

Muskrat Watershed Council



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Online through Google Meets

April 16, 2020, 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 pm

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Erin Dolan, David Thomassin, Megan Rae, Rene Coulas, Barbara Green, Jeff Reeves, Debbie MacDonald, Candice Rollins, Michael Gulliver

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

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

Council Representative Regrets: Dave Mackay, Township of Whitewater Region,

2. Adoption of Agenda

Dave approved the agenda, Jeff seconded it.

Approval of previous minutes:

Rene approved the minutes first, Barb seconded them.

3. Treasurer's Report

- See attached document (Erin will attach from Debbie's email)

4. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen and Rene Coulas

- Some discussion came up about buffers from the public. We have normally been recommending around 100 feet of buffer along the river for agricultural properties.

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Although most physical buildings are closed, most people are still working for home. The one thing that can't be accessed is the permit system. If permits needed to be printed off for different projects, the software is only available in the MNR office.
- We can still do projects, under the essential jobs umbrella, but we need to limit people together etc.
- Cobden Beach: The aerators will go back on soon and the enzymes will be put in. There is still a plan to put up the mats. **Action: Karen will verify with Robert Tremblay that we are allowed to install the mats with the current Covid climate.**
- Cobden Marsh: People are still interested in this project. Instead of holding the Cobden Marsh meeting during the Science meeting, it will be held in May online. Invites will be sent out to the appropriate parties.
- Tree planting: This project is continuing. The involvement by MWC is fairly limited for now. Watersheds Canada is handling the re-planting, and the planning for fall plantings. Watersheds Canada will re-evaluate as we approach the fall.
- Soil project: This will continue again for this season. We are looking for participants for the fall. If we are still social isolating, this can happen, because only one person is going to take the samples. **Action: We will start thinking about this in June.**
- Zeolite: This project will continue as planned. It will roll out in a few weeks. It will be Rene and Dave doing this project. They will be doing most work on Rene's property. **Action: Dave will touch base with Rene next week to figure out a plan.**
- Stewardship project: This will not work at this time. The loon boxes are officially on hold. We can keep thinking about locations for the future. **Action: Megan could potentially put this out on our Facebook page to find interested parties / locations.**
- Water Quality Monitoring Network: Algonquin College and the MECP lab are not open right now. There will be no water monitoring for May and June. They are hoping to start back classes in July, and start testing again. They hired a co-op student that will be working with Megan on the tree planting and the soil testing.

- Whitewater Region: Important to note that council is still meeting, so if we need to chat with them, it's done online through Zoom.

Communications & Media

- Micro cystin tests: We had been planning on starting to test in July. That still stands for now, but will depend on how everything is going with Covid 19. Julie and Megan have sites picked out, and a plan. Megan made a booklet that goes over the background of the project, the procedures they will follow, etc. We had extra interest, so Megan and Julie are considering making a list of information to give people so that they can write down when they see algae blooms, wind direction etc. This will help us build a database of information.

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- Not much update. We had been talking about going around the lake and doing a membership drive, but that is on the backburner for now.
- Karen is going to get Jim to help us with a grant application in August so we can continue with the planting. Watersheds Canada has shared their grant application with us so we can use that as a template. **Action: Megan is going to look into what else we need for the application as well. It is a pretty lengthy process.**

5. Old Business – Updates

- Billboards: Now that the snow is melting, we will go and take some photos of where we'd like to put up the billboards and submit it to the township.
- Planter Recognition: We received the signs for planter to show recognition of water conservation for the properties that participated in the plantings last year. They will be handed out when Watersheds Canada has their canoe plaques ready.

6. Other/New Business

- Ticks: Karen is wondering if we should run a workshop on how to look for ticks on people and dogs. This could be a good way to get cottagers interested in our organization. It is a different sort of topic to get people listening about our organization. Barb suggested that instead of setting up in Cobden, we could perhaps plan something for the other end of the lake. If we had a mobile workshop, we could plan a few small workshops, instead of one big one. People might be more interested and more inclined to go if they know people there.

7. Next Meeting:

May 21, 2020

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALL WITH ENTRANCE AND PARKING THROUGH THE BACK (or online if needed).

8. Adjournment: 7:32PM

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

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

Meeting March 19, 2020 - Scotia Account Balance

\$ 27,452.47

Business Chequing Account

Income

Soil & Crop Contribution

\$500.00

Expenses

Scotia monthly fee

\$ (8.00)

Total Income

\$ 500.00

Total Expenses

\$ (8.00)

Current Amount in Scotia Account

\$ 27,944.47

(Note: Float \$240.60)

March 19th, 2020 - BMO Account Balance

\$ 4,537.99

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

Income

Expenses

Maintenance Fee

\$ (2.00)

Total Income

\$ -

Total Expenses

\$ (2.00)

Current Amount in BMO Account

\$ 4,535.99