

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Amended Final Minutes

August 9th, 2024

‡ Educational resources posted by this committee are available on the Township of McKellar Website here:
<https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf>

Item	Time	Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.
1.		<p>Land Acknowledgement: In the spirit of reconciliation and co-operation, we wish to acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and Mississauga people. Its boundaries fall within the Robinson-Huron Treaty of 1850 and the Williams Treaty of 1923. We are grateful to live here, and we thank all the generations of people who have taken care of this land for thousands of years. To honour the suffering of Indigenous people and the love and wisdom they have carried for thousands of years, we pledge to work in community and harmony with each other and the environment we inhabit and work towards Truth and Reconciliation.</p>
2.		<p>Roll Call*: Tony Best (x); Ross Crockford (x); Peter Duffey (x); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (x) ; Melanie Jeffrey () ; Axy Leighl () ; Carl Mitchell (x); Suzanne Poff (x); Nick Ryeland (); Rick Speers (x). We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y)</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? (no)</p>
3.1		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of July 11th, 2024. (attached) Moved: Rick Seconded: Peter Approved: (yes) A request was made to shorten the minutes and remove items that are out-dated. Amendments:</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? (no) (Motion to add item to the agenda if needed) Motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Moved: Seconded: Amendments: Approved: (yes)</p>
3.3		<p>August 9th – Strategic Planning – Possible future topics for committee work Sources: Take the Plunge – A Guide to Stewardship of Ontario’s Waters; FOCA; 2009 Life on the Bay - Georgian Bay Mnidoo Gamii Biosphere 2022 FOCA Web site Watersheds Canada Websites*</p> <p><u>Possible future topics for committee work</u></p> <p>Wetlands – Mapping, restoration Forests – evaluate calcium level (eg. Ash project – Friends of the Muskoka Waterfront); preservation of habitat; forest gene preservation; climate change – species moving north Fire Prevention steps (eg. FireSmart) Shoreland preservation and restoration – shorelands and littoral zones; erosion prevention; resilient shorelines (FOCA flyer) Plant inventory (species) in and out of the surface water Wild animal / bird inventory (species)</p>

Fish habitat – evaluation/restoration
Bird species inventory
Loon nesting sites
Living with wildlife and avoiding conflict – eg. Bear wise, skunks, raccoons, porcupines
Attracting birds and butterflies – promoting indigenous pollinator plants
Using indigenous plants
Invasive species – inventory and suggested steps
Runoff control for rain

Watersheds Canada programs – Love Your Lake; The Natural Edge; Fish Habitat Program; Nature Discovery Program

Reducing Road Salt Use to Curb Oxygen Depletion in Lakes

Other suggestions?

Past Projects

Septic System Care
Bird House workshop
Attracting bats video
How to recycle in McKellar
Protecting the Waters of McKellar Township (avoiding fertilizers and pesticides)
Boat wake research (videos)
Water treatment (video)
Darker skies
List of our Videos on McKellar Twp web page

Revisions needed?

Current Projects:

Water quality – MLCA and the Township cooperate to sample and observe bacterial growth (E coli), trophic level, clarity, and chemical parameters, as well as monitoring for BGA growth and benthic monitoring.

Turtle Protection

Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Bylaw pending

August 9th discussion:

Setbacks:

The committee members felt strongly that setbacks for new construction should be 30 meters, and passed the following resolution

Moved Peter, Seconded Rick

Moved that the Township of McKellar review its required setback for new construction and enstate the current best practice of 30 m to slow the runoff from roofs, and allow more space for vegetation between the lakes structure and the lakeshore. The quality of the land at the lakeshore is the biggest determinant of the lake water quality.

Passed.

Other points of discussion:

- Anything that improves the fishery is important
- Simple education re: putting COLD ashes on the ground to replace the calcium lost to acid rain – it only needs to be done once
- New boat houses should not be allowed because they do so much damage

