



**MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)**

Meeting of the Board of Directors

**Meeting Minutes**

**Online through Google Meet**

**Thursday, October 21, 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 6:35 p.m.

**Attendance:**

**Present:** Karen Coulas, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Jeff Reeves, Barbara Green, Gerry Rook, Anna Marie Blum

**Regrets:** David Thomassin, Andy Laird, Michael Gulliver, Evelyn St. Amour, Andrea Bishop

**Council Representative Present:** Mike Moore, Township of Whitewater Region

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

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Jeff approved the agenda, Debbie seconded it.

**Approval of minutes from July 15, 2021 meeting:**

Rene approved the minutes, Jeff seconded.

**3. Treasurer's Report - Debbie**

- See attached document.
- SBCNA Bingo: Debbie will volunteer on November 28, 2021 from 3:30 - 5:30. No schedule has been announced yet for December. Most volunteers have provided proof

of full covid vaccination. Rene said Andy will volunteer and Rene will collect his proof of vaccination soon.

- Debbie is working on a MWC budget for 2021 and a forecast budget for 2022, which she must submit to SBCNA so we can continue to receive funds through the Bingo fundraising program.

#### 4. **Director's Reports:**

##### **Agricultural Committee Update – Karen & Rene**

- Great lakes Local Action Fund (GLLAF) Update: The watering system at one of the sites is complete. Half the fencing is done and we are hoping to be finished by Nov. 15 at the latest.
- Soil Testing Project: We are hoping to get more farmers involved with this project.
- Tree planting: We are set up to plant on Friday October 29 and Saturday, October 30. We have ordered 4,820 trees **from Ferguson Forestry?** which we will pick up on Thursday October 29. We have received an invoice for \$11,260 which we will pay from our GLLAF account, either by e-transfer or cheque. We have hired a professional tree planter who will plant 3,000 trees. The rest will be planted by volunteers. Karen will send out a mass email on Tuesday October 26 to the volunteers. We will put up a MWC sign at the entry to the property where the planting will take place and we will have someone at the entry to direct volunteers. A busload of volunteers is coming to plant on October 29. Rene said last time we planted we didn't have the survival rate we wanted. This time we are planting the trees sooner after picking them up, which should help. Debbie suggested having small groups of three student volunteers supervised by an adult to ensure trees are planted properly. Having a professional tree planter should also make a difference to the survival rate.
- Privacy Shelter: A privacy shelter/toilet will be set up using a 4 x 7 foot wooden enclosure bought from Canadian Tire. A toilet seat will be installed on top of a crate. Everything will be made of materials that can be sanitized. Waste will go into the ground. We will check with property owners before installing. A one-time cost of \$188 for materials will save money on toilet rental fees in future. The privacy shelter will be stored at Rene and Karen's farm. Debbie moved that we pay \$188 for the privacy shelter materials, Gerry seconded. The motion was passed with all in favour.

##### **Science Committee Update – Karen (for Dave)**

-Cobden Beach: The weed mats were removed last month. They will probably only survive one more season. It would be good if we could leave them in all year round.

**Karen, I have copied Dave's unedited note below. Do you want to include this**

information in the minutes? I think the council should make a decision on whether we want to order new one for the 2023 season or ask the ministry how we could have a variance to leave them in. Silt would eventually cover them making new habitat and we seen evidence that fish to use them for protection, they are able to hide in the cracks and crevices. We did notice a hazard with our mats that could become a problem. Fishing hooks gets snagged on them and it just takes one child to step on those hooks to get caught. Perhaps if the township put buoys to mark a swimming area fisherman's won't cast into the mesh. Perhaps ask township if they would entertain buoys, to some extent it would also slow down the accumulation of surface grass hitting the beach.

