

Record of Proceedings - Meeting Minutes Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Meeting Date: May 21, 2007

Recorded by: E. McIntyre

Meeting Location: Township of the Archipelago

Status: Approved at July 3rd meeting

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.

Full Member	Pres.	Regrets	Abs.	Full Member	Pres.	Regrets	Abs.
Deb Ratuszniak			x	Bill McRobb	x		
Peter Agnello			x	Eric McIntyre	x		
Dave Bulger			x	Doug Wright	x		
Terry Crawford, Pres.		x		Mike Palmer		x	
Ray Hachigian	x			Karl Schiefer	x		
Greg Mason	x			Graham Poole		x	
Leah Salt			x	Gerry Haarmeyer	x		

Handout provided to Council members included:

- Summary of 2003 B.A.S.S. Federation Economic Impact Survey Results
- Moon River Walleye Spawning Enhancement Project – Work Description
- E-mail series re Socio-economic Survey Phase II developments
- Financial statement
- Biodiversity and Agriculture flyer (information item only)

1.0 Review April 9th Minutes/Action Items:

Action items from April 9th minutes:

1.1 Action: Eric to prepare a generic letter of donation request for spawning habitat enhancement program. (Done)

Discussion:

- Suggestion to contact media (Ont. Out of Doors, Cottage Life, A Channel) to build interest in spawning rehabilitation program
- Env. Canada has an Eco-Action fund we could possibly tap into. (Note: We do have an application in to the DFO –Ont. Great Lakes Stewardship fund for \$20-30k)
- **Action: Ray to contact Bill McCoy to finalize arrangements with Great Lakes Consevency re American donations.**
- Need for a fundraising strategy. **Action: Greg, Bill, Ray and Eric to form sub-committee to formulate strategy.**

- 1.2 **Action: Eric to contact Wil Wegman and get a copy of socio-economic survey form used in fishing tournaments; present at next meeting.** (Done; copy in handout)
- 1.3 **Action: Eric to deposit 10k in GIC to provide funding in the form of interest to be directed towards Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship award.** (Done)
- 1.4 **Action: Eric to formulate letter to Rob Viejou with cc to Andy Heerschap and Jim Shaw (AFIA) re MNR's refusal to support CFIP application for walleye culture project at the village of Magnetawan.** (Done. No response received. *Addendum: Response dated May 16th subsequently received; will be tabled at next meeting.*)
- 1.5 **Action: Eric to indicate council willingness to participate in Big Sound LT egg collection (for thiamine level testing) and 5-Mile Bay SLIN project.** (Done)

2.0 Updates

2.1 Moon River Spawning Bed Enhancement Project:

- Project drawings have been completed by GLE (copy in handout package)
- "Notice of Completion" – Step 4 in EA process has been completed.
- 30 day commenting period before the final Step 5 – Statement of Completion is conducted.
- The tendering process is fairly complex and convoluted:
 - Great Lakes Branch Director approval required. Currently being sought by UGLMU (Dave Gonder)
 - Then – a Strategic Procurement Officer and Legal Council are assigned to the file to ensure compliance with MNR policies/procedures (this could take a considerable period of time)
 - Then – tender issued and award made (this could take considerable time)
 - Then – construction can proceed.
 - Implication: We are probably looking at the fall for construction. This may be problematic in that this is typically a period of annual low water level.
- Project also currently under review by Transport Canada re Navigable Waters Protection Act

Discussion:

- Concerns that project will not go ahead until well after the target date of July – when annual water levels peak
- **Action: Eric to investigate if funds can be transferred to EGBSC via MOU and we conduct our own tendering process**

2.2 Moon River walleye index / culture / stocking project

- Bill reported a 'wash-out' year due to excessive water throughout the duration of the walleye spawning and incubation period. Unable to by-pass the Cabin Narrows to set nets
- This situation represents an unfortunate year for walleye reproduction due to walleye being excluded from spawning sites and a significant drop in flow during the incubation period resulting in egg stranding and desiccation.
- Ironically this situation in stark contrast to last year where consistent flows were experienced.
- Bill: The flow shouldn't be drastically reduced all at one time. Why can't there be a stepped reduction in flow rate to allow some accommodation by the fish?

2.3 Geo. Bay Biosphere Reserve – Partner projects:

- Water festival planned for May 29th; targeting Grade 6 students. Erin Hamlyn to attend on behalf of EGBSC.
- Successful in obtaining OMNR SAR funding. Next phase will be more outreach than product development, which was accomplished in 1st phase just completed.
- \$1.5k to be sent to GBBR to support their SAR project – as per January meeting resolution.
- Youth summit being planned for early October. EBBSC willing to assist in any manner possible.

