

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Final Minutes

September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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:<br/>                     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 (N) ; Axy Leighl (N) ; Carl Mitchell (N); Suzanne Poff (X); Nick Ryeland (X); Rick Speers (X).<br/>                     Guest: Rob Gibson. On Zoom: Mike Kekkonen.<br/>                     We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (yes)</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof?<br/>                     (no)</p>  |
| 3.1  |      | <p>Motion to accept the minutes of August 9th, 2024. (attached)<br/>                     Moved: Ross Seconded: Sue Approved with Amendment : Yes<br/>                     Amendment:<br/>                     Publicity:<br/>                     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>  |
| 3.2  |      | <p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? (No)<br/>                     (Motion to add item to the agenda if needed)<br/>                     Motion to accept the Agenda as presented.<br/>                     Moved: Ross Seconded: Sue Amendments:<br/>                     Approved: (Yes)</p>   |
| 3.3  |      | <p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>Carl (via email) - : For upcoming topics, I think the shoreland preservation stuff is key in my opinion. Something fun to engage more interested residents would be the bird inventory. Re: bird inventory, some of you may be familiar with this app? <a href="https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/">https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/</a></p> <p>Jennifer – the next brochure could be about shoreline preservation and vegetation – need to keep pushing for adoption of the Tree Canopy and Vegetated shoreline bylaw amendment presented to Council in November of 2023</p> <p>Peter – education re: shorelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue working on recycling</li> <li>- Loon awareness – will not be making location of loon nesting sites public to protect them</li> </ul> |

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|          |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shoreline education important – there is only one nesting pair left on Lake Manitouwabing – there were two chicks which did not survive; Chick on Grey Owl is now a good size</li> <li>- Lead sinkers are fatal for loons – they pick up pebbles on the lake bottom to aid in their digestion – if they pick up a lead sinker, it will kill them</li> <li>- Need to keep the number of topics to one or two because of time, cost</li> </ul> <p>Rob – education on protection of loon nesting sites – waves near shores</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Education about the harm using pesticides does</li> <li>- In many properties, the Township owns the road allowance (usually 66 feet) at the shore; need to take this into consideration in legislating a 30 m setback</li> <li>- Seguin has a requirement of 90 % vegetative buffer within the required setback.</li> </ul> <p>Tony – education re: avoiding use of lead sinkers; this campaign has been named “Get the Lead Out” in other areas</p> <p>Ross – will continue campaign to protect Turtles and hoping Council will approve future placement of signs at turtle crossing sites</p> <p>Sue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- E-bird shows that 192 bird species are found in the McKellar area</li> <li>- The app “Merlin” allows you to record birds – we could put this information on the Facebook page Mark Calhoun has offered to assist</li> <li>- Need to do education on living with wildlife – last year there was concern about coyotes on the Balsam trail -</li> </ul> |
| 4. Goals |   | General Updates on Current Issues.  |
| 4.1      | * | <p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p>September 12<sup>th</sup>: Further discussion of setbacks, including affirming the advocacy below of a 30 meter setback for all new construction. Jennifer gave a personal presentation at the August Open Meeting. Since the resolution advocating a 30 m setback was not on the agenda when it passed in August, it was put on the agenda for September.</p> <p>Setbacks:</p> <p><i>Moved Peter, Secoded Rick</i></p> <p><i>Moved that the Township of McKellar review its required setback for new construction and instate the current best practice of 30 m to slow the runoff from roofs, and allow more space for vegetation between the structure and the lakeshore. The quality of the land at the lakeshore is the biggest determinant of the lake water quality. Further, the Township should require a vegetative buffer in the setback.</i></p> <p><i>Passed unanimously.</i></p> <p>Tony has not heard as yet re: scheduling a meeting to discuss the 30 m setback with Planner, John Jackson. Tony and Peter will try to meet with him in September.</p> <p>– Tree Canopy and Natural Vegetation Policy presented last November – still awaiting approval</p> <p>B. September 12 – no further update on Welcome Package</p> <p>August 9<sup>th</sup> -Welcome Package</p> <p>A package of possible information to be included in a Welcome Package for new residents has been distributed to committee members. Discussion.</p>   |

