

Record of Proceedings - Meeting Minutes Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

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| Meeting Date: March 6, 2007 | Recorded by: E. McIntyre |
| Meeting Location: Township of the Archipelago | Status: Draft |
| <p style="font-size: small;">Caveat: Unless statements are in quotations, they have been paraphrased to express the intent of remarks made by individuals to whom they are attributed. For brevity, only discussion and comments of a significant nature as well as 'action items' arising from discussion are included herein. These minutes represent a true and accurate summary of proceedings to the best ability of the recorder.</p> | |

| Full Member | Pres. | Abs. | Full Member | Pres. | Abs. |
|--|-------|------|---|-------|------|
| Deb Ratusniak | x | | Bill McRobb | x | |
| Dave Bulger | x | | Eric McIntyre | x | |
| Chris Skelton | | x | Doug Wright | x | |
| Terry Crawford, Pres. | x | | Mike Palmer | | x |
| Ray Hachigian | x | | Karl Schiefer | | x |
| Greg Mason | x | | Peter Agnello* | x | |
| | | | | | |
| Guests | | | Guests | | |
| Steve Taylor – PS Dist. Water Control Specialist | | | Jim McMullen – UGLMU Conservation Officer | | |
| Laura Heidman – Resource Liaison Specialist | | | * provisional member | | |

1.0 Introduction of Guests

Steve Taylor – Parry Sound District Water Control Specialist
 Jim McMullen – UGLMU Conservation Officer
 Peter Agnello – OFAH and Local Angler & Hunters Representative
 Laura Heidman – Parry Sound District Resource Liaison Specialist

2.0 Review of Previous Meeting (Jan. 6) Minutes

Action: Ray and/or Greg to advise Graham of the foregoing and report back to Council on Graham’s status. If he wishes to be a full member, we look forward to seeing him at our next meeting. Unable to contact Graham. Status with our council undetermined.

Action: Eric to invite Scott Finucan to council meeting once options are finalized.
 (Not done because options have not yet been finalized. Scott is aware of our interest in having him present result to Council.)

Action: Eric to insert a recommendation for Plan amendment into the Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan calling for a maximum flow target (60 cms) for the Moon River – See Recommendation Section 5.1 in Draft #5. Such a recommendation will necessitate a Plan amendment. Done. However, MNR has advised me this

amendment is wholly unfeasible and cannot be considered. They will modify this section of the Plan accordingly.

Action: Eric – Make changes to Moon River Rehabilitation plan as per items described in Jan. 6th minutes.

Done – incorporated into Draft #5. (Addendum: Much discussion within MNR as to appropriate wording for First Nation Section. Final wording present in the document was submitted by UGLMU. Additional changes made by UGLMU to be discussed later in meeting.)

Action (Eric): to confer with Fish Culture Section whether or not lethal sampling of walleye parental cohorts required if eggs cultured at Moon River Cabins and fry transported to Provincial fish culture station for rearing to fall fingerling state.

Done – Spoke with Jim Brumpton at White Lake FCS. Jim was of the opinion that the parents would still have to be sacrificed, especially with the current VHS scare in the Great Lakes. (Information flyer related to VHS distributed to Council.)

Action: Eric to contact Ontario Stewardship (OS) as per Greg's suggestion to have links between OS site and EGBSC site. Done. *(Update: Cost to get our own page at OS site – approximately \$5k with a 50/50 split with OS. I declined this option and we will keep our existing web site with a link to it from the OS Home Page.)*

Action: Ray and Eric to go on 'road show' to area municipalities to promote Council and to explain who we are and what we are up to. Done. Tentative Schedule: McDougall Twp – Feb. 21; Seguin Twp. – April 2; Twp Georgian Bay – April 23.

Action: Deb to formulate a draft submission of the details of how such a bass tournament might work and bring before the EGBSC for endorsement at next meeting. Deb: The provision for catch-and-release tournaments to permit a catch up to a maximum of 6 fish has been included in the 2007 Sport Fishing Regulations.

Action: Council to discuss at a future meeting its commitment to the Moon River Walleye Index Spawning Adults project. Topic covered in item #4 on agenda.

Action: Eric to notify UGLMU and PS OMNR District Office of our intentions to conduct a NSCIN survey in the Bayfield / Nares Inlet area in 2007 and seek their approval and partnership in such a program. Done. Both offices indicate a high level of support in principle. UGLMU would prefer an ESTN survey. Parry Sound indicated they would provide equipment – if available.

