

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

March 21, 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 6:30pm.

Attendance:

Present: Karen Coulas, Evelyn St. Amour, Erin Dolan, Andy Laird, Rene Coulas, Andrea Bishop, Gerry Rook, Megan Rae, Jeff Reeves, Dusty Rhodes, Deborah Decontie, Pinakwi Bedard

Regrets: David Thomassin, Debbie MacDonald, Barbara Green, Julie Sylvestre, Julie Truelove, Martin Gaudet, Sarah Hall, Nicholas Prud'homme, Melody Sabourin, Tom Dolan, Marie Janick Robitaille,

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

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

2. Adoption of Agenda

Approved by Claus.

3. Approval of previous minutes:

Approved by Megan Rae, seconded by Rene Coulas.

4. Treasurer's Report

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

5. Director's Reports:

Agricultural Committee Update – Rene Coulas

- Karen and Rene attended a growers meeting. They informed the group about the MWC. There were many questions from a group in the Pakenham area.
- Rene, Dave, and Gerry met with Peter Dorris regarding the soil project. Dave is going to get a price on the lab work. The farmer is going to pay for the lab work, but we will do all the work. We will pick 5 farms that we have not done any work yet with. We have approached the local 4H groups to help with testing. This project should be a bit of work for Rene, Dave, and Gerry, but should not run at a great expense. Andy spoke to a farmer at Taste of the Valley that has waterfront property on Muskrat Lake. Rene will look into it.
- Karen and Rene will attend the cottage and home show in Ottawa. They usually have good ideas for things watershed related.
- **Action point: Rene will contact this farmer on Calvin Wilsons farm.**

Science Committee Update – David Thomassin

- Steel Slag. Claus is still waiting on a price from WW Siegel. It is being worked on. We are also still waiting on a price from Canadian Slag Services. As soon as Dave finds out, he will send the information to the executive.
- Imagine Zeolite: The company will provide Zeolite for free for the controlled phase of the project. However, if we decide to do this we would need to commit to buying \$1800 worth of Zeolite for future projects. A vote was taken and we are in favour of the project. **Action: Dave can contact Imagine Zeolite and then pick up the free sample.**
- Bubblers at the beach. The ice is not ready for the bubblers to run yet. We will revisit this topic at our next meeting. **Action: Karen will order the chemicals for the spring.**
- Rebecca Dalton has given us the final report. It was distributed to the science committee. The township also received a copy. We voted to post it on the website.
- **Action plan: Megan will post it on the website.**

- Imagine Zeolite 2. It was suggested that we also do a trial for reactive zeolite. The cost is significantly higher. We need more information to make a decision. **Action plan: Dave will find / provide more information.**

- The MWC has been asked if we are paying attention to the projects on the Thames River. Dave wonders if we should go to one of their public meetings and build relationships / learn what they are doing. One thing to consider is that area has more money and funding than we do. They also have many conservation areas that work on projects. They have a much different system than we do. They use pump systems before and after dams, and clean the water going through. We do not have these same pump systems. At this time, we will only send a representative if they are already in the area, or would like to go as a volunteer. We can read their information on their website. **Action: Gerry will be going to a Farmers meeting in that area next week. He will ask around for a contact within the organization.**

Fundraising Committee Update - Karen

- M&R will be receiving their cheque tomorrow at 1pm. Connie Tabbert is sending someone to take photos. Karen will be attendance.
- Karen contacted Snark coffee. We haven't had a conversation with them since last June. We wanted an update. In April we will receive a cheque for \$613.76.
- Fundraising requests were sent out to Whitewater Region, Admaston Bromley, Laurentian Valley, and North Algoma Wilberforce. We haven't heard anything yet.
- **Action: Andy will contact the Civitan about a possible donation.**

Communications & Media

- New banner ideas. **Action: Megan will look into this for the next meeting.**
- PSA ideas. Megan met with the YourTV representative. If we have events, we can advertise through the station. We can create PSA's if we want, however, we need to be sure that any ideas we have are not conflicting with the role of an overall governing body. Megan asked if we could borrow video equipment to create a 30 second to 2 minute promotional video. We could play the video at different events. We are allowed, since Dave is a volunteer.
- Bingo poster. The new poster has been submitted and will be posted soon.
- Ottawa Valley Yoga will be hosting a Yoga and Wellness Festival in June. We are invited to have a free table at the event if we are interested.
- Megan will work on archiving meeting minutes on the website. Everything will still be available, but currently it starts February 22, 2014, and we would like updated so that the more recent minutes are at the top.

