

Record of Proceedings - Meeting Minutes Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Meeting Date: Wed. June 22, 2011

Recorded by: E. McIntyre

Meeting Location: OMNR Parry Sound Dist. Boardroom

Status: Approved at Sept. 6/11 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.
John Bell	√			Bill McRobb	√		
Brian Emery	√			Eric McIntyre	√		
Dave Bulger		√		Doug Wright	√		
Terry Crawford, Pres.		√		Mike Palmer		√	
Ray Hachigian	√			Karl Schiefer		√	
Greg Mason		√		Gerry Haarmeyer	√		
John Crawford		√		Glenda Clayton	√		

Advisor: Dan Duggan – OMNR Parry Sound Area Supervisor (not present - on paternity leave)

Guest: None

Handouts provided to Council members included:

- 2011 Lake Stewardship Workshop Outline
- 4.0 Financial Report
- DFO notice re Surplus Lighthouses
- June 1 letter; Victoria Stewardship Council re OS Business Model change
- Undated letter; GBA to Member Association Presidents re IUGLS preliminary report on water levels

1.0 Guest Introductions & Welcome – No guests

2.0 Review of May 10 Minutes / Action Items

2.1 Council Review

- Action: Matter related to strategic planning - Eric to bring forward at next meeting

2.2 Oak Bay Osprey Nest Project

- Action: Eric to send article to Midland Free Press and Georgian Bay Today; done.
- A pair of osprey has used one of the nest structures erected.

- 2.3 **Moon River walleye egg collection**
- Action: Eric to send Env. Canada Water-office link to Council members. (Done – May 17)
- 2.4 **Lake Stewardship Workshop (June 27)**
- Action: Mike to have Jim Rook get in touch with Karl & Eric as a resource person for Hydro power presentation material
 - (Done – May 13.)
 - Supplemental: Rob MacGregor, from Ontario River Alliance secured as speaker for this topic.)
- 2.5 **Mr. Paul Jones Letter re FN Harvest**
- Action: Eric to inquiry of Paul any response to his letter. (Letter to the Editor from Chief Joe Noganosh, Magnetawan FN – sent to Council)

2.6 There were no comments from Council members for required amendments to the minutes.

Motion by Gerry to accept the minutes of May 10, 2011; second by Brian; carried.

3.0 **Updates (Unfinished business):**

- 3.1 **Lake Stewardship Workshop (June 27)**
- Draft outline of workshop sent to Council – June 17 and in handout package.
 - Rob MacGregor from Ontario Rivers Alliance added as speaker; Eric McIntyre re EGBSC walleye rehab projects – dropped from agenda. (Note: This was simply due to time restrictions and this topic not being as germane to the workshop theme.)
 - Discussion re honorarium for Rob: Consensus of \$150 honorarium.
 - Discussion re gifts of appreciation for David / Arunas / Steve: Consensus of Maple Syrup; bottle of wine, OS baseball hat and EGBSC handbag
- 3.2 **Musquash River Project (Eric)**
- Thanks to Karl for transporting Scott Finucan to site this spring
 - Scott has indicated site has high potential for walleye production
 - Jeremy Rouse has suggested sturgeon benefits be built into the design; opportunity to access SAR funding ... this is being incorporated into the design
 - Funding for Scott's time and radio-telemetry study to be covered off by this year's COA funding (\$30k). We will need to re-apply to COA for 2012 funding.
 - Scott will return to site this summer for further collection of morphometry data
- 3.3 **Moon River – Walleye Culture and Rehabilitative Stocking Project**
- Notwithstanding valiant efforts by Bill, we were unsuccessful at obtaining eggs this spring.
 - Discussion re \$1,839 Invoice from Cedar Brook Farms for preparatory work conducted on ponds in anticipation of receiving walleye fry: Consensus was to pay the bill as presented. (Note: The provision of 2,000 fingerlings above what we ordered last year was an important factor in this decision.)
 - Motion by John B.: The EGBSC pay the invoice from Cedar Brook Farm as

presented; seconded by Gerry; carried. Action: Eric to pay bill

- Considerable discussion ensued on what role water management played in us being unsuccessful at obtaining eggs. Opposing viewpoints were discussed.
- Action: Eric to write-up a summary of events relating to water management actions and perceived impacts on walleye reproductive success; present to Council via e-mail once complete.
- Bill noted the possibility that high flows experienced this spring might increase walleye reproductive success with a good natural year class being produced. Gerry noted we should follow this year class to ascertain the correlation.