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|     |  | 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.   |
| 4.2 |  | <p>Water Sampling</p> <p>Sept 12 – Water sampling for the year will finish at the end of September</p> <p>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 |  | <p>Septic Education –</p> <p>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.</p>   |
| 4.4 |  | <p>Publicity</p> <p>Facebook Page – Sue, Peter, Ross</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It's important to post regularly on the same day each week</li> <li>- Sue has started posting and will continue</li> <li>- Rob suggested posting about bears coming out of hibernation next spring</li> <li>- Tony is concerned about fragmentation of news</li> <li>- We could put the zoom link for our meetings on our facebook page</li> </ul> <p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here:<br/> <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Links-to-YouTube-Videos.pdf</a> 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.<br/> <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</a></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>September 12 – Recycling reports from Ross have been sent out (below, and Nick's amendment) Question whether Ross's write up should be a deputation/presentation to Council – may be able to talk about it briefly after his presentation on turtle protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Next step is to get in touch with Circular Materials and/or RLG to determine if the guidelines we've got so far — (only 1, 2 or 5 rigid plastic, no bags or soft plastic packaging, no waxed or coated paper, etc.) — still apply once our materials are processed by Emterra and Canada Fibers, or if they need to be changed. We also need to find out when our "audit" is taking place, and how we will get the results.</li> </ul> <p>RECYCLING NEWS [blurb for MLCA newsletter]</p> <p>McKellar's lake stewardship and environment committee recently visited the facility that handles our township's recycling, to see what we can do to reduce the "contamination" of our materials—and future costs to our township, and your taxes. Five key things we learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plastic bags and soft plastic packaging aren't recycled, so keep them out of the bins</li> <li>- Use a box to store and tip your cans, glass, and hard plastics, instead of bagging them</li> <li>- Make sure glass, metal, and plastic containers are clean, with no leftover oils or liquids</li> </ul> |

- Don't put waxed cardboard or coated paper in the bins
- Our paper, cans, and hard plastics are being successfully resold and recycled!

Township staff say they're already seeing improvements at the bins, so let's keep up the good work. For more details, see a report at the environment committee's new Facebook page: [URL to come]

#### LESSONS FROM WASTE CONNECTIONS [Facebook post]

As you've probably noticed, the rules for recycling at McKellar's transfer station have changed. The township has installed signs noting that only rigid plastics (marked #1, 2, or 5) will be accepted, for example, and staff have been advising residents and visitors about what is and isn't accepted in the bins. What's going on?

Ontario is moving to a new system for recycling. Until recently, the cost of recycling was mainly paid by municipal taxes. Starting this year, it will be paid mainly by the producers of packaging, to fund not-for-profit companies that will recover costs by selling those materials to firms that recycle them into new paper, cans, glass, and plastic. McKellar became part of this system on July 1, and it will be fully implemented province-wide by 2026. (For more details, see <https://www.circularmaterials.ca/provincial-programs/recycling-in-ontario/>)

One big cost for these companies is dealing with the "contamination" of usable materials with items that can't be recycled. Under the new system, a municipality will have to get its contamination rate down to 4% — or the company will charge that municipality more to handle its recycling, and its residents will have to pay more in taxes. We don't know McKellar's current contamination rate, as the first "audit" of our bins is due later this year. But the current provincial average is around 12%, so we all have work to do.

On August 13, McKellar's lake stewardship and environment committee visited the Waste Connections facility in Bracebridge that currently handles our township's recycling, to see what we can do to reduce contamination.

The facility handles materials from a huge area, covering townships all the way from Barrie to North Bay. Trucking is a major expense for Waste Connections, so most municipalities they deal with, like McKellar, have just two bins for recycling: one for paper and cardboard, and one for cans, glass and plastic. Separating materials further means more bins, and more trucks. "You've got to look at the logistics," plant manager Ludwig Biliko told us.

But the downside of using fewer bins is that residents are less inclined to sort their materials, and more likely to dump anything and everything into them, hoping that it will all get recycled.

Waste Connections has as many as eight employees at a time working on a conveyor belt, sorting garbage from recycling — removing bags, soft plastic packaging, food, cigarette butts, scrap metal, construction materials, or worse. (See video.) "You wouldn't believe what they see here," Biliko said. During the summer cottage season, three shifts work the belt, 24 hours a day.

Their biggest problem is plastic bags and soft plastic packaging: Biliko's team has to remove 20 \*tons\* of these soft plastics from recyclables every month, and then dispose of them as garbage. (As new signs at McKellar's transfer station indicate, only rigid plastics can be recycled, particularly those stamped #1, 2 or 5. Check the bottom of your containers.)

