



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meet

Thursday, May 19, 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, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Dave Thomassin, Rick Adamson, Anna-Marie Blum, Drew Charkavi, Dave Luong

Regrets: Andy Laird, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop, Rene Coulas, Erin Dolan,

Council Representative Present: Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

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

Before the formal meeting began our guests introduced themselves. Rick Adamson lives on Mink Lake. Drew Charkavi grew up in Pembroke and has recently moved back after some time living in Ottawa. He is passionate about water health. The other MWC volunteers introduced themselves to our guests.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Debbie approved the agenda, Jeff seconded it.

Approval of minutes from April, 22, 2022 meeting:

Gerry approved the minutes, Jeff seconded.

3. Treasurer's Report- Debbie

- See attached document.
- SBCNA Bingo: On Sunday, May 22 2022, Laurie Patterson and Debbie Macdonald will represent MWC at the SBCNA Bingo. Our next volunteer date is June 19, 2022, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Two volunteers are needed. Debbie will send out an email asking for volunteers.
- Debbie moved that she be reimbursed \$79.10 for the cost of printing three brochures, which she had paid for herself. Dave approved the motion and all were in favour.
- Debbie will send a framed certificate of appreciation to JP2G for their donation. She will look for the certificate template so we can make more certificates, as needed.

4. Directors' Reports

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen

- Update on planting grants with Watersheds Canada: Karen and Rene met with Watersheds Canada who said they have applied for a grant which is now in the approval stage. If the grant comes through, there may be a possibility for MWC to partner with Watersheds Canada to do more planting in 2023. We have made a budget and will adjust it to suit Watersheds Canada's requirements.
- Even though all local farmers are now busy working in their fields, Karen will make time to visit farms where our recent planting was done, to check on how the plants are doing. Debbie volunteered to accompany her, if needed.

Science Committee – Dave

- Cobden Beach:
 - Aeration system: Rene has turned on the aeration system. The aerator on the left is working, but Karen and Rene couldn't tell if the others might have been knocked out of position. Dave will contact Rene to discuss.
 - Weed mats: Karen moved that we authorize \$800 to buy new weed mats so we can widen the swimming area. The motion was seconded by Dave, then Jeff. A commitment was made to buy the best quality mats for the cheapest price. Jeff asked if the mats can be left in all year. Dave said it depends on Ministry regulations.
- Olmstead Lake Camping:
 - A presentation was made to township about two weeks ago. The property owners wishing to open a campsite will need to have several assessments done before going ahead. These are an archeological assessment, an agricultural impact assessment and an environmental assessment. Water supply and sewer needs will be looked at. Mayor Moore said the item will come back before township council on June 1 or June 22.

- Water Testing:
 - Karen and Rene have been trained to use our new Hach water testing equipment. We will not be able to test 23 sites as we did before so we will decide which sites to test. For example, we could test Lake Dore and the Snake River near Karen and Rene's farm. Karen asked if it is possible to take several samples and test them later, instead of testing them on the sampling site. Dave said samples need to be tested within 24 hours. We could use coolers to preserve samples. We hope to take samples once a month.
- Loon survey:
 - We will do this survey again this year. Debbie will do Olmstead-Jeffrey Lake. We are still looking for volunteers for Muskrat Lake, Mink Lake and Lake Dore. We will put out a request for volunteers on our website. Barb will write a letter asking for volunteers.
- Zeolite:
 - Dave will discuss this project with Rene.
- Love Your Lake:
 - Last year Mike Gulliver (of Lake Dore Property Owners' Association) asked Dave T. to help Lake Dore get registered for this program. Dave Luong (cottager on Lake Dore) sent in the application form but hasn't heard back yet.

Communications & Media - Anna-Maria, Karen, Barb, Dave

- Materials from Rideau Valley Conservation Authority (RVCA) - Anna-Maria:
 - Anna-Maria checked out their manuals, workbooks and posters. We can share the link to these materials on our website free of charge. They have printed versions of these materials for a fee. Anna-Maria will send us a list of the free materials. RVCA also suggested we contact Watersheds Canada. Karen suggested we could also share links to materials published by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations (FOCA).
- Media Changes Needed - Karen:
 - Our website needs to be updated to include our latest project.
- Incorrect information about Cobden Beach - Anna-Maria:
 - When you google Cobden Beach it says it is permanently closed, which is incorrect. The beach is open but there will be no lifeguard this year, as the township couldn't find one. Dave will let Carmen at the township know about the incorrect information.
- Nextdoor (Social Media Platform) - Barb:
 - This social media platform for neighbours already exists in Ottawa, Cobden and other areas across North America. Perhaps we could use it to make local cottagers

and residents aware of our MWC activities? We will check out nextdoor.ca and discuss this at our next meeting.