3.4 **ESTN Survey, Magnetawan River** (Eric)

- Survey ran into some difficulties and a viable ESTN survey was not completed. Problems related primarily to two days of exceptionally high winds that damaged one net and preventing them from being reset for two days. This added a considerable work load to the project (2 additional days). Qualified Ministry staff was not available to assist throughout the weekend and later.
- Nonetheless, 17 netting locations comprising 23 net-nights of effort were completed. We will convert this to a non-standardized, synoptic trap-net survey and write up the report accordingly.
- Summary of results: walleye scarce – low CUE, but we did see a number of small walleye indicating reproduction is occurring. Muskie population looks fabulous and smallmouth bass looks good. Lots of non-game fish present: redhorse sucker, gar pike and channel catfish. Productivity (wt/net set) will be high.)

3.5 **Rino Ouellette Memorial Scholarship Award**

- Winner this year – Courtney Hill
- Award to be made by Eric at June 30, PSHS commencement ceremony

3.6 **Muskoka Lake Association** (Eric)

- Presentation re Muskoka Water Management Plan and consequences to the Moon River walleye population – May 21
- Attendance was poor (most participants left at break that preceded presentation). Nonetheless, key members of the MLA Water Committee were present.
- Presentation was well received with lots of good questions and a high level of interest.
- Action: Eric to provide John B. with MLA contact name. (Done – June 23)

4.0 **Financial Report**

- Financial report including Petty Cash – month ending May 31 presented to Council

5.0 **Business Arising / New Business**

5.1 **2011 Work Plan – remainder of year**

- After June ... we have the following to complete:
 - Scott Finucan – morphometric work at Musquash River

- Custodial Crown Land partnership (Carling Twp lead & White Squall SOD project – White Squall lead)
- Economic / Fisheries Revitalization Initiative (hibernating)
- FMZ-14 Regulation Sticker distribution (currently have 8 depots)
- Lake trout egg collection – Big Sound (will proceed only if UGLMU takes lead role; this to ensure adequately trained staff are available)
- Invasive Species Awareness Partnership (OFAH lead)
- Spawning site assessment – Magnetawan River (Eric to conduct)
- OS Ranger Program (Muskoka PS Stewardship lead)
- Additional work Eric wants to complete:
 - EA for Musquash project; COA application for funding; preparation of tender documents (have everything ready for construction to proceed in 2012)
 - Projects reports: Moon River Index netting; Musquash River index netting and radio telemetry study; Magnetawan River synoptic trap-net survey; Magnetawan River walleye spawning site assessment;
 - Annual Report (lower priority than above reports)
 - Complete CIPS report for 2011
 - OS Accomplishments Survey
 - Web site updates
 - Repair Nets used at Moon River and on ESTN survey
 - Communications Plan
 - Strategic Planning exercise
- Action: Eric to prepare draft 2012 work plan for next meeting

5.2 Invasive Species Partnership with OFAH

- Program has been approved HRDC
- We have hired Laura Stern as our project coordinator; OFAH training has been completed.
- Laura to start July 18; rate of pay: \$12 / hr; 30 hrs / wk; 6 weeks duration.
- Will be working out of WPSD Museum. Cost \$500 + HST
- **Motion: Council approves the expenditure of \$500 + HST to the WPSDM to provide office space and services for the EGBSC Invasive Species Awareness Coordinator (Laura Stern). Council authorizes \$150 disbursement to Laura for use of her computer and mileage rate of 40 cents / km for private vehicle use for Inv. Sp. Awareness business.**
- **Motion By: John B.; Second: Brian; carried.**

5.3 Request for Regulation Change – Jody Mills

- Mr. Mills requests our Council bring before the FMZ-14 Advisory Council a regulation change to permit 2 lines for sport fishing throughout the year
- Discussion ensued. Consensus: Council is not in agreement with this proposal and feel it is not in the best conservation interests of the fishery resource.
- Action: Eric to respond to Mr. Mills with our position and provide him with FMZ-14 co-chairs contact information in the event he would like to pursue the matter further. (Supplemental: done July 24)

5.4 Magnetawan First Nation

- Council was briefed on an impromptu meeting between Jerry Smith and Chief Joe Noganosh (Magnetawan FN) and Eric McIntyre while conducting the ESTN

survey at Britt

- Leslie Joynt (MNR) is current trying to set up a meeting with Magnetawan FN to explore options for further discussions / process to increase awareness about native harvest issues
- For the past two months there has been a lively exchange of letters to the editor on this topic (further discussed in item 5.7.1).
- Action: Eric to pursue a meeting with Magnetawan FN, John Bell, Greg Mason and Leslie Joynt to initiate further preliminary discussions in this matter.

