

Muskrat Watershed Council



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

February 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 6:30PM.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Erin Dolan, Barbara Green, Debbie MacDonald, David Thomassin, Jeff Reeves, Megan Rae, Gerry Rook

Regrets: Andy Laird, Evelyn St. Amour, Vince Gervais, Karl Lauten, Marie Janick Robitaille, Andrea Bishop, Steve Saunders

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

Council Representative Present: Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region, Ivan Burton, Township of Whitewater Region

2. Adoption of Agenda

Rene approved the agenda, Jeff seconded it.

Approval of previous minutes:

Jeff approved the minutes first, Rene seconded them.

3. Treasurer's Report

- See attached document

- SBCNA Bingo may look at creating a volunteer schedule starting in April. We will get an update when they have one. The lockdown caused the SBCNA bingo program to be temporarily closed. We continue to thank them for their support of our charity.

4. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- Update: Stormwater Ag Project – Ivan Burton. As part of the 2019 township budget \$5000 was allocated to Stormwater management. OMAFRA came out with some funding in January of 2020. In the fall, we received confirmation that we received the funding. The project cost is \$70 000. The total cost is divided by the province, the township, and the watershed council. In December, the township put out a request for proposals. Numerous companies picked it up, but only one submitted a proposal. Hutchinson Environmental Services out of Bracebridge. They also have JP2G consultants locally as part of the project. Project cost is on budget and the contract was awarded to Hutchinson Environmental Services. Today, they had a start up meeting with Hutchinson, JP2G, and Karen. They are looking to be done by November 2021. The outcome of the project will be to develop a watershed action plan to reduce phosphorus loading via the Cobden Marsh and the Snake River PSW. This will give the township a good idea of what a bigger action plan would entail. There will be discussions with property owners, open house meetings, etc. There will be an assessment phase, a planning phase (they will establish best practices and mitigation measures) and develop an action plan. Since the MWC is a partner in the project, we will have plenty of time to consult and give ideas. This will occur in April, August, and September.
- We owe Whitewater Region \$500 for the project. Dave motioned to approve and Barb seconded paying them.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Canada Summer Jobs: Karen sent in an application for one person. Typically, we would receive the funding, however, this time we are not partnering with the applied research branch of the college. As a council, we probably do not have enough work for them for the entire summer. There are a few options of what we could do. Dave spoke to the Township and the environmental technician program at Algonquin. The college would take them for 1/3 of the time, and would try to support our programming. Another option is that the Township could take the student. They would be working from home, while supervised by Ivan. They will be taking tasks from Karen. We will need to decide which option we would like to proceed with in about a month. We will need to consider how we expect a student to drive to the job site, and if we would pay mileage. We would likely want to apply for a grant to find funding for this purpose.
- Algonquin College Project Support: Information has been forwarded from the faculty of Applied Research to the Environmental Technician program. They have hired a lab technician who is currently working with them. She will be mostly doing the sampling this summer. They are

thinking of having her do a lake profile of Lake Dore. She would need some support, and access to a boat. Karen will email Julie to see about getting the locations for the testing. Rene suggested that we contact the Lake Dore cottage association, and maybe they can help us about finding a boat for the sampling and profiling. We haven't done a lot there in the past, so this may be a good way to connect and branch out our testing.

- Cobden Beach Summer 2021: Dave spoke with several companies about the beach and the birds. One thing that came up is a product called Bird-Proof Gel. It could be placed on top of the water treatment building and deters the birds from landing. It has an odour and is tar like, so birds would not want to step in it. Mayor Mike informed us that the roof needs to be replaced this summer because of the birds. The roof deteriorated too soon, and the birds seem to be the cause. Dave will forward the information to the township. We will re-visit the idea of the buoys at the beach another time.
- Stewardship project Summer 2021: We potentially could get involved in a fish habitat project on Olmstead-Jeffrey's Lake. The project is being run by Watersheds Canada and they are partnering with the O-J Lake association. It would be a one or two day project to create bundles that would be dropped in the lake and create a fish habitat. They are looking for us to work with them as well. It would likely happen in September. Karen will email Watersheds Canada and offer our support.
- Stewardship project Spring 2021: Loon boxes. The E-tech program might have students to volunteer for loon surveys and habitat work. We could either have them do the project, or keep it as a community project, and put it off for another year.
- There was no science meeting this month, due to scheduling conflicts. Dave will send them an email with an update. They will communicate by email this month.

Communications & Media

- Eco-Fair: We had a few people contact us through our website. One was about an Eco Fair happening in Pembroke in the fall (Covid allowing). It will be led by an Environmental group. They hope to have a variety of groups participate. They want to know if we would like to attend, if it ends up running. They are hoping non profit groups will have no fees. As long as we have volunteers, everyone is in support of putting up a booth.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- No update

5. Old Business – Updates

- Lush products: Leftover products were donated to a group called Hijinx in Ottawa. They will be given to less fortunate people to help them out.
- Email from Kathryn Lindsay: The Bonnechere River WP is updating their strategic plan. They would like our thoughts on a few topics for the plan. The topics include major threats to

freshwater and protecting and preserving resources. Ideas voiced were climate change, using and analysing data to assess the situation, and lack of political presence.

- Secretary for MWC: Barb has volunteered to take notes for the foreseeable future. Erin will work with her to get her set up with everything she needs.

6. Other/New Business

- Renfrew Rotary: They contacted Debbie. They now have an environment component to their group. They would like to offer their assistance if we ever need them for shoreline clean up, etc. Megan pointed out that Snake River Line is very dirty in the spring with garbage. If we ever wanted to do a clean up project, it may be a good idea to look towards a road side clean up away from the lake. We will discuss this as spring approaches. It will depend on COVID rules, whether or not we can do anything.

7. Next Meeting: March 18, 2021

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

8. Adjournment: 8:17pm

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____
Erin Dolan, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____
Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL

TREASURER'S REPORT - February 2021

Meeting Jan 21, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance \$ 27,392.70

Business Chequing Account

Income

Expenses

Service charge (Monthly fee & statement prep) \$ (8.00)
 Watersheds Canada - Donation \$ (200.00)
 Scotia e-transfer charge \$ (1.00)

Total Income	<u>\$0.00</u>	Total Expenses		<u>\$ (209.00)</u>
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Current Amount in Scotia Account \$ 27,183.70
 (Note: Float \$250.00)

Jan. 21, 2021 - BMO Account Balance \$ 5,166.06

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

Income

Expenses

Maintenance Fee \$ (2.50)

Total Income	<u>\$ -</u>	Total Expenses		<u>\$ (2.50)</u>
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Current Amount in BMO Account \$ 5,163.56