike mentioned the Growing Canada's Forest Program. Karen will look into whether the MWC qualifies to apply.

7. Next Meeting: April 15, 2021

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

8. Adjournment: 7:43p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by:

Barbara Green, Interim Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL		TREASURER'S REPORT - March 2021	
Meeting Feb 18, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 27,183.70	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
PayPal - Donation	\$1,000.00	Service charge (Monthly fee & statement prep)	\$ (8.00)
PayPal - Membership	\$ 40.00	Cheque # 129 - Whitewater Region-Storm Water Assessment Project	\$ (508.00)
CRA - Good & Services/Harmonized Sales Tax Rebate	\$807.48		
Total Income	\$1,847.48	Total Expenses	\$ (508.00)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 28,523.18		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting Feb. 18, - BMO Account Balance	\$ 5,163.56	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income		Expenses	
Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 5,163.56		