5.5 Surplus Lighthouses

- See flyer in handout package
- GBLT has inquired if we are interested in becoming involved in this matter
- Discussion re EGBSC involvement:
 - Consensus: Although we are sensitive to the desire to retain our cultural history of which lighthouses is an important part; the matter is not germane to our Council mandate and/or Terms of Reference. This matter is better dealt with by Municipalities or community groups with an interest in cultural history.
- Action: Eric to reply to Wendy Cooper (GBLT) that our Council does not wish to pursue this matter further. (Supplemental: Done June 23)

5.6 Volunteer Recognition Award (Bill)

- Bill noted his son (Bill McRobb Jr.) has done countless hours of volunteer work on the Moon River walleye rehabilitation over many years; would like to see his efforts recognized.
- Discussion: Council would like to see a standardized “Volunteer Recognition Award” to be presented at our Annual Lake Stewardship Workshop. A plaque was suggested.
- Action: Eric to investigate various formats and cost for such a plaque (contact Al Downing at New Life Fitness). Bill Jr. could be the first recipient of the award.
- Action: Glenda to contact Charlene Peck to investigate if Sideroads (magazine) would like to do a story on the Moon River featuring Bill Jr.

5.7 Walk-on Items

5.7.1 Media Report:

- Fun In The Sun – 2 articles
 - 2010 Wah-Wah-Taysee ESTN survey
 - General article – references walleye stocking and Stewardship Rangers
- Promotional article re upcoming Lake Stewardship Workshop recently in the North Star
- FYI - Following Mr. Jones letter to the editor re native fish harvest at Dillon, there have been several follow up letters. The topic seems to have caught the interest of the general public.

5.7.2 Correspondence:

- June 1/11; Letter from Allen MacPherson (Chair, Victoria Stewardship Council) Re change to OS Business Model (in handout package; for information purposes)

only – no action required nor taken)

- Undated; GBA letter to member association presidents re release of preliminary International Upper Great Lakes Study Board report on water levels (in handout package). Note: Public Meeting re report to be held in Midland at the Legion on August 4, 7 – 9 pm; Eric plans to attend.
- May 24 – We sent a letter to Twp. Of the Archipelago advising them of our failure to collect eggs at Moon River, hence we will not be spending their \$5k contribution to the 2011 stocking project; would they like the money back or should we apply it to the 2012 project? Ray noted the matter will be dealt with at the next Archipelago Council meeting.

5.7.3 Succession Planning re Coordinator's Position for our Council

- Lively discussion – minute taker couldn't keep up because he was doing a lot of the talking.
- Eric: MNR under financial pressures; positions are often left vacant for a period of time to save money – e.g. Muskoka / Parry Sound SC coordinator position. Best case scenario is position is filled shortly after vacancy on an 'acting' basis and then subsequently filled on a permanent basis. This process could take some time.
- Council: We need to have our strategic plan and 2012 work plan in place so MNR is well aware of the need to fill this position quickly. We need to proceed in a diplomatic and cooperative fashion with MNR.
- Position profile and competencies as per OS toolkit package – "OS Learning & Development Toolkit. Action: Eric to send this Succession Planning Committee – Ray, John B and Karl. (Supplemental: Done June 23)
- Action – All Members: Send Ray your thought on:
 - 1. Competencies, characteristics, features, values, etc. you would like to see in our next Coordinator
 - 2. Items for the 2012 Work Plan

5.7.4 Strategic Planning

- Discussion: Council would like to see a working session to formulate a strategic plan to precede our next Council meeting. Session would be about 4 hours long; run from 2 – 6 pm ... then proceed with regular meeting.
- Action: Eric to speak with Greg to see if he could facilitate such a session.

6.0 Date for Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 7/11