- New Media Posts - Dave:
 - Dave made two media posts this week. One was a blog Karen wrote, the other was a request for volunteer tree planters to help local property owner, James Cuthill, naturalize his former farm property. James would like to return the fields to trees. Planting will take place Saturday, May 21 and Sunday, May 22.
- Presentation by Karen and Rene:
 - Our MWC co-chairs will go to Barry's Bay on Sunday, May 21 to speak to a lake association that includes five local lakes about how we handle our lake problems.
- New Director of Media:
 - Dave is too busy to handle both Science and Media directorships. New volunteer, Drew Charkavi, volunteered to work with Dave to handle media and update our website.

Fundraising Committee - Debbie, Karen

- Fundraising Calendar -Debbie:
 - Debbie suggested we make and sell a calendar using the photos from the photo contests we held. She will look into the cost of making a calendar.
- Matching grant - Karen:
 - Karen wondered if we could look for matching grants for a small project like planting along the lake or the berm. We could spend \$10-15,000 for a project like this. Dave will take photos near the berm.
- Muskrat Watershed Day - Dave:
 - Dave suggested we could organize a Muskrat Watershed Day with a BBQ and other activities. Karen said this is a good idea but would require a lot of organizing and volunteers. She suggested perhaps we could do something at the Cobden Fair. Karen will contact the fair organizers to find out if this would be possible.
- Boat Launch Fees - Anna-Maria:
 - Anna-Maria's brother-in-law has a free app where people can pay boat launch fees. Many municipalities in Ontario and Quebec charge boat launch fees but to do so you need to hire someone to collect the money and enforce the rules. To avoid red tape, fees could be voluntary and some of the money could go to the MWC. We would need permission from township council to do this. Anna-Maria will speak to her brother-in-law about this and will put together a suggestion to take to council.

5. Old Business

- Beach Sign - Anna-Maria, Dave:
 - Anna-Maria found a nice graphic that explains how aeration systems work. It is credited to Texas Lakes but she hasn't been able to contact them for permission to use the graphic.

She also contacted Weeds B Gone, the company from whom we bought our aeration system, to ask for a graphic but hasn't heard back. The graphic is needed for a sign we would like to install near the beach to say that MWC provided the aeration system and explain how it works. It will include a QR code. Dave will send Anna-Maria a QR generator. Mayor Moore said the township uses Krueger Signs at Astrolabe road and Highway 17 for its signs. They are made of corrugated plastic. Anna-Maria will put together a draft for the sign and send it to us.

- Billboard:
 - There was discussion of making a billboard sign with a map of the lake and names of local businesses who have sponsored the sign around the edge. We could charge businesses for the advertising spots. We would need volunteers to take charge of this project. Karen will speak to Rene about it .
- Birds at Cobden Beach - Dave: no update
- Boat Launch - Dave: no update
- Buoys - Dave:
 - Dave congratulated Anna-Maria on the wonderful research she did on buoys to surround the swimming area at Cobden beach. We need buoys to keep fisherman and their lures out of the swimming area. Anna-Maria's research showed we could buy 10 packs of two buoys = 20 buoys in all for \$487. With the needed centre blocks it would come to about \$500. The white buoys with blue and white float cord meet regulations. We may also get a couple of red buoys to indicate danger. Dave moved that we authorize Anna-Maria to spend \$600 to purchase the buoys. Gerry and Debbie seconded the motion. All were in favour. Anna-Maria will purchase the buoys and Debbie will reimburse her.

6. Other/New Business

- None

7. Next Meeting

June 16, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

+1 587-978-1050 (PIN 460326449)

8. Adjournment: 8:20 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 2022!

COST IS \$20 PER MEMBERSHIP

IT'S EASY TO RENEW - 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 - May 2022	
Meeting April 21st, 2022 - Scotia Account Balance	\$ 36,922.06	Business Chequing Account	
Income		Expenses	
2022 Donation	\$ 500.00	Scotia Monthly Fee	\$ (8.00)
2022 Membership donation	\$ 100.00	Government Tax Payment	\$ (2.00)
Total Income	\$600.00	Total Expenses	\$ (10.00)
Current Amount in Scotia Account	\$ 37,512.06		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
Meeting March 17th, 2022 - BMO Account Balance	\$ 8,594.72	SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account	
Income		Expenses	
May 2022 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 784.63		
Total Income	\$ 784.63	Total Expenses	\$ -
Current Amount in BMO Account	\$ 9,379.35		