

Muskrat Watershed Council



MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL (MWC)

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Whitewater Region Township Building - Downstairs

Parking and entrance at back of building

April 18, 2019, 6:30 P.M.

1. Call to Order and Record of Attendance

The meeting of the Muskrat Watershed Council was called to order at 6:37 pm.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Evelyn St. Amour, Erin Dolan, Andy Laird, David Thomassin, Rene Coulas, Debbie MacDonald, Marie Janick Robitaille, Gerry Rook

Regrets: Barbara Green, Julie Sylvestre, Martin Gaudet, Sarah Hall, Nicholas Prud'homme, Melody Sabourin, Tom Dolan, Andrea Bishop, Megan Rae, Jeff Reeves

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

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda is adopted by Evelyn and seconded by Dave.

3. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes are adopted by Rene and seconded by Gerry.

4. Treasurer's Report

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

5. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Karen Coulas

- Soil Project Update. A meeting occurred to come up with a rough plan and costs. Rene went to the soil and crop and explained the project. They offered a \$500 pledge for the project. The Renfrew Stewardship Council said they may be able to contribute, but that has not been confirmed. Dave got some quotes for the soil samples. The best price he found so far was Guelph A&L. We would have an online account where we can track the information, and then release the information to the farmers. The farmer will pay for the sample, and we will provide the labour. Three farmers that Gerry spoke with already have testing completed, and will share the information with the MWC. We are hoping to get some 4H club members to help with the testing. The project will cost \$5000. \$3000 will be contributed from farmers. Some equipment will be received in kind from donations. Our contribution is for shipping of soil, ziplock bags, buckets, and work gloves. This totals \$1500, so minus the \$500, it will cost the council \$1000. The motion was put forward by Claus, seconded by Andy, and passed.
- Farmer request: We have had a request. A farmer has 4 acres of land on Grants Settlements Road and would like to create a wetland. He'd like to put in four ponds for filtration. He would like our help finding plants, researching options, etc. He is not looking for money, just for guidance. Dave suggests he speaks to Ducks Unlimited, as they specialize in projects like this. We had a discussion about seeking out future partnerships with Ducks Unlimited. It may be a good idea to try and create a partnership for the future. Rene is going to look into ALUS as a future partnership as well. **Action: Dave will contact Ducks Unlimited and Rene will contact ALUS to see if they would like to partner with us for future projects and/or inform us about the types of projects they do.**

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Algonquin College hired a student for the summer. She will be working with the tree planting, the winery project, and the zeolite project.
- Imagine Zeolite. We have received two out of three products. Algonquin College will partner with us and have applied for a grant for equipment. They will perform various tests and experiments with the different products in their labs. Algonquin College

would like us to hold off on our field phase, until the lab work has been done. Imagine Zeolite is applying for a grant to help pay towards a scientist from the University of Northern British Columbia.

- Modified Zeolite. This is a process where we take the zeolite and add different products to it. This is a more expensive project, then just regular zeolite. Algonquin College will use it for some testing as well if we take this route.
- Steel slag has proven difficult to find for a pilot project. It is quite costly. We are going to step away for now, and we could revisit this at another time.
- Berm Repair: Whitewater Region started looking into the project. They are in conversation with the MNR. Township owns the marsh so they have to lead any projects. The best option was determined to restore the berm with some sort of controlled structure. Kirby and Algonquin College has proposed to set up a meeting. JP2G has volunteered to help with the planning if all of the volunteer organizations are involved. It is proposed for June. They would invite the Township and have a meeting as a starting point, to gain input for future projects. The Civitan, Osprey Club, bird clubs, MWC, the College, and Kirby will all be present as well, as they are all involved. **Action: Dave Mackay will talk to council on this topic.**

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- We have a meeting Tuesday April 23rd with the Whitewater Brewery to talk about partnerships. We are approaching them to introduce ourselves further, to talk about ECONSE, and to talk about fundraising aid for our projects. Perhaps, they would like to style a beer or merchandise off the MWC.

Communications & Media

- Website face lift: Megan would like to update the website. Analytics show that most people that visit our site only visit the main page. She'd like to grab their attention and encourage visitor conversion
- Banner ideas: Megan created some new potential banners. One suggestion for the future: we should have more photos of volunteers on the banner. Claus motioned to print the banners and Andy seconded it.
- Spring shoreline clean up contest: We will have a contest to see what are the weirdest thing people find on their shorelines. The public will submit a photo, and council will choose a winner. The winner will get a \$25 gift card to a store of their choice and an assorted collection of Lush products (that were donated by Lush).

