

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Agenda

Thursday December 18 , 2025

ZOOM MEETING

Topic: Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee

Time: Dec 18, 2025 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89107107204?pwd=5dr5LRWV2Hn0TeIW1xbRQhAC1PF6F7.1>

Meeting ID: 891 0710 7204

Passcode: 241128

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,89107107204# Canada

+16475580588,,89107107204# Canada

† 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>

Our Facebook page is located at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

Item	Time	Please note: These are ongoing agenda items. Only items marked with an * will be discussed at the next meeting.
1.	*	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.
2.	*	Roll Call: Tony Best (); Ross Crockford (); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (); Carl Mitchell (); Nick Ryeland (); Rick Speers (); Rob Gibson () We need 5 committee members to have a quorum () Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? no
3.1	*	Motion to accept the minutes of November 20, 2025. (attached) Moved: Seconded: Amendment: Approved with () without () Amendment :
3.2	*	Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Rick Seconded: Ross, Accepted
3.3	*	Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss?
4. Goals		General Updates on Current Issues. NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.

4.1	*	<p>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection</p> <p>December 18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to the report on the Safe Quiet Lakes Survey 2025 Exec-summary-final.pdf • Further discussion on actions that could be taken about wake surfing • Boating incident – further developments (cable etc) • Extracted information on Manitouwabing residents’ responses to SQL survey sent out <p>November 20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MLCA feels that addressing the wake boat issue should be handled by the Township, as Federal Legislation requires this, but they are willing to conduct a survey, collect information, and promote education 2. FOCA has put the Chair in touch with the “Wake Coalition” organized by SQL. Nick and Tony are interested in helping. 3. Ross attempted to find out the origin/author of 7.1 for Dummies document – Chair has distributed information in the past week about the issue of wake boats (Effects on the Lake of Recreational Wakes, Resources and References on Wake Surfing). Included with this emailing will be two pertinent research papers and VORR 7.1 for Dummies. The reason for including the research papers is that research is required in order to make a VORR application – whether this research will suffice remains to be seen. Chris Houser offered to separate the Manitouwabing data if we request it. Previously, information on putting a question to the voters was distributed. There is a requirement that an assessment needs to be done on the support that exists in the community for a ban on wake boats, and we could take advantage of the fact that 2026 is a municipal election year to request a question on the October 26 ballot. The deadline for this submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is March 1 2026 and the request would need to be made by Council. An awareness/education campaign would need to be conducted next summer in order to present the issue to the residents 4. Are there any other townships pursuing banning Wake surfing. LSEC should do education on how wake surfing damages our lake. Possibly do a survey through “Survey Monkey” and/or gather some feedback from the public on their anecdotes and feelings. 5. Jennifer will update Council on wake surfing when giving the presentation on the budget etc which is coming up soon. Ross will send Jennifer information on where in the United States have begun banning wake surfing boats. <p>– Chair has distributed information in the past week about the issue of wake boats (Effects on the Lake of Recreational Wakes, Resources and References on Wake Surfing). Included with this emailing will be two pertinent research papers and VORR 7.1 for Dummies. The reason for including the research papers is that research is required in order to make a VORR application – whether this research will suffice remains to be seen. Chris Houser offered to separate the Manitouwabing data if we request it. Previously, information on putting a question to the voters was distributed. There is a requirement that an assessment needs to be done on the support that exists in the community for a ban on wake boats, and we could take advantage of the fact that 2026 is a municipal election year to request a question on the October 26 ballot. The deadline for this submission to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs is March 1 2026 and the request would need to be made by Council. An awareness/education campaign would need to be conducted next summer in order to present the issue to the residents</p> <p>Video link: https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/kfzn5i229vbhub705z87r/BoatWakeComparison.mp4?rlkey=7sf0jhsgurjq7jlsrscsmemx3o&dl=0</p>
-----	---	--