2.4 Socio-Economic Study:

- Series of e-mails present in handout for council detailing offer by Ivan Filion to act as an executive director/consultant for this project.
- Cost for Ivan's services has not be determined - but expect \$15 – 20k
- More details have been requested – awaiting response from Bob Florean

Discussion

- Council interested in pursuing this approach, but we need more details
- **Action: Eric to contact Bob Florean for additional information**

2.5 5-Mile Bay S.L.I.N. Survey

- Conducted May 7, 8 and 9; Project purpose: Stocking assessment
- 18 90-minute gill net sets caught: 26 lake trout (2 naturals, 24 planted), 2 cisco, 1 channel catfish, 1 pike, 1 smallmouth, 1 rainbow. Stocked lake trout are surviving well.
- Thanks to Jim Palmer and Shawn Morrissey from MNR PS District who assisted
- Summary report will be written up later in the year after the field season

2.6 Walleye spawning site inspections:

- Special thanks to Karl for leading a Council delegation in an inspection of walleye spawning sites at Port Severn, White's Falls and Big Chute on April 25th.
- 30-50+ at Port Severn. Unable to observe any at White's Falls due to heavy flow. 4-5 at Big Chute. Water temp. 9.5 deg. C.

2.7 Harris Lake walleye index / egg collection / culture / stocking project

- Estimated egg collection: 800,000
- Harris Lake Hatchery Association pleased with egg collection results

2.8 ESTN Survey – 12-Mile Bay

- Scheduled May 28 – June 6
- Volunteers from 12-Mile Bay Association, Manitou Association & Wah-Wah-Taysee Association; also assistance from MNR PS District Office

3. Financial Report

- Copies of financial report including petty cash distributed in handout

4. Work Planning - 2008

4.1 Lake Stewardship Workshop

- Bobby Orr Community Centre has been booked for Thursday June 26th
- Theme: Fish Populations – Canaries in your lake
- Presenters have been lined up:
 - Karl Schiefer – A Historical Perspective / What's gone wrong?
 - Arunas Liskauskas – State of the Georgian Bay Fishery
 - Steve Scholten – State of the Inland fishery / Program Direction
 - Jim McMullen – An enforcement perspective
 - EGBSC – What can 'you' do to help.

Discussion

- Cost to participants? Agreed to no admission charge; we will accept donations.
- **Action: Eric to contact Andy Metelka to see if he would like to present his video re Bass Nest Creation Work / Blackstone Lake ecology at the lake stewardship workshop.**
- **Action: Eric to send out invitations**
- Note to Eric: Reminder to check sound system and screen at BOCC for workshop.

5.0 Business Arising

5.1 OFAH Invasive Species Awareness Program

- OFAH was unsuccessful in getting HRDC financial support for this program, but intend to fund it from internal sources; can direct \$3K towards PS position
- 35 hr/wk x 11 weeks x \$12.50/hr +16% (benefits) = \$5,582.50 to fund position
- OFAH contribution: \$3000; GBBR contribution \$500; \$2,082 left for EGBSC to pick up

Discussion:

- **Action: Eric to investigate bringing other partners into the project to assist with financial committment**

Resolution: That EGBSC contribute \$2,582.50 (which includes GBBR contribution of \$500) to the OFAH Invasive Species Awareness Project to fund the appointment of Erin Hamlyn in the Parry Sound position. Carried.

5.2 Invitation to GBLT Reception – June 10

- Also note: we got a very nice write-up about our fundraising partnership with the GBLT in their winter newsletter - Landsript

Discussion:

- Terry unable to attend; Eric to attend in his place.

5.3 UGLMU – Muskie Update (re Moon River Project – 2008)

- Moon River project a continuation of an initiative undertaken with Wisconsin DNR, Aurora District, Muskies Canada and Midhurst District; aimed at restoring muskie populations in Wisconsin and Ontario.
- Need for greater genetic variability in Wisconsin (Green Bay) population.

- Need for wild egg collection as no brood stock available
- Gamete collection restricted to six families to minimize negative impacts to donor populations.

5.4 Fall COST conference – Oct 21/22

- Typically, the Council Chair or his designate attend this meeting along with the coordinator; any volunteers?

5.5 O'Donnell Point Ecosystem Protection Group (EPG)

- We have been asked to join this group to provide environmental group representation (formerly provided by Ontario Nature who have withdrawn)
- EPG arose from 'additions to Reserve' proposal being negotiated between Moose Deer Point and governments of Canada and Ontario.

Discussion:

- Eric to attend meeting on 'observer/guest' basis and provide feed-back to Council to assist with decision on whether or not to join.

6. Date for Next Meeting:. Thursday, June 26th.