

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP*

Draft Minutes

THURSDAY, December 14th, 2023

*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 (Y); Ross Crockford (Y); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (Y) ; Melanie Jeffrey (Y) ; Axy Leighl () ; Carl Mitchell (); Suzanne Poff (); Nick Ryeland (Y); Rick Speers (). We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y) Chris Clayton, a McKellar resident who is a retired landscape architect, has applied to join the LSEC. His application will go to the Township Council on December 19th. Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? No. Please note: Tony Best was requested to Chair the meeting.</p>
3.1		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of Nov 9th, 2023. (attached) Moved: Ross Seconded: Jennifer Approved: (Y) Amendments: none</p>
3.2		<p>Motion to accept the Agenda as presented. Moved: Jennifer Seconded: Ross Amendments: none Approved: (Y)</p>
3.3		<p>Dec 14. The following subcommittees have been set up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shoreline Planning Ross, Sue, Jennifer, Rick 2. Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Peter, Rick, Sue, Jennifer; Chris Clayton was invited to participate 3. Recycling choices. Melanie, Tony, Ross, Jennifer 4. Water testing program Tony, Carl, Peter, Jennifer 5. How to facilitate a cultural shift. Axy, Nick <p>Proposed subcommittee members were polled by email to ensure that they were in agreement with their subcommittee roles.</p> <p>The following subcommittees have met: Discouraging the use of Pesticides etc., Recycling Choices, Water Testing program. Also, Jennifer and Tony met to draw up the 2024 budget.</p>

	<p>Nov 9. Strategic Planning – The November 2023 LSEC Achievement Assessment document was sent to committee members in the last week of October to review what this committee has accomplished in the past. We decided on the following topics which should have priority for our efforts for the upcoming year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lead weights, lures and jigs (get the lead out) Delay 2. Shoreline planning to protect the lake from excess runoff. – 3. What to do about leaves. Delay 4. MLCA newsletter updates. Ad Hoc as needed 5. Discourage the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. 6. Turtle/animal road signs. Delay? (in the budget) 7. Recycling choices. 8. Drinking water source protection. Delay? 9. How to facilitate a cultural shift. 10. Fish habitat. Delay 11. Fish stocking. Delay 12. Water Quality Monitoring Design program subcommittee. (suggestion was made to include samplers on this committee). (Tony, Carl, Jennifer, Peter) <p>Jennifer tabulated the votes for the top 3 or 4 priorities and send the results to committee members, as the poll function was not working on zoom. (initial results tabulated after the meeting are bolded). We need to decide on priorities and establish who will work on each topic.</p>
4. Goals	General Updates on Current Issues.

4.1	2 min	<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p>Dec. 14 The new Shoreline Planning Subcommittee should meet in January.</p> <p>Nov. 21 – Jennifer presented the proposed new revised Tree Canopy and Naturalized Vegetation Policy to Council. Ina will consult with other townships and references (sent in by Jennifer).</p> <p>Oct 12, 2023. New policy adopted.</p> <p>October 5, 2023 – Jennifer sent committee members a draft policy in the past few days for review.</p> <p>References used to write the amended policy include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural Shorelines and their Role in the Protection of Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat: State of the Science Report. Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Limited, Aug 18, 2021. 2. The Science Behind Vegetated Shoreland Buffers: Why the Ribbon of Life Matters, Watersheds Canada, 2022. 3. Shoreline Buffers and Water Quality, South Carolina Native Plant Society, 2020. 4. Lakeshore Capacity Assessment Handbook: Protecting Water Quality in Inland Lakes, Ontario Government, retrieved October 10, 2022. 5. A Shoreline Owner’s Guide to Healthy Waterfronts, Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association, 2019. 6. Planning for our Shorelands, Watersheds Canada, 2022. 7. Lake Protection Workbook: A Self-Assessment Tool for Shoreline Property Owners, Lake Links (Watersheds Canada) 2022. 8. A Regulatory Guide to Achieving Environmental Net Gain at the Waterfront, Watersheds Canada, 2022. <p>July 6, 2023 – Axy will send out a draft policy by July 17th. We will review it at our next meeting on August 10th and decide whether it is ready to share with Council at that time. Council members have expressed interest.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling</p> <p>Dec. 14 The new Water Quality Monitoring Design Program Subcommittee met to evaluate the water quality monitoring in McKellar Township.</p> <p>Tony read his report, as follows:</p> <p>Water testing 2024</p> <p>On December 7th 2023, a subcommittee met to review the McKellar water testing program.</p> <p>The goal was to do a complete due diligence review to ensure that the LSEC’s proposed water testing plan for 2024 is based on current scientific knowledge and is designed for the needs of the McKellar lakes.</p> <p>The meeting thoroughly reviewed each segment of water testing, Benthic, E. coli, and phosphorus and related deep-water tests. In each case the testing method, the frequency and the locations were examined.</p> <p>The validity and value of each type of testing were carefully reviewed.</p>