4.2		<p>Water Sampling</p> <p>The committee agreed that we will apply to do one test for PFA's in 2026 at a cost of approximately \$625 plus tax (price quoted in October 2025).</p>
4.3		<p>Publicity</p> <p>November 20</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The video on Well Maintenance has been completed and is posted on our YouTube channel. The list has been updated and sent to the library 2. Items that could be added to Environmental Considerations 2026: 3. Discouraging insect fogging 4. PFA's in the water 5. Effects of wake surfing on the lake 6. Discouraging dumping pharmaceuticals into the septic (from well maintenance video) 7. Article about avoiding shallow areas/disturbing sediment with power boats with Patty's pictures 8. We could do some work/education on planting in the water at the shore (buffer, habitat) Note about videos available. Ross asked when the deadline would be for preparing a 2026 revision – we need to get it to the printer by mid-May, get the list of new households by the beginning of June and complete 2026 distribution by July 1 as we did in 2025 9. We would aim to have a revised Environmental Considerations ready to print in early May – get a list of new residents by the beginning of June <p>October 16th – The video on Preparing to Protect your Property from Wildfire Damage has been edited to contain an introduction by Rob Morrison, McKellar Fire Chief and is available on the McKellar Township web page under Residents/Environment/Fire https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=67SaYBFcaDc LSEC Facebook page url: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL</p> <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 will continue gradually updating the page with Megan Attard's help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>
4.4	*	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</p> <p>Dec 18 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New recycling guidelines sent to the Township by Circular Materials Organization. What steps do we need to take – not on the web page under Recycling/Transfer Station yet 2. May long weekend is May 15 – 18, 2026 – we could have the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign between May 11 to 25th or so (2 weeks). There are no longer bins requested, so it's a question of putting up the sign at the Transfer Station and doing publicity for the campaign.

4.5		<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>Oct 16 Update from Ross on Turtle Crossing Signs – Ross and Jennifer conferred about the number of signs required and settled on an amount of \$1200 as appropriate for the turtle signs on McKellar Township roads.</p> <p>RESOLUTION #3 2025</p> <p>Moved: Ross, Seconded Peter – We will spend an amount not to exceed \$ 1200 on turtle signs. Passed Unanimously.</p>
4.6		<p>Benthic Study October - GBB did Benthic sampling again in July 2025 – report is available on the McKellar Web Page here: https://www.mckellar.ca/en/township-services/resources/Manitouwabing-environment-report-2025-1.pdf</p>
4.7		<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p> <p>Nov 20 –</p> <p>Pamphlet discouraging fogging of pesticides has been printed and delivered to the Township office. Payment was included with 2025 budget.</p> <p>October 16</p> <p>Peter reported on his presentation of the pamphlet on pesticide fogging to Council. The brochure was approved by Council to be included in the February 2026 tax mailing.</p> <p>Resolution 2025 #4</p> <p>Resolved that we have the brochure on pesticide fogging - “Spraying for Mosquitoes: Things to Consider” printed this fall in preparation for distribution with the winter (Jan/Feb) tax mailing at a cost of no more than \$1500.</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Rob Passed Unanimously</p> <p>Sept 18 – A few of us realized that the education on pesticide fogging needs to go out before the spring (ie with the January tax mailing). A pamphlet has been written to discourage fogging for biting insects because the contamination kills other insect species, interferes with the food supply for animals and birds, remains in the ground, pollutes the groundwater, and is carried to the streams, rivers and lakes with rain runoff, affecting aquatic life. This pamphlet is presented for evaluation and approval by the committee.</p> <p>Moved: The pamphlet distributed with this agenda entitled “Spraying for Mosquitoes: Things to Consider” be approved by this committee and presented to Council for approval</p> <p>Moved: Tony Seconded: Ross <u>without</u> amendments: Passed unanimously</p>
4.8		Invasive Species –
4.9		<p>Water Levels –</p> <p>Sept 18 – We posted a notice about the lowering of water levels on the LSEC web page so people are reminded why the water levels are dropping and the fact that the range of level is governed by an agreement The water level on Lake Manitouwabing is controlled by the hydro power company, Bracebridge Generation Ltd. within the limits of the normal operating zone established in a resolution of the Public Utilities Commission of the Town of Parry Sound (No. 87-83).” And the url for the paper : 2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF.pdf</p>
4.10		Drinking Water Source Protection

