

Record of Proceedings - Meeting Minutes Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Meeting Date: Tue. May 26, 2009

Recorded by: E. McIntyre

Meeting Location: OMNR Parry Sound Dist. Boardroom

Status: Draft

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.
John Bell		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			Gerry Haarmeyer	x		
John Crawford			x				

Guest: No guests present

Handouts provided to Council members included:

- E-mailed before hand:
 - I. Filion e-mail (May 20) re Reg'n'l Economic Development Project Update
 - Request for funding – Kapikog Lake Cottage Assn.
 - Previous minutes – March 24
 - 2009 Lk. Stewardship Workshop outline
- Distributed at Meeting:
 - I. Filion e-mail (May 20) re Reg'n'l Economic Development Project Update
 - Financial report

1.0 No guest present

2.0 Review March 24th Minutes/Action Items:

Action (Eric): Work Plan needs to be posted to our website to receive MNR support funding. (Done)

3.0 Updates:

3.1.1 Moon River Egg Collection (Report by Bill McRobb)

- Successful year in terms of egg collection number (will be in final report; don't know exact no. off hand but approx. 1 million)
- Observation that large females seemed to be ripe at the beginning of the run.

- Started on April 18th and females were ripe and running.
- Catches were initially good but for unknown reasons tapered off dramatically mid-way through the run. Unable to account for why this happened.
- Dave Gonder and Scott Finucan were in to observe spawning bed under freshet conditions; reported seeing approx. 50 walleye on spawning beds.

3.1.2 Moon River Conference Calls:

- Pre-freshet Conference Call held March 31st
- Follow-up call held April 14th
- Considerable controversy within MNR about their structure, effectiveness, purpose – whether or not worthwhile
- MNR is recommending a post-freshet debriefing where actions can be discussed and rationale provided. Water control staffs have to respond to highly variable weather influences during the freshet with difficulties in predicting actions. Also extremely busy at this time.
- Discussion:
 - Various council members objected to a post-freshet meeting ... ‘what can we do after the spawning run is over?’
 - Identified need for this issue to get on the Muskoka Watershed Council agenda.
- **Action: Eric to invite Steve Taylor and Dave MacPherson to next meeting.**
- **Action: Eric to draft EGBSC briefing note for Ray to present to Minister Cansfield during her visit – July 9th.** This will also serve as an aid to Council in our discussions with Steve Taylor and Dave MacPherson.

3.2 Tadenac Bay – Experimental Walleye Culture Project

- Seine nets picked-up (early April) by Gary Patineau to cordon off bays
- Nets had to be jointed, therefore only one bay cordoned off
- May 12 – delivered approx. 170,00 eyed eggs from V. Robitaille to Gary at King Bay Marina; eggs deposited in ‘pond’ with subsequent hatching
- We will conduct some assessment of survival prior to release in July. Eric and Karl to follow up on this.
- Only one type of walleye planting – from their ‘pond’ in 2009; so as not to confound assessment of where walleye from 2009 year-class come from.

3.3 Go Home Bay Walleye Rehabilitation (Re-introduction) Project

- Slide presentation by Eric on Go Home Bay Chutes setting

Go Home Bay Walleye Spawning Assessment Survey

- 1 night trapnetting effort – April 22; also visual observations – no walleye
- Conclude there is no walleye spawning population present
- Project is a re-introduction as opposed to rehabilitation of existing population; walleye stocking will be essential

Site characterization conducted concurrent with above survey

- Deep water below chutes; shallow water above
- Recommend enhancement work concentrate in that portion above the chutes through the creation of a long, narrow channel to provide suitable depth, substrate and velocities for walleye spawning

- Project Description Report has been modified accordingly

EA designation:

- Comments received from MNR re Draft Environmental Screening Report.
- Several revisions required including Cultural Heritage Values search; comments from First Nations.
- Fish stocking needs to move to the forefront or be considered in separate EA undertaking

Spawning Bed Enhancement Work

- 50K in COA funding available for this year only
- Project will probably have to proceed by tender (in excess of \$20k)

(The Go Home Bay presentation was followed by a quick pictorial presentation relating to the spawning bed enhancement work conducted at Moon River last fall.)

3.4 Request from CWS for assistance with Colonial Bird Nesting Survey

- No follow-up from CWS; Eric busy – no pursuit to participate

3.5 Fish Regulation Stickers

- Bass Pro Shop declined partnership (financial & logistical) in this initiative

3.6 Georgian Bay Association Annual Spring Meeting

- April 14 7-9 pm; Eric attended on behalf of Council
- Meeting focused on GBA governance & organization
 - GBA – advocacy group on behalf of members
 - GBA Foundation – Research / fundraising / charitable status
- GBA Administrative Committees: Executive, Nominations, Governance and Communications
- GBA Program Committees: Boating, Fisheries (chair John Wilson), Government Affairs, Land & Forests (flora, fauna, wind, air) and Water (water levels, quality & testing, wetlands)

3.7 GB-5 Meeting – April 15 in Toronto; Karl attended on behalf of Council

Report:

- Largely a continuation of 1st meeting; further delineation of the constituency of each GB-5 group.
- EGBSC well positioned to non-competing partner with other members
- Profile of EGBSC to appear in future GBA Update article

3.8 FMZ 13/14 Advisory Council Inaugural Meeting – May 9 in Owen Sound; Terry & Eric attended on behalf of Council

Report:

- Advisory councils will be involved in planning and management as well as any regulatory reviews
- Challenges: Within each FMZ area, there are considerable ecological and socio-economic differences; logistics (travel distance) a nightmare
- Four options for Council models discussed:

1. Lake Wide Committee (no one favoured this option)
 2. FMZ 13 & FMZ 14 – Single Council each (not supported by participants)
 3. Ecological Boundaries (coldwater / warmwater)
 4. FMZ subcommittees (issues specific; ecologically based) (This option seemed to garner the most support ... but the details are very vague at this stage.)
- Eric: Logistics and difficulties associated with them are going to be very challenging to overcome. Management issues and challenges are huge; will require extensive information dissemination ... difficulties associated with doing so.
 - It is an 'Advisory' council. MNR not obligated to implement the recommendations of the FMZ councils.

3.9 Regional Economic Development – Fisheries Rehabilitation Action Plan (i.d.NOR)

- Update from Ivan Filion sent via e-mail to Council members May 20th

3.10 2009 Lake Stewardship Workshop

- Invitations sent out May 20th
- Project outline previously distributed to Council by e-mail
- Anticipated cost: \$1k+
- Planning for workshop proceeding smoothly (touch wood)

4.0 Financial Report

- Advised by Westwind they will be unable to continue financial services to our Council. Money moved into a business account with Scotia Bank under the EGBSC.
- Financial report circulated
- Discussion: We should make an offer to TROOP to reimburse them for custodial expenses they incur.
- **Action: Eric to contact TROOP as per above**

5.0 Work Planning

5.1 Ontario Stewardship Ranger Crew:

- Shortly after our last meeting (Mar. 24th) we had the opportunity to apply for an Ontario Stewardship Ranger Crew. The executive discussed this matter and we applied ... and within a week had a Ranger Crew assigned for 2009.
- Issues:
 - Need to hire a Crew Leader (in process of doing so now)
 - Need to hire crew members
 - Need to prepare a work plan
 - Vehicle has been ordered; support dollars to pay for it?
- Discussion:
 - Other 'contacts' for potential work: Georgian Bay Osprey Society; Park-to-Park Trail; Massasauga Park and Twp. of Georgian Bay (re McCrae Lake trail maintenance)

- 5.2 Abbreviated ESTN or NSCIN survey for Tadenac Bay
- Currently not part of work plan.
- Unfortunately, with addition of OS Ranger Crew – Tadenac survey has diminished in priority and likely will not be conducted this year.

6.0 Business Arising / New Business

- 6.1 Financial request of \$200 from Kapikog Lake Association to support their Workshop and Fun Day for children 3 – 10 years of age
- Money to be used to purchase wood and hardware for construction of bat and bird houses
 - Discussion: Should we set guidelines for such contributions? General feeling was to continue on an ad hoc basis for the time being ... has not been a problem.
 - **Resolution: The EGBSC is pleased to donate \$200 towards the Kapikog Lake Cottage Association workshop and Fun Day.**
- 6.2 Otter Lake Ratepayers Association (OLRA)
- Eric attended OLRA meeting on May 17th
 - OLRA interested in lake trout assessment work and would like to partner with our Council. Eric recommended SLIN survey in spring 2010. Consultations with EGBSC and MNR required.
 - OLRA will make contact with MNR.
- 6.3 Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award
- \$500 has been forwarded to Parry Sound High School along with award guidelines
 - Commencement scheduled for June 25th – Eric to present award
 - Council agreed to have a print of one of Rino's paintings mounted and framed for presentation to award winner.
- 6.4 Correspondence Received:
- Received "Information Copy" of letter from Neil Hester to Donna Cansfield, MNR Minister, objecting to proposed waste transfer site in Pointe Au Baril
 - No action required; copy available if members would like to see it.
- 6.5 Peter noted recent stocking of lake trout in the Limestone Islands area of E. Geo. Bay. Questioned the rationale of putting them in such an isolated portion of the Bay where fish are largely unavailable to anglers.
- Discussion:
- (Eric) UGLMU trying to promote ecological health and restore top predator as per Lake Huron objectives; not necessarily stocking for harvest purposes.
 - Action: Eric to contact UGLMU and report back on rationale for this particular stocking program.

- 6.6 Bill noted lack of action via the MNR enforcement TIPS hotline relating to an incident of anglers fishing the Moon River sanctuary this past spring.
- **Action: Eric to formulate a letter to Rob Gibson relating complaint received by Council in this matter**

- 6.7 As per discussions at our Feb. 25th meeting (Item 6.4) – a letter of support regarding the posting of an aboriginal Conservation Officer in Parry Sound was sent to Lois Deacon (Director, Enforcement Branch).

Discussion: Some concern expressed by Council members. Eric to send letter out to Council for future discussion.

7.0 Date for Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2009