	<p>The committee greatly benefited from the expertise of committee member Dr Carl Mitchell, a professor at the U of Toronto and a limnologist and also a long-time property owner in the township.</p> <p>The subcommittee concluded that each of the 3 segments of the testing have substantial value in monitoring the water quality of the lakes in McKellar especially in the current climate warming trend. In particular, it was noted that dangerous Algae blooms are occurring at lower levels of phosphorus than has been the case in the recent past.</p> <p>The subcommittee recommends 1 fewer Benthic test for 2024. In addition, minor changes were suggested for the frequency and locations of E. coli and Phosphorus testing. As a result of the review there will be a small reduction in the water testing budget for 2024.</p> <p>The Township can now be assured that there has been a full and complete review and that the water testing program proposed for 2024 has been based on current needs and not a simple extrapolation of past practice.</p> <p>An informal estimate by Dr Mitchell suggested a dollar value of the volunteer contribution would be in excess of \$75,000. per annum. In addition, the Lake Association purchased \$8,000.00 in of water testing equipment in 2023.</p> <p>Nov 9 – On Oct 17, the Lake Steward made a presentation to Council of the results of the water sampling program for 2023. The data has been forwarded to Council and placed online under Environment. The sampling program was under the budget set by LSEC. Data was also sent to DataStream for use by researchers as suggested by FOCA.</p> <p>Nov 9 Tony proposed that we establish a study group to review surface water testing needs. The purpose would be to look at exactly what are the current desirable types and frequency for testing. This proposal was adopted as part of our strategic plan for 2024.</p> <p>October 5, 2023 Three rounds of sampling for E. coli and for Phosphorus and Calcium have been completed for the season. Profile data was also collected for 16 sites three times this summer. Data will be sent to the Township for posting. Sampling and profile data were collected for Manitouwabing, Armstrong, Grey Owl, Mary Jane, McKellar and Moffat Lakes.</p>
4.3	<p>Septic Education –</p> <p>Nov 9 – Concern has been raised confidentially by a local resident about the condition of septic systems in Air B n B rental residences. Jennifer mentioned that she had laminated a copy of the “Help Your Septic System and our Lakes” flyer and placed it in the guest bathroom, and guests commented on it. Propose that we make laminated versions of this flyer available in the library for area residents. Moved: Sue. Seconded: Ross. Approved.</p> <p>July 6 – A flyer entitled “Help Your Septic System and Our Lakes” has been printed and delivered to the Township Office. The invoice has been submitted and paid to Aquagraphics. It was included in the tax mailing at the end of July.</p>
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 / Adding RECYCLING here –</p> <p>Dec. 14 The new Recycling Subcommittee has met. From our discussion, Ross generated a list of questions which were the basis of a discussion Tony held this week with Karlee Britton, Deputy Clerk. The Township is preparing for the new recycling program to be initiated in the Township as of July 1, 2024, according to the provincial mandate. Staff have expressed an interest in LSEC collaborating with the staff on education for Township residents.</p> <p>October 5, 2023 – Melanie will let us know when she is ready to do a presentation on recycling.</p> <p>July 6 - The “Clean Up Our Lakes” sign is badly damaged.</p> <p>Recycling was raised as an issue. There should be clear guidelines as to what plastics are successfully recycled and whether to remove labels etc in order to maximize the success of plastic recycling in our area. Melanie is an expert in this issue and offered to give a presentation at a future meeting. Request was made to record this session to be included in our resources.</p> <p>The Clean Up our Lakes campaign is scheduled annually for the end of April to end of May – suggestion was made to include roads and add it to the slogan – “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” for publicity this spring.</p> <p>June 8, 2023 - Moved that We hold the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign in 2024 without ordering bins. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue approved</p>
4.7		<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>December 14th – Jennifer, in her role of Lake Steward, has communicated with Tianna Burke about conducting a workshop on building Turtle boxes and generally how to assist Turtles. Lynne Campbell, McKellar Library has booked the Auditorium of the Community Centre for 10 AM on April 27th. We need help building kits.</p> <p>Dec 14. Lake Map – Jennifer (and Patty Duffey) received a request from Cathy Jones of Birds Canada for the names of various areas in the lake. MLCA is working on this as well. Cathy and Patty have made some progress with this. Jennifer expressed the importance of using the names that have been used historically in the township, which may not be well-known. She will contact Vivian Moore, President of the McKellar Historical Society, in the new year.</p> <p>Nov 9 – Tony gave a brief update on the day long Watersheds Canada meeting in Perth that he attended. One speaker that he connected with there suggested that there may be a way to work with MNR on stocking, even though we have been initially refused (see FMZ-15-Draft-Management-Plan-Highlights-Summary-V3.pdf (mckellar.ca)). Tony also mentioned a campaign conducted in another area to “get the lead out” of fishing by using fish weights and lures that are made of other metals. These have proven especially toxic to loons. Melanie reported that they are also a danger to children. These suggestions will be considered as part of our strategic planning.</p> <p>Sept 14 – Lumber and some T bars have been given to this group by committee members in addition to their independent receipt of township funds.</p>

