

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

**Final Minutes
THURSDAY, June 8th, 2023
7:30 PM**

Note: There are no minutes for May 2023 because the meeting was cancelled.

Item	Time	
1.	7:35 PM	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.
2.	X	<p>Roll Call: Tony Best (x); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (x); Melanie Jeffrey (); Al Last (); Axy Leighl (x); Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (x); Nick Ryeland (x); Lynda Taylor ().</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (yes)</p> <p>Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof – none.</p>
3.	X	<p>a) Motion to accept the minutes of April 13th, 2023. (attached). Moved: Sue Seconded: Axy Approved: (yes) Amendments: none</p> <p>b) Motion to accept the minutes of the Special Budget Meeting of April 27th, 2023 (attached) Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (yes) Amendments:</p>
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues.
4.1		<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p>April 13, 2023 - Axy & Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. The first draft of this proposed policy as well as some references are attached. We need to decide how to proceed with the fine tuning and public education/familiarization with this new policy. Discussion included a need to use more plain language. The question was raised about the cost to the township of implementing this. There may be some initial publicity costs, but there is no need for enforcement expenditures as it is a by-law to establish a policy of best practices for maintaining tree canopy and natural vegetation and will serve as a guide for residents. The Haliburton by-law has a question and answer section. Something similar might be helpful.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling – Jennifer is making plans with MLCA to continue E. coli sampling and add in regular phosphorus sampling for about six lakes in McKellar Township in May and August (Jennifer will consult with Carl about scheduling). May sampling is almost complete.</p>

		<p>April 13 - MLCA has purchased new equipment to facilitate gathering samples from deep water and collecting data in deep water. A lab has been found in Barrie that will give results for phosphorus in mcg/L in order to compare LPP data. Samples will be taken at LPP sites simultaneously with LPP data and results compared as different sampling techniques are used. We are now in a position to do longitudinal studies.</p>
4.3	X	<p>Septic Education – concern relayed to Watersheds Canada and FOCA re: lakeside residents using too much water on a daily basis possibly causing a rapid exit to the lake with leakage of bacteria before they can be broken down and processed in the septic bed and before phosphorus can be absorbed by shoreline plants.</p> <p>Recent (May 30 2023) article (sent to committee members) from the Globe and Mail indicates that climate change may lead to increased heavier rain in the springtime, leading to increased phosphorus in surface water.</p> <p>June 1st – Fourth draft of proposed flyer was approved by email poll. (attached). Jennifer will be making a deputation to Council on June 6th and has approached Aquagraphics to make copies with the same instructions as the previous mailings in February.</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #4 Motion: that we rescind Resolution 2023 #1 of March 9 2023, as follows:</p> <p>*Resolution 2023 #1 - The LSEC will print 100 copies of the Septic Smart booklet distributed last year and make them available at the Township office and the Library for new residents Moved: Axy Seconded: Al Approved yes</p> <p>Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved (Yes)</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #5 Resolved that we approve the flyer entitled Wise Septic Use (4th draft attached), have 2000 copies printed at an approximate cost of \$1,500 and request that Council authorize its distribution with the next tax mailing. Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: (Yes) With changes: none</p> <p>April 13 – A proposed flyer on septic use was attached for discussion. Discussion: Enlarge the font and make it two-sided. Reconsider table of # of liters used for water consumption. Include suggestion not to use a garburator. Ask to send this out with the next tax mailing. It is easy to understand, concise, and has a good, clean lay out. QR code works.</p> <p>March 9 – the Committee agreed to the proposal that we make education on reduced water usage a priority for 2023. Provincial guidelines on septic use include the need to reduce water usage but no detail is given.</p> <p>March 9th – We agreed to print a limited number of copies of the Septic Smart booklet and have them available at the library and the Township office for new residents.</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>
4.5		<p>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6	X	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes – schedule for 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> <p>May 11th – Council rescinded the motion of April 18th to have the bin for “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” at the Transfer Station from April 28th to May 28th and approved the bin being removed on May 14th due to anticipated traffic congestion. However, residents can continue to bring litter to the household garbage bins. Disposal of large items without charge which are litter may need to have the fee waiver approved by Council.</p> <p>April 13th – Greg Gostic suggested that we present this to the current Council. Jennifer will make a deputation to Council on April 18th. We hope that the bin will be available about April 28th for a month for the 4th annual Clean up our Lakes campaign and we hope to establish this as an annual event.</p> <p>Committee members are encouraged to attend the Council meeting on the 18th. This would be the fourth year that the bin has been available. The comment was made that the township has noticeably less litter in comparison to the time prior to the initiation of the Clean up our Lakes program.</p> <p>March 9th - Greg Gostic has been emailed to ask him to book the container for the transfer station and he is in favour of including roads in our publicity. The committee approved as well.</p>
4.7	X	<p>Fishing - May 11th – At our special budget meeting of April 27, we decided to look into applying for a special grant for environmental enhancement. Lynda investigated how to do this. Fish stocking was a possibility. Jennifer wrote to the MNRF asking for information about fish stocking and received the following communication from Steve Scholten (MNRF): “I don’t know who is on it, but my guess is that at least some of the committee members have been involved in past discussions with us on this topic and should be aware of our approach to walleye stocking. However, it is good to repeat to ensure everyone is working with correct, first-hand information.</p> <p>As a general rule, we don’t support stocking if the species might have unacceptable negative impacts on other species already present or if there is an existing population of the species proposed to be stocked. Manitouwabing, McKellar and Moffat have existing walleye populations so would not be candidates. Grey Owl is connected to Lorimer, which is managed as a Lake Trout lake so would not be suitable either. I don’t have any current information for Mary Jane. It may be a candidate but current information on the current state of the fish community may be needed and an Environmental Assessment screening has to be done for any new fish introductions. A document describing the different types of stocking and the rationale for how we make decisions is attached. It is a draft working document but hopefully will help you to understand how fish stocking decisions are made.”</p> <p>The document Mr. Scholten sent, Stocking Fact Sheet, is attached and we will request to have it posted on the web page for residents’ future reference.</p> <p>Judging by the parameters of the application for a grant, such a proposal would definitely have to be approved by Council for whatever project for which we decide to apply for funding, before we would be able to make an application. As the deadline for this year is May 30 and we have no project in mind, applying this year is not an option.</p>
4.8	X	<p>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach. June 1 – sign is well back from the portable outhouse and visible.</p>

