



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

Thursday, April 21, 2022, 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, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Dave Thomassin, Anna-Maria Blum, Dave Luong, Tara Dobec

Regrets: Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop, Erin Dolan

Council Representative Regrets:

Claus Trost, Township of Laurentian Valley

Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

Presentation about campsites on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake: Tara Dobec

Tara Dobec's family has owned a cottage on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake since the 1950s - they are one of the original cottage families. She is opposed to a new bylaw amendment that would permit a campground to be built on Lot 165 Pinewood Park, the property next to hers. The property consists of about 125 acres, with lake frontage. The bylaw amendment permits up to four campsites, with no limit on the number of campers, trailers or tents on the site. There is no indication of exactly where the campsites will be situated on the property and no

plan in place to supervise compliance with the four-campsite limit. There are already two other campgrounds on the lake, with hundreds of campsites between them. Tara and other Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake cottagers are concerned about the environmental impact that could be caused by day trippers and short term renters on their small lake. They are concerned about increased sewage and garbage, land clearing, traffic on the lake, introduction of invasive species and damage to fish populations. Tara understands MWC's need to be non-partisan but feels MWC is the best organization to provide environmental information to council about these issues. A discussion followed Tara's presentation and several suggestions were made. Dave said the Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake Association is in a better position to provide this information to council than MWC. He suggested the best route forward is for Tara's group to find out if an environmental assessment is required for the campground to be built. Rene suggested finding out how many other cottagers share Tara's view. Debbie (also a cottager on Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake, and a member of the lake association) said she has reached out to the lake association president and will hear back soon. Debbie has sent information out to everyone in the lake association. Karen said the best approach is to speak to the township. Karen can provide advice to Tara about how to do this and can provide connections. Rene suggested having as many cottagers as possible contact township council to add some pressure. This is an election year so that approach could be effective. Karen suggested attending council's online meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Debbie approved the agenda, Dave seconded it.

Approval of minutes from March 17, 2022 meeting:

Jeff approved the minutes, Rene seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

- See attached document.
- Jeff asked whether MWC is required as a registered charity to spend 10% of its income each year. Debbie will look into this and find out.
- SBCNA Bingo: Debbie will volunteer on Sunday April 24 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Only one volunteer is required for that shift. Debbie will send out the May volunteer schedule. Two volunteers are needed for Sunday, May 22 from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Eco Fair: Debbie and Barb will represent MWC at an Eco Fair at the Pembroke Memorial Centre on Friday May 13 from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday May 14 from 10 a.m. to

3 p.m. The Eco Fair poster mentions MWC's involvement. We need to publicize this event on our Facebook page and our website. Rene has the handouts and equipment for setting up the MWC booth. He and Debbie will meet to go over what materials they have and what will be needed for the Eco Fair. Going forward the materials will be stored at Rene and Karen's.

4. **Directors' Reports**

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene

- Agriculture Climate Solutions - Living Labs: Karen attended a session about this federal grant program which is described as follows on their website:
 - *The Living Laboratories Initiative is a new approach to agricultural innovation in Canada, which brings together farmers, scientists, and other collaborators to develop and test innovative practices and technologies. Through a nation-wide network of living labs, the initiative focuses on innovative solutions to environmental issues related to agriculture, such as climate change, soil health, water quality and biodiversity. The goal of the Living Laboratories Initiative is to accelerate the development and adoption of sustainable practices and technologies by Canadian farmers.*

The program will provide \$185 million in grants over 10 years for the sequestration of greenhouse gases. Not-for-profit groups with an agricultural industry association are eligible for funding. MWC doesn't have the manpower to apply on its own but perhaps we could partner with another organization? Karen will talk to Soil and Crop to see if they have a project. Karen will also contact Living Labs to see if there is a project that might work for us or that we could partner on.