Action: Eric to extend invitations to Laura Heidman and Jim McMullen to attend our next meeting for discussions related to First Nation and enforcement issues. Done

Action: Eric to discuss feasibility of a pre-freshet meeting with MNR and OPG as well as other interested parties. Report back to Council at next meeting. The suggestion has been made to MNR. However, it is there prerogative whether or not hold such a meeting. To date, no meeting has been called.

3.0 Updates

3.1 Lake Huron Basin Community Action Plan (Think Tank #2)

- EGBSC asked to participate in formulating the Huron Basin Comm. Action Plan, which is now in Draft stage (Version 2.6; Jan 10/06).
- Multi-agency group met in Dec. 2005 for Think Tank #1
- Purpose: to improve collaboration and integrate ecosystem management for the Canadian Lake Huron Basin and to empower communities, groups and individuals.
Principle 1 – Building awareness and capacity through communication / education and knowledge / capacity building
Principle 2 – Activate Communities to be involved through Lake Huron Basin Charter, networks for collaboration; involve and engage people
Principle 3 – Take action to restore and protect our ecosystems: identify and inventory; protect natural areas; restore degraded habitats
Principle 4 – Monitor, Measure & Adapt
- Advised Janette Anderson of Env. Can. That our council supports the initiative; process well underway; however would not send a delegate to Think Tank 2.
- Note: A copy of this document will be placed on our web site in the Members Area

3.2 Socio-Economic Study:

- Request for Proposals (RFP) for Phase 1 (Scoping Report) have been sent out to 7 prospective bidders.
- Only 1 bidder has indicated their intention to submit a proposal
- Final proposal to be submitted by March 16th.
- Note: Appreciation is expressed to the OFAH who assisted us in preparing the final terms of reference for the Scoping Report for this project.

3.3 Web Site

- Discussion re difficulties: multiple passwords, unable to access *Members Area* and unable to print documents from *Members Area*.
- Most difficulties seem to have been ironed out; multiple passwords are a requirement of the service provider and can't be changed

3.4 GBBR Conservation Workshop – Feb. 21

- Workshop went very well; GBBR's draft conservation strategy endorsed by attendees
- Recommendations to GBBR:
 - Need a statement(s) of values / goals / objectives / principles
 - Develop criteria to determine involvement in issues (advocacy vs. broker)
 - Need a communications plan to share values with conservation community

3.5 Custodial Co-management in Conservation Reserves

- MOU with WWK signed – 1.5k
- MOU with L. Moon River signed – 1.5k
- Working on 3 other MOUs (Severn River, Carling and Bayfield-Nares)

3.6 Terms of Reference

- Approved and now posted on our web site
- ToR notice requirements (60 days) for change to membership:
 - Brian Barriault to Associate Member from Full Member

- Peter Agnello to Full Member
- Tim Lotimer (GBA Executive Director) to Associate Member
- Ernie Williams (Canadian Boaters Alliance) to Associate Member

3.7 Request for values statement re Snug Harbour and Red Rock Lighthouses

- Responded to RJ Burns Heritage Resources Consulting (with cc to Carling Twp) identifying significant historical, cultural, navigational and regional significance to these structures.

3.8 GBBR Wild Life Awareness Project

- Regret to advise Council this project did not receive funding from the Ont. Trillium Fdn.
- There may be an opportunity to substitute this with the OFAH's Invasive Species Community Project.
 - EGBSC and GBBR could contribute funds to the project and in return our stewardship messages could be delivered by this position in addition to Invasive Species messages

3.9 Ballast Water Issue

- Council has received a request from GBA to support emergency ballast water regulations as per letter dated March 5, 2007 to Environment Minister John Baird
- Provisional support given to GBA (as GBA had a personal audience with the Minister on March 5th, request for support was immediate)
- Discussion: Council supports initiative; **Action: Eric to follow up with hard copy letter of support to GBA.**

4. Update on Walleye Moon River Rehabilitation Plan

- Latest version from UGLMU with their edits has been posted on our web site in the Members Area
- Changes by UGLMU include:
 - Requirement for an EBR posting. Council accepts.
 - Section 4.4 & 5.4 relating to First Nations – rewritten. Council accepts.
 - 5.1 Flow Modification recommendation – rewritten. Council accepts.
 - 5.5.1 and 5.5.2 Sport & Commercial fishing recommendations – rewritten. Council accepts.
 - 5.6 enforcement recommendation – “whenever possible” added. **Action: Council objects to this addition and requests it be deleted. Eric to notify UGLMU.**
 - 5.7 Monitoring & Assessment – change NSCIN to ESTN. Council accepts.
- Steve Scholten and Steve Taylor of the MNR Bracebridge office have now submitted comments. **Action: Eric to incorporate them into Plan and submit final Plan to UGLMU and MNR Parry Sound.**
- Council is committed to conducting the Index Walleye Spawners Survey and egg collection at Moon River this spring.
 - Direction with respect to data collection to be provide by UGLMU

MNR guests present at this evening's meeting were invited for matters relating to the Moon River Walleye Rehabilitation Plan.