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contributions of road and driveway salt to the salinity of the lake; there are formal training programs for municipal employees about when and how to salt roads – saves money for the municipality – decision – Jennifer will send the lake parameter measurements to Carl to see if we have a problem with too much salinity. - We need to continue the education on recycling, perhaps on our own facebook page, as it makes posting on other pages easier – Ross, Peter and Sue will manage the Facebook page - We need data on contamination rates <p>Chair will send out the list to Committee members and have them choose their top three priorities in order to set our goals for the coming year.</p> <p><i>Amendment Sept 12, 2024</i> Publicity: The committee decided to start a Facebook page to further education on environmental information in McKellar Township. Sue, Peter and Ross volunteered to run the Facebook page.</p>
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues.
4.1		<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection – August 9th – Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy presented last November</p> <p>July 11 – The Township Council has initiated the 9th Amendment to the Official Plan. There is a plan to remove consideration of phosphorus (trophic level) of the lakes in assessment of capacity. Chair spoke with Dr. Brent Parsons of Hutchinson Environmental Ltd. who said that new techniques for installing septic systems remove 90% of the phosphorus from leeching into the lake.</p> <p>B. August 9th Welcome Package A package of possible information to be included in a Welcome Package for new residents has been distributed to committee members. Discussion.</p> <p>Committee members agreed that it is best for new residents to be presented with hard copy information. Ross and Jennifer will decide what information to include and it will be bound with cerlox binding.</p> <p>July 11th Resolution 2022 #3 That the committee bring the number of brochures it has developed to over 200 each. 200 will be put in the Information folders and approximately 100 of each will be available for ongoing distribution at the market.</p> <p>Moved: Seconded: Approved: not approved Discussion: Not approved. The committee felt that most people coming into the Township would want only one piece of paper with links or a fridge magnet with a qr code.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling July 11 – We received 5 volunteers when the MLCA asked for a new volunteer for the Camp/Robinson area. Some of the new volunteers will be given regular sampling assignments, the rest will be kept on the list of samplers as spares.</p>
4.3		Septic Education –

		July 11, 2024 – It was decided by consensus not to distribute the Septic Smart booklet due to cost and lack of utility because of approvals necessary for new build septic.
4.4		<p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf along with other videos</p> <p>Our postings (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>
4.5		Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted
4.6		<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</p> <p>August 9th – some committee members will be touring Waste Management in Bracebridge. Thanks to Peter for setting it up for August 13</p> <p>July 11th – Recycling brochures are printed and will be distributed to Township residents with the tax bill later this month. Recycling signs for the inside lids of the compactors have been approved by Council and ordered. Coloured posters on card stock were printed by the Township and will be distributed to residents at the Rib Fest to be kept beside their recycling bins. Hopefully these will continue to be available. Jennifer and Ross will have a booth at the Rib Fest to illustrate recyclable and non-recyclable materials. MLCA donated 120 bags of chips as prizes for correctly guessing what is and isn’t recyclable. This project is complete. Rick and Peter did the bulk of the sign and brochure design. A trip to Waste Management for committee members and Township staff is being organized by the Deputy Clerk.</p>
4.7		<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>July 11 – update from Ross on progress with requesting Turtle signs = Ross was unavailable</p>
4.8		<p>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.</p> <p>June 1 2023 – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9		Catch and Release Signs are up at township launch sites. Copies of the Catch and Release sign are on the back of the Safe Boating flyer and were printed for distribution by the Township with the tax mailing to all households at the end of February 2023.
4.10		<p>Benthic Study –</p> <p>March 7, 2024 – The Township Clerk, Ina Watkinson, has signed the contract for sampling in two sites and analysis for three sites in 2024. (MLCA is responsible for the sampling of the third site.) When one of the four sites sampled for the previous four years, we analyzed the results and locations and elected to not search for a replacement fourth site.</p>
4.11		<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p> <p>March 7th – The new brochure was distributed to residents at the end of February.</p>
4.12		<p>Invasive Species –</p> <p>Oct 12 2023– Chair has had discussion with Greg Gostick about the occurrence of phragmites beside Centre Rd at the previously identified spot.</p>
4.13		<p>Dark Skies –</p> <p>We have a brochure that was made in about 2021.</p>
4.14		Water Levels –

		<p>May 1 – paper reposted on FB –Requested changes (clean up of the web page). A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page. Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf (mckellar.ca)</p> <p>Reposted in April 2024</p>												
4.15		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p>												
		<p>ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.</p>												
4.16		<p>EV Chargers –</p>												
4.17		<p>Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)</p> <p>May 9 Council did not go ahead with the Food Cycler Program</p>												
4.18		<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p>												
5.		<p>Budget –</p> <p>March 2024 – No objections to our budget from Council.</p>												
6.		<p>Dec 14th is LSEC decided to continue to meet <i>usually</i> on the second Thursday evening of each month <i>and to change the time to 7 pm.</i></p> <p>LSEC Meeting Dates in 2024:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">January 11th</td> <td style="width: 50%;">July 11th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 8th No Quorum</td> <td>Friday August 9th at the Community Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 7th No Quorum</td> <td>September 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 11th No Quorum</td> <td>October 17th (3rd Thursday)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 9th</td> <td>November 14th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 13th</td> <td>December 12th</td> </tr> </table> <p>* Old information is occasionally removed from the bottom of each item in these minutes, but can be found in old minutes on the Township’s web page under Environment.</p>	January 11th	July 11th	February 8th No Quorum	Friday August 9th at the Community Centre	March 7th No Quorum	September 12 th	April 11th No Quorum	October 17 th (3 rd Thursday)	May 9th	November 14 th	June 13th	December 12 th
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7.		<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Ross Approved: Yes Time: 8:27 pm</p>												