	<p>July 6 – Al requested help with bird boxes for raptors that are on the decline. Sue and Al will work together on this. Steve Bradley has built a bird nesting boxes for raptors in response to a request from Tianna Burke.</p> <p>Additionally, it would be a good idea to build turtle nesting protection boxes. Al will draw up a list of materials needed, and we will all draw on the stores in our garages to fulfill the needs. Tony will work with Al on this.</p> <p>Loon counts. MLCA carried out a loon count over the July long weekend. Responses came in with loon sightings in various areas of the lake. Jennifer will be working with one of the respondents to summarize the input for this and for the next two long weekends. The plan is to submit information to Birds Canada and eBird. Loon counts will be carried out over the four long weekends between May and September in 2024.</p>
4.8	<p>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach. June 1 2023 – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>
4.9	<p>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.</p>
4.10	<p>Benthic Study – Dec 14th – see Water Quality The report was sent by GBB in November Sept 14th – The property at 85 Cole Point Trail, which has been used as a sampling site for the benthic studies for the past 4 years has been sold. Jennifer has spoken with Katrina at GBB and will write to the Clerk to inquire about the new owner to inquire whether they will allow GBB to continue to use that property as a sampling site. 2023 sampling has been completed and the report will be issued by GBB shortly. May 11th – funding is included in the 2023 budget March 9, 2023 Jennifer distributed an evaluation of the value of the 2022 Benthic report along with a suggestion that LSEC recommend to Council that this research be continued. Proviso: that the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be posted on an existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. We passed a resolution supporting the continuation of Benthic sampling by the GBB.</p>
4.11	<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers – Dec. 14 The new Discouraging the Use of Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers Subcommittee has met and Peter Duffey has designed a brochure entitled Protecting the Waters of McKellar Township (attached), which the Subcommittee has approved (attached). We would like to send this to be printed in time for the February 2024 tax mailing. Resolution 2023 (# 7) Moved: Jennifer Seconded: Tony to approve printing 2000 copies of the Pamphlet on Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers, entitled Protecting the Waters of McKellar Township at a cost of no more than \$1000.00 and to deliver it to the Township office in time to be distributed with the February tax mailing. Approved.</p>
4.12	<p>Invasive Species – Oct 12 – Chair has had discussion with Greg Gostick about the occurrence of phragmites beside Centre Rd at the previously identified spot. Sept 14th – Sampling was completed in August for detecting the presence of two invasive plants: European water chestnut and water soldier by eDNA, through the auspices of FOCA.</p>