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|      | <p>There's also contamination in the paper bins. Coated or laminated paper can't be recycled, so milk and tetra boxes are garbage. After sorting, Biliko's team compact the recyclables into bales, but sometimes contaminants still get through: we saw one bale of cardboard that still had a waxed box for vegetables in it. "Someone will have to fish that out," he said. More labour, more cost.</p> <p>Another problem is containers that haven't been emptied and cleaned. If someone puts a half-full bottle of Pepsi or cooking oil in the recycling, it breaks, and covers everything with goo. Biliko's team can't test that goo—is it hazardous waste?—so they have to treat the entire load as contaminated, and dump all those recyclables in the landfill.</p> <p>The good news from our visit was that our paper, cans, and hard plastics <i>are</i> being successfully resold and recycled. Biliko said aluminum cans currently fetch \$2200 per ton, and hard plastics get \$300 per ton.</p> <p>As Ontario's new recycling system kicks in, there's hope that eventually a wider variety of materials will be accepted. For now, though, it's up to us to sort our materials carefully and keep contamination to a minimum. Township staff say they're already seeing improvements at the bins, so let's keep up the good work!</p> <p>Nick suggested an amendment:</p> <p>"On August 13, McKellar's lake stewardship and environment committee visited the Waste Connections facility in Bracebridge that currently handles our township's recycling, to see what we can do to reduce contamination."</p> <p>I would like to amend that paragraph to say<br/> On August 13, members McKellar's Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee, two public works staff and some council members visited the Waste Connections facility in Bracebridge that currently handles our township's recycling, to see what we can do to reduce contamination.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>Next Steps</p> |
| 4.7  | <p>Fishing / Wildlife –<br/> Sept 12 – update from Ross on Turtles<br/> Ross will make a deputation to Council to request endorsement for putting up road signs where turtle crossing sites are identified on Sept 17. Tianna Burke, McKellar resident, who has a great deal of expertise about turtles, is being consulted.</p> <p>Motion: Moved: Sue, Seconded: Peter The LSEC endorses the placement of road signs to protect the turtle population in McKellar Township. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Although we have a volunteer to put up the signs, they may need to be erected by Township employees because of liability issues.</p>  |
| 4.8  | <p>Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach.</p>  |
| 4.9  | <p>Catch and Release Signs are up at township launch sites.</p>   |
| 4.10 | <p>Benthic Study –</p>  |

|                                    |   |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
|------------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|                                    |   | July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.11                               |   | Pesticides/Fertilizers – March 7 <sup>th</sup> – The new brochure was distributed to residents at the end of Feb.  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.12                               | *   | Invasive Species –<br>Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff<br>The concern about Phragmites would be a good article for our Facebook page. Often a spray is used – “habitat aqua,” which is purported to be harmless to animals and other vegetation.   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.13                               |   | Dark Skies –<br>We have a brochure that was made in about 2021.  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.14                               |   | Water Levels –<br>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. <a href="#">Water-Levels-on-Lake-Manitouwabing-JGF-Amended-July-2022.pdf (mckellar.ca)</a><br>Reposted in April 2024   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.15                               |   | Pollinator Patches / Gardens–  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
|                                    |   | ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.16                               |   | EV Chargers –  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.17                               |   | Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)<br>May 9 Council did not go ahead with the Food Cycler Program  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 4.18                               |   | Drinking Water Source Protection   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 5.                                 |   | Budget –<br><br>March 2024 – No objections to our budget from Council.   |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 6.                                 |   | Dec 14 <sup>th</sup> 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><br><br>LSEC Meeting Dates in 2024:<br><table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">January 11<sup>th</sup></td> <td style="width: 50%;">July 11<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 8<sup>th</sup> No Quorum</td> <td>Friday August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 7<sup>th</sup> No Quorum</td> <td>September 12<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 11<sup>th</sup> No Quorum</td> <td>October 17<sup>th</sup> (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 9<sup>th</sup></td> <td>November 14<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 13<sup>th</sup></td> <td>December 12<sup>th</sup></td> </tr> </table><br>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.<br><br>* | January 11 <sup>th</sup> | July 11 <sup>th</sup> | February 8 <sup>th</sup> No Quorum | Friday August | March 7 <sup>th</sup> No Quorum | September 12 <sup>th</sup> | April 11 <sup>th</sup> No Quorum | October 17 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday) | May 9 <sup>th</sup> | November 14 <sup>th</sup> | June 13 <sup>th</sup> | December 12 <sup>th</sup> |
| January 11 <sup>th</sup>           | July 11 <sup>th</sup>                               |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| February 8 <sup>th</sup> No Quorum | Friday August                                       |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| March 7 <sup>th</sup> No Quorum    | September 12 <sup>th</sup>                          |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
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| May 9 <sup>th</sup>                | November 14 <sup>th</sup>                           |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| June 13 <sup>th</sup>              | December 12 <sup>th</sup>                           |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
| 7.                                 |   | Motion to adjourn.<br>Moved: Peter Seconded: Ross Approved: Yes Time: 8:35 pm  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |
|                                    |   |  |                          |                       |                                    |               |                                 |                            |                                  |   |                     |                           |                       |                           |