		Oct 16 – The webinar on well maintenance by OGWA will be on Monday October 27 at 7 pm on zoom. Facebook and MLCA publicity.																																																																																																
4.11		Strategic Planning – Nov 20 2025 – MLCA may be interested in conducting environmental projects –survey results indicated that the health of the lake is very important to respondents - some possibilities could be to look at FOCA priorities and what other lake associations are doing, for example drinking water source protection, collecting wood ash and spreading it into the woods near the lake which helps restore calcium levels in both after calcium was leached for decades by acid rain – Tony discussed the role of government, philanthropy and volunteers.																																																																																																
		Ongoing items deleted from Agendas and Minutes: Septic Education, Microplastics, Fish Catch reporting sign at Armstrong Lake following stocking, Catch and Release signs, Dark Skies, ICE CAP, EV Chargers, Organic Waste Planning, Pollinator Gardens. These items can be brought back as needed.																																																																																																
5.	*	<p>Budget</p> <p>Dec 18: Proposed budget for 2026 presented to Council Dec 16th, 2025</p> <p>Nov 20: Expenditures for 2025 have been finalized – no need for further resolutions</p> <p>October 16 – Draft Budget for 2026 (attached)</p> <p>The Draft Budget was presented. It includes a 5% increase in costs for analysis of water samples. We will print 200 copies of a revised ‘Environmental Considerations’ book initially and print more if they are needed.</p> <div><p>Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee Budget – 2026 draft</p><table><tr><th></th><th>2024 Budget Detail</th><th>2024 Actuals</th><th>2025 Budget</th><th>2025 Actuals</th><th>2026 Draft Budget</th></tr><tr><td>Water Testing</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>E. Coli Sampling</td><td>\$4,500.00</td><td>\$4,640.22</td><td>\$4,900.00</td><td>\$4,690.09</td><td>\$5,000</td></tr><tr><td>Phosphorus and calcium sampling</td><td>\$2,500.00</td><td>\$2106.04</td><td>\$2,400.00</td><td>\$2,413.60</td><td>\$2600</td></tr><tr><td>PFA test</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>\$800</td></tr><tr><td>Standardizing solutions</td><td>\$250.00</td><td>153.68</td><td>\$170.00</td><td>\$175.15</td><td>\$180</td></tr><tr><td>Benthic 2 sites</td><td>two sites \$4,000</td><td>\$2,520</td><td>\$4600</td><td>\$3869</td><td>\$4000</td></tr><tr><td>Water Testing Sub total</td><td>\$11,250.00</td><td>\$9,419.94</td><td>\$12,070</td><td>\$11,147.84</td><td>\$12,580</td></tr><tr><td>Educational Materials</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Signs (recycling, animal/turtle crossing)</td><td>\$200</td><td>0</td><td>\$500</td><td></td><td>\$1200</td></tr><tr><td>200 Environmental Welcome Packages for New Residents</td><td></td><td></td><td>\$1450</td><td>\$1,864.50</td><td>\$4000 (400 copies)</td></tr><tr><td>Educational Materials Consolidated (Flyers and other educational materials Presentations)</td><td>\$3,500</td><td>\$819.25</td><td>Shoreline Pamphlet \$ 1300 New Recycling Pamphlet \$1300</td><td>\$1,226.05 Insecticide fogging pamphlet \$ 1,226.05</td><td>1300</td></tr><tr><td>Honorariums for talks</td><td>\$900</td><td>0</td><td>\$500</td><td></td><td>\$500</td></tr><tr><td>Demonstration Pollinator Garden</td><td></td><td></td><td>\$250</td><td>delete</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Education Activities Sub Total</td><td>\$6,843.00</td><td>\$1,864.50</td><td>\$5,300</td><td>4316.60</td><td>\$7000</td></tr><tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>\$18,093.00</td><td>\$14,951.44</td><td>\$17,370</td><td>\$15,464.44</td><td>\$19,580</td></tr></table></div>		2024 Budget Detail	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Draft Budget	Water Testing						E. Coli Sampling	\$4,500.00	\$4,640.22	\$4,900.00	\$4,690.09	\$5,000	Phosphorus and calcium sampling	\$2,500.00	\$2106.04	\$2,400.00	\$2,413.60	\$2600	PFA test					\$800	Standardizing solutions	\$250.00	153.68	\$170.00	\$175.15	\$180	Benthic 2 sites	two sites \$4,000	\$2,520	\$4600	\$3869	\$4000	Water Testing Sub total	\$11,250.00	\$9,419.94	\$12,070	\$11,147.84	\$12,580	Educational Materials						Signs (recycling, animal/turtle crossing)	\$200	0	\$500		\$1200	200 Environmental Welcome Packages for New Residents			\$1450	\$1,864.50	\$4000 (400 copies)	Educational Materials Consolidated (Flyers and other educational materials Presentations)	\$3,500	\$819.25	Shoreline Pamphlet \$ 1300 New Recycling Pamphlet \$1300	\$1,226.05 Insecticide fogging pamphlet \$ 1,226.05	1300	Honorariums for talks	\$900	0	\$500		\$500	Demonstration Pollinator Garden			\$250	delete		Education Activities Sub Total	\$6,843.00	\$1,864.50	\$5,300	4316.60	\$7000	Grand Total	\$18,093.00	\$14,951.44	\$17,370	\$15,464.44	\$19,580
