



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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 20, 2025, 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: Anna Maria Blum, Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Yuanbo Gan, Barbara Green, Debbie MacDonald, Gerry Rook, Evelyn St. Amour, Greg Stasyna, Dave Thomassin, Claus Trost, Amanda Walt

Regrets: Rick Adamson, Andy Laird, Jeff Reeves, Michael Walt

Council Representative Present:

Connie Tabbert, Township of Whitewater Region

Council Representative Regrets:

Chris Olmstead, Township of Whitewater Region

3. Meeting Rules - Karen

Karen reminded everyone to respect the agenda and to keep side conversations to a minimum so people attending online can hear the discussion.

4. Meeting roles - Karen

Note taker: Amanda

Timekeeper: Debbie

5. Adoption of Agenda

Claus approved the agenda, Debbie seconded it.

6. Approval of minutes from November 21, 2024 meeting:

Rene approved the minutes, Claus seconded.

7. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

See attached treasurer's report.

Payment for advertising on MWC's sign at Cobden beach

MWC will need to invoice advertisers for their ads on our beach sign once the ads have been put up. When snow conditions permit, Claus will put up the ads we have so far. The rest will go up in May.

SBCNA Bingo

Our next volunteer dates and volunteers are as follows. All volunteer times are on Sundays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

February 23, 2025 Debbie and Claus

March 23, 2025 Debbie and Laurie Patterson.

The schedule for April and later isn't out yet.

Ordering shirts

Debbie hasn't yet ordered new MWC shirts. Estimated cost is \$447.48 The new shirts will have white writing on a royal blue background which will be more visible than the black writing we had before.

Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA) AGM and Spring Seminar

Debbie will attend this March 1 seminar on behalf of MWC. She will forward the meeting summary to us later.

Pembroke Community Expo at Pembroke Memorial Centre

Debbie and Barb will represent MWC with a booth at this event on May 9 and 10, 2025, if the organizers can offer us a spot on the ground floor. Last year it was difficult getting our display up to the second level spot we were assigned since there is no service elevator.

8. Directors' Reports

Agricultural Committee - Karen

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop Update - Karen

We are looking for farmers interested in attending this two-day workshop on preparing environmental farm plans which MWC is organizing in collaboration with Soil and Crop and the Renfrew County Stewardship Council. The workshop will be held on Saturday, March 1 and Saturday, March 8, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. at the Barr Line Community Centre for Admaston Bromley. The workshop will also be mentioned at the annual farmers' breakfast in February. MWC will put out a blog post about the workshop and will donate money to cover part of the lunch.

Science Committee – Karen

Algonquin College student volunteers - Karen

MWC received an email from Algonquin College asking if we have any opportunities for Algonquin environmental technician students to offer their

volunteer time on any of our upcoming projects, work days or committees. This could be for an hour or two on a single day or for a regular commitment. Opportunities could be for current or future projects and could include field days, planting days, committees etc. MWC will contact Algonquin College to invite the students to attend our monthly meetings.

Communications & Media - Amanda

List for the parking lot:

Environmental Farm Plan Workshop - Amanda

Amanda will make a blog post to advertise this workshop.

Network upgrade for meeting hall - Amanda

Connie will send Amanda the name of the person to contact at Whitewater Township to discuss upgrading this.

Cobden P. S. - Karen

Former MWC secretary and Cobden P. S. teacher, Erin Dolan, contacted MWC to see if we could partner with her school. Her grade 7 class and a JK/SK class have partnered with the school board and the Indigenous community to build a reconciliation garden at the school. It will be a space where students can garden and reflect on indigenous principles, such as the medicine wheel and reconciliation. They would like to include native plant species and have asked MWC if we could make a presentation for students on this topic. They would also be open to partnering with MWC on other projects, such as a waterfront cleanup. Dave said a shoreline cleanup might involve liability issues. Erin will look into this to see if the school is covered. Dave has slides from Watersheds Canada that might be useful to prepare a presentation for the students. Debbie and Evelyn made a similar presentation to students at the school in the past. Karen will email Erin to discuss possibilities.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

No report

9. Old Business - Karen

Grant Connect - Karen

Our Grant Connect subscription will run out soon. Grant Connect is grant management software designed to help not-for-profit organizations apply for and manage grants. The annual cost is \$600-\$700 a year. This was useful when we had a paid employee to research grants and oversee grant applications. But now we don't, so we have decided not to renew our subscription.

10. Other/New Business - Karen

Membership Drive 2025 -Karen

We had a long, detailed discussion about how to increase membership in MWC. Is it better to advertise through emails and social media? Should we pay for Facebook ads targeted to certain groups? Should we canvass door-to-door? If so, should we focus on certain areas? Should we collect emails of new members at MWC booths at community events? Should we charge for memberships or make

them free? Should we offer a reward for joining, such as a three-month subscription to Cottage Life magazine, an offer made to Round Lake Association members, where Karen and Rene have a cottage? In the end, we decided to look into hiring a marketing consultant to make our efforts more effective. Anna-Maria knows some marketers and will get quotes for what this might cost.

Next Meeting

Thursday, March 20, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Please note: Barbara Green will be away in March and April. Debbie and Amanda will fill in to send agendas, take notes and and circulate meeting minutes.

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11. Adjournment: 8:10 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 2025!
COST IS \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP
IT'S EASY TO RENEW - JUST SEND AN E-TRANSFER TO:
treasurer@muskratwatershedcouncil.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 - Feb 2025	
Meeting Jan 16 , 2025 - Scotia Account Balance		\$ 53,264.94	Business Chequing Account	
Income			Expenses	
2025-Memberships	\$	40.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (9.00)
PayPal Grant	\$	200.00	Beach Sign Advertizing - C. Trost	\$ (169.50)
Total Income		\$240.00	Total Expenses	\$ (178.50)
Current Amount in Scotia Account		\$ 53,326.44		
New Float \$150				
Meeting Jan 16 , 2025 - BMO Account Balance		\$ 17,586.47	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income			Expenses	
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit - Jan 2025	\$	1,008.37		
SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit - Feb 2025	\$	971.02		
Total Income		\$ 1,979.39	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account		\$ 19,565.86		