		<p>July 6th - Al Last, assisted by Jeremy Sintzel, has been putting up the new Invasive Species signs from FOCA at the boat launches.</p> <p>June 8th – Council approved replacing the old Protect our Lakes from Invasive species signs and replacing them with the new signs from FOCA. We also need to map and list where the signs are placed in the township. Need someone to place signs again.</p>
4.13		<p>Dark Skies – From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.</p>
4.14		<p>Water Levels – 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>
4.15		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens– Oct 5th – Tony watched the geese to identify how they access Minerva Park and Jennifer has written to the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to request permission to plant low shrubs in those areas. Sue and Jennifer met with Greg Gostick to discuss locations for the plants and the buried power cables. Planting took place Sept 28th at 0900. We had nine plants and will need to complete planting in the approved areas with more plants in the spring. Thanks to Anna Michieli for volunteering to help plant and weed!</p> <p>July 6th – The Pollinator Patch Garden at the Community Center has been reconditioned; GBB personnel were invited to come. They are now taking over the care and tending of this garden again. Sue received a request to do some clean up at the Minerva Park Garden. We wrote to the Township Clerk to say we would do this. We have funds to fill out the plants. We will book a day in September and advertise for volunteers to work on this garden in addition to removing some deadwood now. We need to be certain that no other organization has this responsibility.</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #6 Moved that we use the funds intended for the Butterfly Garden to make purchases to clean up and augment plants at the Minerva Park Garden. Sue and Jennifer wrote to the Clerk that we agreed to do it – all others welcome and we may post a notice to bring in Volunteers. Moved: Al Seconded: Sue Approved: Yes</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 Dec 14 – Council received a presentation on the Food Cycler on December 5, 2023 and Tony attended to answer any questions arising. Tony attended the Council meeting. Discussion at this meeting was that the Food Cyclers work very well, and the company seems to have addressed the concern that the filters were not recyclable, the question of whether there would be financial savings to the Township as a result of subsidizing the price of a number of these units remains uncertain. May 11th Another company is coming to Council with a proposal on Food Cyclers (attached). There is also a brand called LOMI which is very similar. Food Cycler will sell reuseable filters to purchasers whose community participates.</p>

4.18	<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>Dec 14 – Jennifer reported that she had discussed this briefly with MLCA and had been encouraged to take a presentation to other lake associations next summer.</p> <p>From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: Nov 9 – A presentation was made to Council on this topic on Oct 17. (attached at the end of these minutes). Sept 14th – There are new guidelines for communities without Drinking Water Source Protection under the Clean Water Act. Jennifer has been collecting links and information (attached in September mailings) for a future discussion on this topic. Mandatory septic inspection is included in the Drinking Water Source Protection Zones established under Ontario’s Clean Water Act. McKellar Township is not included in this program.</p> <p>Oct. 13/2022 Jennifer will start to research the background on Drinking Water Source Protection with a view to eventually having McKellar Township included in such a program. This will likely be a multi-year project as it involves working with other townships and communities in the local watersheds and finding a Conservation Association willing to manage the program.</p>												
5.	<p>Budget –</p> <p>Dec 14 – 2024 Budget (attached) (Jennifer) Motion to accept the proposed budget for 2023 Moved (Ross) Seconded (Tony) Approved with amendments as attached (Y) Jennifer will present the amended budget to Council on December 19th.</p> <p>Nov 9 – a proposed budget for 2024 will be sent out before the Dec 14th meeting. Our revised budget for 2023 was accepted by Council in April 2023</p>												
6.	<p>It is proposed that LSEC continue to meet <i>usually</i> on the second Thursday evening of each month.</p> <p>Moved (Jennifer) Seconded (Ross) Approved (Y)</p> <p>Can we move the meetings to 7:00 pm? Moved (Melanie) Seconded (Jennifer) Approved(Y)</p> <p>Dates in 2024:</p> <table data-bbox="292 1365 1055 1596"> <tr> <td>January 11th</td> <td>July 11th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 8th</td> <td>August 8th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 7th (first Thursday)</td> <td>September 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 11th</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>	January 11th	July 11th	February 8th	August 8th	March 7th (first Thursday)	September 12th	April 11th	October 17th (3rd Thursday)	May 9th	November 14th	June 13th	December 12th
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7.	<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Melanie Seconded: Ross Approved: Yes Time: 8:11 pm</p>												