

Record of Proceedings - Meeting Minutes Eastern Georgian Bay Stewardship Council

Meeting Date: Tue. Sept. 6, 2011

Recorded by: E. McIntyre

Meeting Location: OMNR Parry Sound Dist. Boardroom

Status: Approved at Oct. 26 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

Guests: None

Handouts provided to Council members included:

- Briefing Note re Synopsis of water related issues at Moon River, Spring 2011
- Financial Report
- Draft Communications Plan
- Draft 2012 Work Plan

1.0 Guest Introductions & Welcome – No guests

2.0 Review of June 22 Minutes / Action Items

2.1 Council Review – Action items carried forward

- Strategic Planning – see item 5.6 (these minutes)
- Communications Plan – see item 5.4 (these minutes)

2.2 Item 3.3 from June 22 Minutes: Motion by John B.: The EGBSC pay the invoice (\$1,839) from Cedar Brook Farm as presented; seconded by Gerry; carried. Action: Eric to pay bill (Payment made by cheque – July 11/11)

2.3 Item 3.3 from June 22 Minutes: 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. (Done; sent to Council Aug. 24; further discussed in item 5.2 – these minutes)

2.4 Item 5.1 from June 22 Minutes: Action: Eric to prepare draft 2012 work plan for next meeting. (Done; sent to Council Sept. 1; further discussed in item 5.5 – these minutes)

2.5 Item 5.4 from June 22 Minutes: Action: Eric to pursue a meeting with Magnetawan FN, John Bell, Greg Mason and Leslie Joynt to initiate further preliminary discussions in this matter. (Done; meeting held Sept. 2; further discussed item 3.1 – these minutes)

2.6 Item 5.6 from June 22 Minutes:
Action: Eric to investigate various formats and cost for a plaque. (Further Action: Eric to propose wording and forward to Council electronically for review.)
Action: Glenda to contact Charlene Peck to investigate if Sideroads (magazine) would like to do a story on the Moon River featuring Bill Jr. (Done; yes – Sideroads would like to a story)

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

Motion by Ray to accept the minutes of June 22, 2011; second by Doug; carried.

3.0 Updates (Unfinished business):

3.1 Meeting with Magnetawan FN re harvest issues

- Meeting took place Sept. 2 @ Magnetawan FN
- Deep appreciation expressed to MFN on behalf of the EGBSC for their initiative in holding this meeting
- Discussion re possible monitoring program; need for increased public awareness (communications); meeting as neighbour-to-neighbour
- Excellent discussion and cooperative tone to meeting
- Action: MFN agreed to bring this matter up with the FN's Hwy 69 corridor Chief's meeting; will contact EGBSC with outcome of discussions and possible next steps
- *Once this matter is discussed amongst the Chiefs, we will invite Gerry Smith and/or Richard Noganosh to attend a Council meeting for further discussion.*

3.2 Lake Stewardship Workshop (June 27)

- Workshop went well; however with modest attendance – approximately 50 attendees, down slightly from previous years
- Keynote speaker – Rob MacGregor provided an interesting and controversial perspective on the Province Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) program – citing the American Eel as an example of unmitigated environmental costs of the program
- Workshop focused on GBBR lead Environmental Report Card for Geo. Bay – David Bywater co-host for workshop; did an excellent job
- Arunas Liskauskas (Stage of GB Fishery) and Steve Scholten (State of inland fishery) – thanks for their excellent efforts
- Above presentations and a workshop summary was posted on our website shortly after the workshop

- Media Update issued and published in PS North Star
- Eric: Recommendation that perhaps a new formula would help rejuvenate interest in our workshop; suggests adding a field component?
- Post-workshop comment from attendee: Suggests “How to interact with Government” topic.

3.3 **Musquash River Project**

3.3a Index walleye spawners and radio telemetry survey

- Project summary report complete; sent to Council for review – no comments to date.

3.3b **Morphometric work by Scott Finucan**

- Work was conducted on Aug. 27 – all went well
- Next Steps:
 - Scott to work up walleye spawning bed design options
 - Eric to complete EA; prepare tender documents; apply for 2012 COA funding for project; approach OPG for funding contribution; promote project amongst partners

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

- Project summary report currently in preparation.

3.5 **Moon River Index Spawners and Walleye Culture Project - 2011**

- Draft Summary Report has been sent to Council; no comments received to date.
- 305 walleye caught in 20 net-nights of fishing effort; CPUE 15.3
- Eric: for future assessment, suggests less attention be paid to enumeration (catch rate) and more to size sampling

3.6 **Invasive Species Awareness Project (OFAH lead partner)**

- Laura Stern coordinator for 6-week position (July 18 – Aug. 26); kudos for her for working independently and doing a good job!
- Worked out of the West PS District Museum alongside GBBR staff; thank-you Glenda for your assistance to Laura
- Summary report has been prepared and submitted to OFAH and EGBSC; copy sent to Council by e-mail – Aug 25
- Follow-up to John Bell e-mail Aug. 26: “... when we may be involved in future (projects) the (council) be specifically asked if they have or know of some organizations that would benefit from a ... presentation In a nut shell I believe we may be operating in a vacuum without enough regard for the interests of associations that are also stakeholders.”
 - Discussion: In the future, when we put out our notice to partners regarding the OS Ranger program, we should also include notice relating to the Invasive Species Awareness Program.
- On a related note: received notification from Env. Canada that our HSP (Habitat Stewardship Proposal HSP) application for sturgeon signage has been turned down. We have not heard anything back from EC regarding our Invasive Alien

Species Partnership Program (IASPP) application, but it's safe to say it won't be going anywhere this year.