- Photo Contest: We will have a photo contest again this summer. We'll have a distinct prize. We should have rules established this time. We should include a disclaimer that all photos can be used for future MWC use. **Action: Dave will send Megan an email and let her know.**
- Fall planting contest: Megan would like to have another 'Guess how many plants there are' contest. This will be decided later in the year with the landowners permission.
- In field phosphorus test kit by Water Rangers: Megan was contacted earlier in the year by Kat Kavanagh (of Water Rangers). They have a new test kit trial for orthophosphates. This test relates to the Muskrat Watershed because Orthophosphates are commonly found in agricultural runoff and effluent from wastewater treatment plants as well as the main food source for blue-green algae. Part of the trial includes taking pictures of your results side by side. They would like to develop a system on phones to give more accurate test results, since eye balling test strips for a certain colour is not always accurate. Megan is going to be one of the individuals' trialing the kit.

6. Old Business – Updates

- Bingo in May is Debbie and Laurie.

7. Other/New Business

- Beach and Park: We have the chemicals for the beach. Weeds be Gone (Joe DiMarco) had the idea of using some mesh that he can provide us, and we would attach pool noodles to create a barrier. We would need to weigh them down with anchors. Joe DiMarco may have another product that we could potentially use as well. We would need special rope. The other product that they have is a mesh you put over the weeds, and is held down by a small sand bag. We'll test it out in a small section and see how it works for us. Weeds be Gone has asked if we would give them a testimonial about the aeration system. We feel that we have not had the system long enough to be able to determine what solution their system has provided us. Rene motioned to wait until September and Andy seconded it.
- Civitan Ask: Andy is working on getting Julie presenting to the Civitan to inform them on all of the things we have done, and ask for funding.
- Boat Launch Collection box: Last year, we discussed collecting money for boat fees when tournaments, etc occurs. We wondered where the money goes when people pay

fees. Dave would like to put out a donation box at the boat launch, for people to donate money to the MWC. Andy discussed the boat launch fee monitoring. Cobden does not have fees for the boat launch. He proposes that Whitewater should have a permit system for people to pay fees. Andy proposes that two students would be hired for the summer. The Civitan, the MWC, Whitewater, and the MLA would work with the students. We would put a container down at the beach. There would be a lawnmower, rakes, etc, down there. The students would collect boat fees, and do work at the park etc. This may not be feasible for this summer, but could be a good future plan. Residents would not pay a fee because they are paying taxes to Whitewater Region. The boat fees would be for tournament launching. **Action: Andy will keep pursuing this topic and discuss next steps at future meetings for future years.**

- Live Broadcasting: Your TV covers township meetings. They have offered to broadcast our meetings. Dave proposes that we have them broadcast the AGM. **Action: We will figure out who will be our guest speaker, and then revisit the topic.**
- CIGan internship regarding Megan Rae: Group discussion. Claus adopts the motion to accept, Rene seconded the motion, motion passed.
- We will discuss hiring an intern again in future years.

8. Next Meeting: May 9, 2019

NOTE: WE WILL BE MEETING IN THE DOWNSTAIRS HALL WITH ENTRANCE AND PARKING THROUGH THE BACK.

9. Adjournment: 8:55 pm

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

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

MUSKRAT WATERSHED COUNCIL

TREASURER'S REPORT - April 2019

Meeting March 21, 2019 - Scotia Account Balance

\$ 17,274.57

Business Chequing Account

Income

ADAMA Agricultural Solutions-Thank a Retailer Competition-M & R Feeds
 Snark Coffee Contribution - Ref # H125755492019041117055255

\$7,500.00
 \$613.76

Expenses

Service charge (Monthly fee & statement prep) \$ (7.00)
 Cheque # 115 - Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc - Signs \$ (75.00)

Total Income

\$ 8,113.76

Total Expenses

\$ (82.00)

Current Amount in Scotia Account

\$ 25,306.33

(Note: Float \$240.60)

March 21, 2019 - BMO Account Balance

\$ 6,138.16

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

Income

SBCNA-Stafford Bingol Payment - March 2019

\$ 711.11

Expenses

Total Income

\$ 711.11

Total Expenses

\$ -

Current Amount in BMO Account

\$ 6,849.27