



Minutes

Friday, September 20, 2024

1:00 pm

Training Room (Muskoka Paramedic Station) & Zoom

Present (In-person)

Aaron Rusak (Chair)

Terry Crew

Andrew Fyfe

Don Macintosh

Peter Sale

Nancy Alcock

Lance DeCaire

Neil Hutchinson

David Parsons

Kevin Trimble

John Cooper

Joan Frain

Pete LeMoine

Michael Peppard

Present (Zoom)

Richard Lammers

Cathy Oakden

MWC Staff

Rebecca Willison

Guests

Glenn Cunnington

Sarah Kielek-Caster *

Paul Sowrey

Forrest Pengra * (left @ 2:10 pm)

Jared Jylha *

Cary Grant

Preston Nielsen *

Lauren Saville

John Main * (Left @ 2:10 pm)

* Attended by Zoom

Welcome

MWC Chair Aaron Rusak called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. MWC member Lance DeCaire provided a Land Acknowledgement.

Confirmation of Minutes

MOTION

Moved by Aaron Rusak, seconded by Peter Sale

THAT the Minutes of the Muskoka Watershed Council meeting dated June 21, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

- None.

Presentation

[Seguin Township's Environment and Climate Change Program](#) – Preston Nielsen (*Climate Change Intern*) & Forrest Pengra (*Director of Strategic Initiatives*), Seguin Township

Forrest and Preston provided an overview of four program areas Seguin Township is involved in related to the [environment and climate change](#):

1. **Climate Change Initiatives**, including a [Corporate Climate Action Plan](#), [Community Climate Action Plan](#), and participation in the [Integrated Community Energy and Climate Action Plans](#) (ICECAP), a partnership between several of the Municipalities and First Nations located in the Georgian Bay Biosphere region for the purpose of a collaborative, more cost-effective approach to energy management and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
2. **Waste Management Initiatives** including the completion of a [Solid Waste Management Strategy](#).
3. **Invasive Species Management** undertaken with the Georgian Bay Biosphere and focusses on Phragmites, with the ability to add Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species to the management plan in the future.
4. **Water Quality and Benthic Testing**, including the [2023 Annual Water Quality Report](#) and the [2023 Annual Benthic Monitoring Report](#).

After answering some questions, Aaron thanked Preston and Forrest for their informative presentation.

2024 Muskoka Summit on the Environment – Peter Sale, MSE Chair

Peter Sale, Chair of the Organizing Committee for the 2024 Muskoka Summit on the Environment, gave a presentation highlighting the theme for the upcoming Summit, Resilience, as well as the slate of speakers.

Jared Jylha, from Well Known Company, outlined some of the ways that MWC members can help promote the event and encourage registrations.

Committee Updates

- **IWM Community Roundtable (CRT)** – Kevin Trimble reported that the CRT meeting in September was cancelled as CRT members have been busy supporting the organization of the Summit. CRT members will be reviewing the structure and function of the CRT after the Summit to determine the best way to proceed. The Town of Huntsville and the District of Muskoka are working with MWC to organize the next Municipal IWM meeting, scheduled for November 28th. Two pre-planning meetings have been held so far.
- **Fundraising Committee** – Peter Sale reported that since the Fundraising Committee last met in June, MWC has retained Well Known Company (WKC) to assist MWC with communications and fundraising. So far, WKC has been instrumental in organizing the Summit. A meeting of the Fundraising Committee will be held in mid October.

Partner Updates

- **Township of Lake of Bays** – Councillor Mike Peppard reported that the Township of Lake of Bays and the Town of Huntsville have entered into an agreement to share a climate initiative staff member.

- **District of Muskoka** – The District's new Climate Change Initiatives Coordinator, Lauren Saville, introduced herself to MWC.

New Business

- **Muskoka Official Plan Review** – Kevin Trimble announced that the District of Muskoka will be undertaking an [Official Plan Review](#) over the coming year. Kevin noted that MWC was heavily involved in the last OP Review and would like some volunteers to step forward to form an ad-hoc committee to follow the OP Review process. Public consultations will start in late November. Interested people can reach out to Rebecca at info@muskokawatershed.org.

Next MWC Meeting

MWC's next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 18th from 1-3 pm in the Training Room at Muskoka Paramedic Services, located at 225 Taylor Road in Bracebridge, and on Zoom.

Adjournment

Aaron Rusak adjourned the meeting at 2:45 pm.