- Greg – recommended that in the future we should partner with GBBR in an HSP or IASPP application. They have been very successful in this regard.

3.7 **OS Ranger Program and Custodial Crown Land Management Project**

- 3.7a
- 8-week **OS Ranger Program** now concluded.
 - Recall – we shared a crew with the Muskoka – PS Council; crew stationed out of Bracebridge
 - Aug. 10 – 12; participated in Crown land clean-up activities at Moon River. Project went well. Still lots of improvement needed for sites close to Moon Falls.
 - Also participated:
 - snake fence construction at Killbear Provincial Park
 - Shawanaga Medicine Garden maintenance work
 - Blandings turtle radio telemetry project with MNR

- 3.7b
- **Carling Steward Project** seems to be running smoothly
 - On Aug 17 received one complaint relating to dogs running at large on Franklin Island
 - Discussion: need for additional thunder-box maintenance was noted

- 3.7c
- **White Squall SOD project** seems to be running smoothly; no issues or complaints brought to our attention.

3.8 **Walleye Spawning Site Assessment – Magnetawan River**

- Recap: Commitment to Magnetawan FN to conduct a literature review of Magnetawan River fishery – completed March 2011.
- Spring and summer-time assessment of walleye spawning sites completed. Summary report has been written-up and sent to Magnetawan FN; also to Council and UGLMU. No review comments to date.
- Walleye spawning habitat assessed as very good; no need for enhancement work. Recommend monitoring water levels to ascertain egg mortality associated with receding water levels – especially at Two-foot Rapids.

4.0 **Financial Report**

- 4.1
- Financial report including Petty Cash – month ending July 31 presented to Council. Motion to accept report by Mike; seconded by Glenda; carried.

- 4.2
- \$10,681.17 from matured GIC transferred into our General Account as per line item #24 in Financial report. How much should we reinvest in a GIC?
 - 1.75% for 2 year 'Ultimate GIC' – Scotiabank quote
 - Action: Eric and Ray to formulate best financial management arrangement and report back to Council.

- 4.3
- Complete CFIP project requirements for \$300 reimbursement. (*Supplemental: Bill has submitted invoice on behalf of Moon River Walleye Association; now being processed for payment by MNR*)

5.0 Business Arising / New Business

5.1 Correspondence:

- We have received cc letters from Perth Stewardship Network, Norfolk Land Stewardship Council, Stewardship Kent and the Wellington County Stewardship Council addressed to the Manager, Stewardship and Conservation Incentives Section, Integration Branch of the MNR; basically objecting to the New Business Plan for OS Councils.
- Thank-you note received from Courtney Hill following her award of the Rino Ouellette Memorial Stewardship Award
- Letter dated June 13; Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to Terry Crawford; re Asian Carp Issue

5.2 2011 Moon River Flow Issue

- Internal EGBSC Briefing Note entitled: “A Synopsis of Water Related Issues That Occurred on the Moon River during the Spring Freshet of 2011”, was circulated to Council on Aug. 24.
- Discussion:
- Ray: Briefing note as written is inflammatory and will hurt our negotiating position with MNR
- Dan:
 - Don’t inflame the situation in a manner that will be counter-productive.
 - Stated he is willing to pursue an internal MNR 2011 freshet debriefing to include water control and management staff; Eric to be excluded due to potential conflict of interest.
 - Suggests the Council formulate 5 questions to be asked of MNR that will be discussed at an internal MNR meeting on this matter. MNR will subsequently meet with the Council for further discussions.
- Action: EGBSC will contribute to questions; Council to circulate internally for input.
- Eric: Suggested the UGLMU needs to a full partner in these discussions in the future.

5.3 **FMZ-14 – Commercial by-catch issue**

Proposed resolution put forth by Karl was read to Council:

“Be it resolved the EGBSC is in strong support of reassessing the impact of commercial gill net fisheries on all fish populations, and in particular those non-target species which are the focus of rehabilitation efforts. This reassessment should include the use of substantial exclusion zones where no commercial fishing is permitted and the required use of non-lethal fishing gear to facilitate the unharmed release of non-target species. If restoring the once-famous fish population and fisheries of Eastern Georgian bay is to be our common goal, all of our efforts and activities must be coordinated to achieve this objective.”

Discussion:

- This is a complex matter for which we don't have adequate time at this meeting to fully discuss. Action: Put this on the agenda for the next meeting. Eric to send out Karl's briefing package to Council prior to next meeting.

5.4 **Communications Report (Plan)**

- As per a recommendation of the 2010 EGBSC Review, a draft Communication Plan was forwarded to Council member on Aug. 23 for their review and comments.

Discussion:

- Inadequate time to discuss at this meeting; Action: defer to next meeting.

5.5 **2012 Work Plan**

- Inadequate time to discuss at this meeting; Action: defer to next meeting.

5.6 **Strategic Planning Initiative**

- Inadequate time to discuss at this meeting; Action: defer to next meeting.

5.7 **Volunteer Recognition Award**

- Action: Eric to circulate options to Council for consideration

5.8 **Walk-on Items**

None brought forward

6.0 **Date for Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 26 at Moon River Cottages.

Note: Bill is happy to provide accommodation to those who would like to stay overnight. However, this not a requirement. If you wish to come just for the meeting – that's fine too. The meeting will commence in the early afternoon in order that we can incorporate a strategic planning session into the day.