MUSKOKA WATERSHED COUNCIL
70 Pine Street, Bracebridge, ON P1L 1N3 T: (705) 204-7277
E: info@muskokawatershed.org W: www.muskokawatershed.org

Agenda

Date: **Friday, March 21, 2025**
Time: **1:00 – 3:00 pm**
In-person: **Castle Peak Retirement Residence Multipurpose Room,** Coulson Family Bracebridge Library | 34 Salmon Avenue, Bracebridge
Online: **Zoom**
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82819510087?pwd=MtxYVMQ7YPwXm6ElvwwvdhkRutXECb.1

---

1. **Welcome and Opening Remarks** – *MWC Chair Aaron Rusak (10 min)*
   - 1.1. Land Acknowledgement
   - 1.2. Approval of Minutes

     THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated January 23, 2025 be approved.

     THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated February 21, 2025 be approved.
   - 1.3. Business Arising from the Minutes

2. **Presentation**
   - 2.1. **Anaerobic sediments and internal ferrous iron (Fe2+) loading in shallow near-shore lake waters** – *Rebecca Gasman, PhD Candidate, Physical Geography, Faculty of Environmental & Urban Change, York University (45 min)*

     Rebecca Gasman is currently a PhD candidate in Physical Geography and a recent MA graduate in Human Geography from the Faculty of Environmental and Urban Change at York University. Rebecca's MA research "*A pan-Canadian comparison of cyanobacteria bloom policies, programs, and practices*" compared provincial cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) bloom management strategies across five provinces – Alberta, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Saskatchewan – in Canada.

     Her current research, titled "*Increasing incidences of harmful cyanobacteria blooms in lakes across a trophic range in central Ontario and Subarctic Northwest Territories*", is looking to address critical knowledge gaps that exist in the link between climate change and bloom formation across lake trophic scales and latitude. The research has three specific objectives:

     (1) identify shallow, near-shore areas that are susceptible to reducing conditions at the sediment/water boundary and assess their contributions to internal loading of P and Fe2+;

     (2) identify 'nursery' areas for bloom formation and their morphological and physicochemical characteristics; and

     (3) develop a holistic conceptual model of bloom drivers to guide bloom management.

     This research will, hopefully, improve our capacity for identifying drivers of cyanobacteria blooms and the mechanisms that connect them to bloom formation across lake trophic and latitudinal/climatic gradients.

This research is a necessary step for development of:

(1) models to predict the timing and location of bloom formation;

(2) strategies for issuing water quality advisories to protect local communities; and

(3) appropriate and effective methods of bloom management across lake types, locations, and scales.

3. **MWC Meeting Dates** – *Aaron Rusak (10 min)*

4. **MWC Fundraising Strategy** – *Kyra Watters & Jared Jylha, Well Known Company (15 min)*

5. **Committee Updates** *(5 min each)*
   - 5.1. Membership Committee – *Michael Peppard*
     - 5.1.1. Welcome to new members and brief introductions of those in attendance
   - 5.2. IWM Community Roundtable – *Kevin Trimble*

6. **Partner Updates** *(5 min each)*
   - 6.1. Government Updates – *Open to elected municipal representatives and staff*
   - 6.2. Partner Updates (e.g., Province, Health Unit, Lake Associations, Community Organizations) – *Open to All*

7. **New Business**

8. **Adjournment**

NEXT MWC MEETING: To be announced.