	2024 Budget Detail	2024 Actuals	2025 Budget	2025 Actuals	2026 Draft Budget																																																																																													
Water Testing																																																																																																		
E. Coli Sampling	\$4,500.00	\$4,640.22	\$4,900.00	\$4,690.09	\$5,000																																																																																													
Phosphorus and calcium sampling	\$2,500.00	\$2106.04	\$2,400.00	\$2,413.60	\$2600																																																																																													
PFA test					\$800																																																																																													
Standardizing solutions	\$250.00	153.68	\$170.00	\$175.15	\$180																																																																																													
Benthic 2 sites	two sites \$4,000	\$2,520	\$4600	\$3869	\$4000																																																																																													
Water Testing Sub total	\$11,250.00	\$9,419.94	\$12,070	\$11,147.84	\$12,580																																																																																													
Educational Materials																																																																																																		
Signs (recycling, animal/turtle crossing)	\$200	0	\$500		\$1200																																																																																													
200 Environmental Welcome Packages for New Residents			\$1450	\$1,864.50	\$4000 (400 copies)																																																																																													
Educational Materials Consolidated (Flyers and other educational materials Presentations)	\$3,500	\$819.25	Shoreline Pamphlet \$ 1300 New Recycling Pamphlet \$1300	\$1,226.05 Insecticide fogging pamphlet \$ 1,226.05	1300																																																																																													
Honorariums for talks	\$900	0	\$500		\$500																																																																																													
Demonstration Pollinator Garden			\$250	delete																																																																																														
Education Activities Sub Total	\$6,843.00	\$1,864.50	\$5,300	4316.60	\$7000																																																																																													
Grand Total	\$18,093.00	\$14,951.44	\$17,370	\$15,464.44	\$19,580																																																																																													

		<p>October 16:</p> <p>Motion to accept the proposed 2026 budget, with the proviso to do an initial printing of 200 Environmental Considerations books and add a later additional printing if needed.</p> <p>Moved: Rick Seconded: Ross Accepted: Unanimous</p>												
6.	*	<p>Our meetings are now held on the third Thursday of the month.</p> <table><tr><td>January 9th</td><td>July 17th</td></tr><tr><td>February 13th</td><td>August 21st</td></tr><tr><td>March 13th</td><td>September 18th</td></tr><tr><td>April 10th</td><td>October 16th</td></tr><tr><td>May 8th</td><td>November 20th</td></tr><tr><td>June 12th</td><td>Dec 18th</td></tr></table> <p>The Council Chamber is available and has been booked for Third Thursdays.</p> <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 9th	July 17th	February 13th	August 21st	March 13th	September 18th	April 10th	October 16th	May 8th	November 20th	June 12th	Dec 18th
January 9th	July 17th													
February 13th	August 21st													
March 13th	September 18th													
April 10th	October 16th													
May 8th	November 20th													
June 12th	Dec 18th													
7.	*	<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Seconded: Approved: Time:</p>												