Science Committee Update – Dave

- Update on Science Committee Meeting:
 - Dave chaired a Science Committee meeting on Wednesday April 20. Ivan Burton, Manager/Planner/EDO for the Township of Whitewater Region, announced that the Great Lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF) has an extra \$4 million available in grants and has extended the deadline for application. Dave suggested we think of a project for the Cobden March, such as fixing the berm. Although MWC doesn't have the manpower to handle such a project on its own, perhaps we could apply for the grant and partner with the township? MWC also does not have the manpower to write the grant proposal. A discussion ensued about whether we should hire someone to write the grant proposal or perhaps the township could do it if we put our name on it. Jeff asked if Watersheds Canada or the Ottawa

Riverkeeper might have a grant writer that could help us. Barb suggested we might contact a Muskrat Lake cottager and MWC member who has grant writing experience.

- Watersheds Canada is still waiting to hear about the money for replanting - if that comes through it will be a pretty big project for us to manage.
- Stewardship:
 - Dave thinks postings on Facebook and on our website about stewardship projects, such as building loon boxes or doing shoreline cleanups, would help build our membership.
 - University Research Project: Dave's Royal Roads University Research Project: Dave's thesis is on remote sensing for blue-green algae. It involves using 3D LiDAR scanning from an airplane to collect various types of data, including about blue-green algae. The planes will fly over the lake several times early in the summer and will make two other flights after we receive the first report of blue-green algae. The plane will also fly over the Snake River to try to identify areas contributing to the blue-green algae problem. Dave's thesis is due in September. He will keep us informed.
 - Hach Water Testing Kit Training: Dave will train one or two people and they can train the others. Karen and Rene are available for training on Saturday morning. Dave Luong, representing the Lake Dore Lake Association, had some questions about how the water testing kit will be used. He volunteered to do water testing on Lake Dore, if needed.
 - Cobden Beach:
 - Buoys: If we put the weed control mats back in we will need to limit our beach area by installing buoys to mark the swimming area. Anna-Maria will contact the township to find out if there are any criteria for the buoys, then she will look into pricing some. She will forward the information to Debbie so the estimated costs for buoys can be included in our budget.
 - Mats: Rene and Andy haven't heard back yet from the company we bought the mats from. They are looking at getting another company. A rough cost estimate for new mats is between \$600 and \$1,000.
 - Aerators: Rene and Dave will test them since the ice is now off the lake. Rene and Andy are looking into the cost of enzymes for the aerators. They estimate this will be about \$4,000.
 - Rideau Valley Conservation Authority: Anna-Maria asked if we have gathered information from this conservation authority. Karen said we have received information from Watersheds Canada but not from conservation authorities.

Anna-Maria will check with the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority communications director to see if they have information we could use.

Communications & Media - Dave

- Updated Distribution List: Dave has updated our email list.
- Three postings - Dave posted three items on social media on these topics:
 - Volunteer of the Year: Karen Coulas: This posting garnered more clicks.
 - Call for Volunteers: One person has signed up so far.
 - Our monthly MWC meeting: This posting did not garner many clicks.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

No update.

5. Old Business

- Sign for Cobden Beach: Ava Kelly (last year's summer student) designed a sign and got us some cost estimates. Dave will look for this information. Karen said we could ask Kruger Designs to make the sign. They are a local company which has donated the MWC.
- We will work on editing the wording and graphics on the sign that Ava wrote.

6. Other/New Business

- Jeff commented that the article in Whitewater News about our GLLAF project was good.
- Debbie shared a poster from FOCA and two one-page posters made by MWC. She will make copies of these for us to hand out.

7. Next Meeting

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

8. Adjournment: 8:35 p.m.

Minutes recorded and submitted by: _____

Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

Approved by: _____

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE RENEWED THEIR MWC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022!

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET DONE SO, IT'S EASY TO RENEW.

COST IS ONLY \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP

JUST SEND AN E-TRANSFER TO:

muskratwatershedcouncil@gmail.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 - April 2022	
Meeting March 17th, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance		\$ 34,990.97	Business Chequing Account
Income			Expenses
2022 Membership donation	\$ 40.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (11.75)
2022 Membership donation	\$ 75.00		
2022 Stripe Membership donations	\$ 95.60		
GLLAF Reimbursement	\$ 1,732.24		
Total Income	\$1,942.84	Total Expenses	\$ (11.75)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 36,922.06		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting March 17th, 2021 - BMO Account Balance		\$ 8,029.20	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account
Income			Expenses
April 2022 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 565.52		
Total Income	\$ 565.52	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 8,594.72		