		May 11th – a verbal request was made in April to ensure this sign is not hidden by the portable outhouse as it was last year.
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	X	Benthic Study – 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. Dec 2022 The Draft report was received from GBB. We will leave this expenditure in the budget for now and confer whether there is benefit in continuing this annual sampling at a later meeting. We should do some knowledge translation with the actual study, like what we're measuring and what it means, so that we can answer why we are doing this, what is the added value
4.11		Pesticides/Fertilizers – (would be included in any Drinking Water Source Protection) From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: In April 2023, we received a request to test for pesticides in the lakes. The federal government is currently testing for 194 approved pesticides in limited locations. Testing for pesticides in the township is not feasible at this time. 4. Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.
4.12	X	Invasive Species – Signs are up at boat launch sites; additional signs are available from FOCA 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. March 9 – A motion was approved stating that LSEC will ensure that older invasive species signs at boat launches be removed and replaced with the newer signs as well as placing signs at boat launches where there is not yet a sign about invasive species. A waterless boat cleaning system to prevent the transfer of invasive species was advertised at the FOCA AGM on March 4 th . The committee agreed that we need to work with MLCA to find someone to look at the feasibility of having such a system in McKellar Township. Flyers on Invasive species and Catch and Release and Safe Boating were distributed to all households in the Township with the tax bills at the end of February. Dec 8 - Jennifer picked up 16 newer road signs for boat launches on Invasive Species from FOCA (on behalf of MLCA) – they are designed to educate people who are launching their boats about prevention of transfer of invasive species from one water body to another. We need to contact Greg Gostic again for approval and assistance to replace the existing Invasive species signs with the new ones. Al will assist with getting the new signs up and removing the old stop-sign shaped invasive species signs.
4.13		Dark Skies – From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:

		Sue and Jennifer will continue the work on Dark Skies.
4.14		Water Levels – A paper detailing previous work on water levels is posted on our section of the web page.
4.15	X	<p>Pollinator Patches –</p> <p>May 11th – We have altered our budget request to include funding for renewal of the garden at the Community Centre in 2023. The Pollinator Patch subcommittee met on April 24th (attached)</p> <p>Motion: We move to receive the Minutes of the April 24th meeting of the Pollinator Patch subcommittee (attached) Moved: Sue Seconded: Tony Approved: Yes</p> <p>Motion: That we rescind the Motion from March 9th as follows: Resolution 2023 #3 - The LSEC recommends the spending of no more than the \$2000 budgeted for plants for the pollinator patches. Moved - Al Seconded - Axy Approved Nick suggested that procurement policy usually involves getting a few quotes. Sue will do that. Motion to rescind: Moved: Sue Seconded: Nick Approved: Y</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #6 Resolved that we spend no more than \$500.00 for soil and plants to renew the health of the existing pollinator patch, known as the Butterfly Garden at the Community Centre.</p> <p>Moved: Tony Seconded: Sue Approved: Yes</p> <p>Apr 13 – We are awaiting the outcome of the budget decisions by Council before we can proceed with the pollinator gardens. March 9 2023 Council approved the planting of two pollinator gardens, with a third to come after work is done on the Hemlock Church site. We will also upgrade the pollinator patch planted at the Community Centre. We will consult with Greg Gostick. Sue chose 6 pollinator plants that are native to the McKellar area and avoided those that are toxic to animals or susceptible to disease. LSEC passed a budget resolution.</p> <p>Dec 8 – The Township will provide us with a map of Township properties. We will need to get approval from staff on placement of pollinator patches/butterfly gardens. The David Suzuki program is interested in our work as they have no “ranger” in this area. Sue is researching Pollinator Patches and putting together a list of plants that are Suitable for our zone, and that are considered not in invasive or that could be a problem with being toxicity especially to farm animals.</p> <p>From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sue, Axy and Al will work on a program of pollinator patches in the township including applying to the David Suzuki butterfly ranger program. 2. Axy will schedule a meeting of this subcommittee and complete the application to the David Suzuki foundation program. 3. Al suggested that we may be eligible for beautification grants from the Township and also from some companies such as MacDonald’s who are looking for non-profit donations to make.
4.16	X	<p>ICECAP – This item to be removed</p> <p>May 11th – funding for the ICECAP program is not included in the 2023 budget for McKellar Township.</p>

		<p>April 13 - The Mayor and Council prefer that the GBB come to Council for any further discussion of the ICECAP program. Committee members will not contact GBB in relation to ICECAP.</p> <p>March 9 – Nick spoke to Benjamin John of GBB on Feb 16 about the steps the Township of McKellar needs to take to move ahead with energy management and they have scheduled a follow up meeting. Nick and Roshan will follow up concerning the amount of money owed by McKellar Township to the GBB in relation to the ICECAP program.</p> <p>On Feb 7 2023, a deputation from Dr. Rebecca Pollock, Executive Director of the Georgian Bay Biosphere was made to Council on behalf of the Integrated Communities Energy and Climate Action Plans (ICECAP) partnership. This is a Canada wide program for municipalities.</p> <p>March 9 – Nick spoke to Benjamin John of GBB on Feb 16 about the steps the Township of McKellar needs to take to move ahead with energy management and they have scheduled a follow up meeting. Nick and Roshan will follow up concerning the amount of money owed by McKellar Township to the GBB in relation to the ICECAP program.</p>
4.17		<p>EV Chargers – March 9 A review of the current need for an EV charger by committee members earlier this year (2023) by email resulted in a decision of the majority of the LSEC members not to support a proposal that Council fund the installation of an EV charger in McKellar at this time.</p>
4.18	X	<p>Organic Waste Planning investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future 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>
4.19		<p>From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: 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. March – Greg Gostic inquired whether we could test the water at the public tap</p>
5.		<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>
6.	X	<p>Budget – Our suggestions for the 2023 LSEC budget was approved by the committee members at the December LSEC meeting. We met on April 27, 2023 to revise the budget for this year. New LSEC budget is attached as part of the April 27th minutes.. Our revised budget was accepted by Council.</p>

7.		<p>Next meeting date and time is Thursday May 11 , 7:30 pm on zoom We need a committee member to attend in the community centre, please.</p> <p>LSEC meetings will continue at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month in 2023:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>January 12th</td> <td>July 13th Meeting changed to July 6th.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 9th</td> <td>August 10th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 9th</td> <td>September 14th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 13th</td> <td>October 12th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 11th</td> <td>November 9th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 8th</td> <td>December 14th</td> </tr> </table> <p>Next meeting June 8th 7:30 pm.</p>	January 12th	July 13th Meeting changed to July 6th.	February 9th	August 10 th	March 9th	September 14 th	April 13th	October 12 th	May 11th	November 9 th	June 8th	December 14 th
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8.	X	<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Nick Seconded: Tony Approved- yes Time: 8:07 PM</p>												