- Megan would like to make a media plan. We are increasing Facebook followers, but we now need to have continual information etc so that people stay interested. Megan can see that having more specific bullet points on the agenda, has garnered more views.
- Megan would like to create a blog for the MWC. **Action: Megan will come up with a plan and present at the next meeting.**
- Connie Tabbert from Whitewater News contacted Megan. She would like to post our meeting times and dates in kind each month in the newspaper.
- A letter of support was given to Algonquin College for an equipment grant that they are applying for.
- MJ Proulx from Riverkeepers is launching an info hub online. This could be helpful for us, because we could add our link to their site. Once the hub is up and running we would have a forum to talk to other like minded groups.

Recruiting Committee

- No update

6. Old Business – Updates

- The Beach: FOCA and Riverkeepers were contacted to ask if they have any experience with debris booms. The FOCA contact is interested in the idea, but has no experience. We have yet to hear back from the Riverkeepers.
- Planting update: Dan Bedard (from Pembroke) owns a property along Muskrat Lake that we may be interested in planting at. Andy just received the contact information and he will contact him to ask if he is open to the idea participating in the planting.
- Funding for planting: We are still looking into grants to help with the cost of the plantings. Lush will revisit the idea of funding us at the end of the summer. **Action: Karen will look into more grants**
- Rene has been contacting farmers for plantings in 2019 and 2020. He has had supportive responses so far.
- Test kits: Marie Jannick used a test kit in Quebec City. It tests for microcystins that give you information about whether or not blue green algae blooms are present. The total cost is around \$825. Megan has researched the company and test kits. It is an American company, and there are no suppliers in Canada. These test kits could potentially help engage cottagers and raise awareness for the Muskrat Watershed Council. Wind direction, temperature, etc are also factors for the test kit. We could post the information on our website. Megan's idea is that a cottager could call in if they think they see blue green algae. A volunteer could go and test the water, then post the information on our site. We could potentially use Algonquin College students to help

volunteer as well. A vote was taken, and Megan will pursue this item. Andy has a contact with an American address. We could potentially reduce our costs if we ship to the USA instead of Canada. A potential idea is offering the purchase of test kits to cottagers. **Action: Megan and Andy will look into the American shipping address and ordering the test kits.**

7. Other/New Business

- Last meeting we discussed that we should send a letter regarding trailer use and septic use on the lake to the township. We have decided to leave this issue to the township, and not get involved.
- Dusty from Algonquin College: He would like to put in a constructed wetland somewhere in the MWC area. A potential area would be the Harris Creek or Stoquois Creek. They could put it in before the swamp on the Stoquois Creek. He is going to look into permit information. There are holding ponds in place. They are not being used for anything. There is an unnamed creek that Rene knows of that could work as well.

8. Next Meeting: April 18, 2019

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

9. Adjournment: 8pm

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 - March 2019

Meeting February 21, 2019 - Scotia Account Balance

\$ 17,337.27

Business Chequing Account

Income

Canada Helps Donation/Membership

\$ 19.30

Expenses

Service charge (Monthly fee & statement prep)

\$ (7.00)

Cheque # 115 - Soil & Crop Improvement Assoc - Signs

\$ (75.00)

Total Income

\$ 19.30

Total Expenses

\$ (82.00)

Current Amount in Scotia Account

\$ 17,274.57

(Note: Float \$240.60)

February 21, 2019 - BMO Account Balance

\$ 5,548.65

SBCNA Charity Gaming Business Account

Income

SBCNA-Stafford Bingol Payment - February 2019

\$ 589.51

Expenses

Total Income

\$ 589.51

Total Expenses

\$ -

Current Amount in BMO Account

\$ 6,138.16