(Well to some extent)

- Lake Dore: Through Facebook, Dave received a report of blue-green algae on Lake Dore from a resident. He gathered the information and sent it to the Ministry. They were on site the next day to take samples and it was later confirmed that it was blue-green algae. The water on the lake was abnormally calm on the days leading up to the bloom.
- Zeolite: Unfortunately we weren't able to measure the water quality. Karen, I have edited Dave's note a bit below. Can you please tell me if you think this is what he meant? Dave plans to go out in the next few weeks to take pictures of what the zeolite installation looks like after one summer and to collect a sample from one bag so we can get it analyzed. He plans to get a quote from a lab for the cost of analyzing the sample. At next month's meeting we can vote on whether we want to pay for the lab analysis.
- HACH water testing kit: There is a delay in getting some components of the kit, which is why we haven't received it yet. We may get a discount to compensate us for the delay. We have not yet received an invoice for the kit.
- Loons and Loon Boxes: Dave has submitted our loon count lake report to Birds Canada. He has not had time this year to organize the loon box building project. He suggested waiting for the price of materials to go down. Karen suggested we create a small committee to organize this project for next fall. Rene suggested we approach a teacher at Opeongo HS to see if students could build the boxes in their woodworking shop over the winter. Debbie mentioned students could earn volunteer hours if they did this after school hours. Rene said we won't buy any materials until we find someone to build the boxes.

#### **Communications & Media – Karen (for Dave)**

- Karen's Project: Dave paid for a post boost for three days to spread the word about MWC's work. It generated more than 3,000 interactions - the average post boost sees 80 interactions. An interaction is when people click on the post, share it, leave a message or make a comment. Dave thinks this may be a good way for us to get out information about our activities and to send out recruiting information.

- Your TV: Dave will ask that the news team attend our plantings to form a small story. MyFM was also provided with all the information. Dave hasn't heard back other than that they are interested in supporting us in any way they can. We may need to follow up. Rene said we need a video that is YouTube ready. He contacted Huckabones Equipment who make videos. They are letting us use their equipment free of charge. This is part of the **GLLAF?** grant because we have to do a farm tour either in person or virtually - a virtual tour could go on You Tube and could also be used at Soil and Crop meetings. Jeff suggested an alternative might be to invest about \$500 a year to have a video made.

**Fundraising Committee Update - Karen**

- No update

5. **Old Business**

- None

6. **Other/New Business**

- None

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7. **Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 6:30 p.m.

**NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING ONLINE VIA GOOGLE MEETS**

meet.google.com/ezd-qitc-btk

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8. Adjournment: 7:20 p.m.

**Minutes recorded and submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Barbara Green, Secretary, Muskrat Watershed Council

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Coulas, Chair, Muskrat Watershed Council

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL		TREASURER'S REPORT - October 2021	
<b>Meeting Sept 16, 2021 - Scotia Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 30,619.68</b>	<b>Business Chequing Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenses</b>	
Lake Dore Donation-Water Testing Kit	\$ 200.00	2022-Cade Insurance Renewal	\$ (1,254.96)
2021-Canada Summer Jobs	\$ 1,406.00	Cheq # 130 - GLAF Shovels-Homehardware	\$ (352.29)
Government of Canada-Reassessment of GST/HST Rebate Application	\$ 586.28	Scotia - Service Fee	\$ (8.00)
GLAF-Shovels-Homehardware-Reimbursement	\$ 352.29	2021 - FOCA membership Renewal	\$ (157.00)
2021-Memberships	\$ 40.00	Scotia - Service Fee	\$ (1.00)
		2021-Summer Student-CRA Payroll Remittance	\$ (493.68)
		WX.com website auto renewal	\$ (21.75)
		Scotia - Service Fee	\$ (1.00)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,584.57</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ (2,289.68)</b>
<b>Current Amount in Scotia Account</b>	<b>\$ 30,914.57</b>		
(Note: Float \$250.00)			
<b>Meeting Sept 16, 2021 - BMO Account Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,425.22</b>	<b>SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account</b>	
<b>Income</b>	-	<b>Expenses</b>	
October 2021 - SBCNA Charity Bingo Deposit	\$ 327.50		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 327.50</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Current Amount in BMO Account</b>	<b>\$ 6,752.72</b>		