Steve Taylor (PS District Water Control Specialist) gave an overview of water management objectives and constraints as they relate to the Muskoka River watershed.

- Steve presented historical hydrometric data for Bala, Moon River and Musquash River (indicated on graphs as Muskoka River) as well as the rule curve for Lake Muskoka.
- The revised rule curve (as per the Muskoka River Water Management Plan) is shown on the graph and indicates an increased storage capacity as well as more extended reduction of the Lake Muskoka water level during the walleye incubation period.
- Steve indicated that within the high variability of the systems (snow accumulation, snow melt, storm events), he believes there is opportunity to ameliorate peak flows on the Moon River by utilizing this increased storage capacity on the Muskoka Lakes.
- Flow conditions will not be acceptable every year, but there should be a distinct improvement and some years will be optimal for walleye production of the Moon River.
- It is important to know when spawning commences. Ideally we would want to have the lowest acceptable water level possible in the Lake Muskoka at this time. This would allow maximum reservoir capacity and improved ability to release a consistent flow downstream of Bala throughout the incubation period.

Council expressed its appreciation to Steve for attending and we are greatly encouraged by the positive tone of how the Lake Muskoka rule curve can be utilized to enhance walleye production on the Moon River.

Laura Heidman (PS Resources Liaison Officer) and Jim McMullen (UGLMU Conservation Officer) spoke on MNR's special relationship with local First Nations and the implications of Aboriginal rights, Treaty rights and special agreements as they relate to Native fish harvesting in the Parry Sound District. Discussion highlighted the advantages of a collaborative approach to involving First Nations in rehabilitation plan.

Council expresses its appreciation to Laura and Jim for enlightening us on the legalities and complexities of First Nations' harvesting rights. A better cultural understanding of First Nations' perspective will advance the goals of the rehabilitation plan and enhance relations with First Nation people.

New Business Arising:

5. OFAH

- Potential funding partner for Moon River and Socio-economic projects
- Invasive Species Program
- Discussions between Eric and Francine MacDonald of OFAH for partnership including GBBR to incorporate additional stewardship and GBBR messages into program.
 - **Action: Eric to investigate further and apprise Council of developments.**

6. FMZ Advisory Councils

- UGLMU has requested that the EGBSC and Manitoulin Area Stewardship Council (MASC) fulfill the role of Advisors as per the Ministry's initiative to form Fisheries Management Zone councils pursuant to the "New Ecological Frameworks For Fisheries Management In Ontario"
- Discussion: Concern expressed regarding constraints imposed by MNR and Council's recommendations being over-ruled as per previous experience.

- **Action: Prior to Council commitment, Eric to inquire of UGLMU: 1. Is there any support funding for this role? 2. What restraints are placed on Council regarding recommendations? 3. Are there Terms of Reference for this role?**

7. Approvals:

- i. Year-end financial statement: reviewed and approved. (Note: The “backwoods caper” is still under investigation ...)
- ii. 2006 Annual Report: Action – Approved. **Action: Eric to post on web site.**
- iii. 2007 Annual Work Plan – Plan reviewed and several revisions required. **Action: Eric to make changes and post on web site in Members Area.**

8. **Overview of S. Georgian Bay Walleye populations:**

- This is an information item only. Due to lateness, it was agreed to hold this topic over for another meeting.

9. **Lake Huron Advisory Committee:**

- Motion (by Ray Hachigian): That the EGBSC cover travel and accommodation costs incurred by Terry Crawford with respect to his participation on the Lake Huron Advisory Committee.
- Seconded by Dave Bulger.
- Discussion: Notwithstanding that the financial support for this committee should be provided by the UGLMU, the EGBSC thinks it is important enough that we will absorb the cost if the UGLMU fails to do so.
- Motion Carried.

10. **Date of next meeting: Tuesday, April 10th.** Action: Eric to prepare agenda and set start time according to time required.