

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

**Approved Final Minutes
THURSDAY, March 9th, 2023**

Item	Time	
1.		<p>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 (N) ; Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (v) ; Melanie Jeffrey (v) ; Al Last (v) ; Axy Leighl (v) ; Carl Mitchell (on LOA); Suzanne Poff (v); Nick Ryeland (v); Lynda Taylor (N). We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (6)</p> <p>Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof - none</p>
3.		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of December 8th, 2022. (attached). Moved: Sue Seconded: Melanie Approved: (yes) Amendments: none</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p>
4.1		<p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection – Axy /Carl updates From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: “We will try to propose a waterfront guideline or bylaw which will give guidance for waterfront vegetation. As part of this we will also look at set back for new buildings. (Axy, Tony and Jennifer)” <i>(these two agenda items have been amalgamated)</i> Axy will give an update at the next meeting. Dec 8/22 Axy updated us on his research and conversations with staff. The Council is reviewing the zoning bylaw.</p> <p>Note: The Short-Term Rental Committee, which was disbanded in the fall, originated from a concern on this committee on the effects of short term tenants on the environment.</p> <p>March 9 - Axy & Jennifer have been working on expanding the Tree Canopy Policy to include Shorelands. It is thought that this will be easier to administer than a bylaw and will perform an educational function. A paper by Hutchinson Environmental Sciences Ltd. written in 1921 for Haliburton, as well as materials from FOCA and Watersheds Canada are the main references. It is hoped that a first draft along with the references can be distributed before our April meeting.</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).</p> <p>March 9 - MLCA has purchased new equipment to facilitate gathering samples from deep water and collecting data in deep water. A lab will be sought 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.</p>

4.3	<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>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 should 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> <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</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	<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>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	<p>Fishing - <u>Draft Fisheries Management Plan Highlights Proposal Summary - Seeking Indigenous Community Feedback - October 25, 2022</u> received from Steve Scholten, MNRF – posted on Township web site under Environment and FB as publicity was requested – committee members agreed to review it.</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. 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 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Resolution 2023 #2 – That the GBB be contracted to continue the Benthic sampling in the three sites (see attached) as proposed with the proviso that all the data from the Lake Manitouwabing studies be submitted and posted to an already existing publicly available website at no extra charge to the township or the MLCA. Moved: Sue Seconded: Al Approved</p>
4.11	<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers – (would be included in any Drinking Water Source Protection) From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning: 4. Pesticides – we will fold a discussion of pesticide use on lawns into the work/education on waterfront vegetation. Melanie and Jennifer.</p>

4.12	x	<p>Invasive Species – Signs are up at boat launch sites; additional signs are available from FOCA 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.</p> <p>March 9 – Motion The LSEC will ensure that older invasive species signs at boat launches be removed and replaced them with the newer signs as well as placing signs at boat launches where there is not yet a sign about invasive species. Moved: Sue Seconded: Al Approved</p> <p>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.</p> <p>A waterless boat cleaning system to prevent the transfer of invasive species was advertised at the FOCA AGM on March 4th. 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.</p>
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4.13		<p>Dark Skies – From Oct 13/ 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.</p>
4.15		<p>Pollinator Patches – From Oct 13/ minutes on planning:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sue, Axy and Al will work on a program of <i>pollinator patches</i> 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. <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>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.</p> <p>The David Suzuki program has agreed to include our gardens on their maps and to give us signs. Their usual pattern of gardens is to have about 15 that are in close proximity. We will work to make this happen in the next few years, mainly by encouraging people to plant pollinator patches on their properties.</p>

		<p>Resolution 2023 #3 The LSEC recommends the spending of no more than the \$2000 budgeted for plants for the pollinator patches.</p> <p>Moved - Al Seconded - Axy Approved</p> <p>Nick suggested that procurement policy usually involves getting a few quotes. Sue will do that.</p>
4.16		<p>ICECAP – Nick and Tony tracking</p> <p>Nick plans to organize a meeting to iron out some issues about our ICECAP participation. 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. Nick will attend the ICECAP Stakeholder meeting on May 30th. There is practical value to the township in saving energy.</p>
4.17		<p>EV Chargers –</p> <p>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		<p>Organic Waste Planning investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future</p>
4.19		<p>From Oct 13/22 minutes on planning:</p> <p>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> <p>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’s help.</p> <p>https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>

6.		<p>Budget – Our suggestions for the 2023 LSEC budget was approved by the committee members at the December LSEC meeting. It will be forwarded to Council. Attached at end.</p>												
7.		<p>Next meeting date and time is Thursday March 9th , 7 pm on zoom We need a committee member to attend in the community centre, please.</p> <p>LSEC meetings will continue at 7 pm on the second Thursday of the month in 2023:</p> <table data-bbox="240 590 779 800"> <tr> <td>January 12th</td> <td>July 13th</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>Dec 8th Motion: To cancel January and February meetings to have a winter break. Moved: Tony, Seconded: Sue. Carried with one abstention. Project work will continue. Next meeting April 13th.</p>	January 12th	July 13 th	February 9th	August 10 th	March 9th	September 14 th	April 13 th	October 12 th	May 11 th	November 9 th	June 8 th	December 14 th
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8.	X	<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Melanie Seconded: AI Approved: Time: 8:35 PM</p>												

Lake Stewardship and Environmental Committee Budget - Final Estimate for 2023

	Budget estimate 2021	Actual Expenditure 2021	Budget estimate 2022	Actual Expenditure 2022	Budget Estimate 2023
E. Coli Sampling	\$ 4,248	\$4800.24	\$5,000.00	\$ 3,616.47	\$ 4,000.00
Phosphorus and calcium sampling				\$ 630.00	\$4,000.00
Microcystin (if there is a BGA bloom)	\$265	\$0	\$265	\$0	\$ 300.00
Standardizing solutions (q2yrs)	\$500	\$120	\$0	\$0	\$150
Benthic 4 sites	\$4420 (MLCA pays ¼)	\$3315	\$4915	3 – \$4915.20 Twp (1 - \$2320.00 MLCA)	3 sites \$ 5,260
Educational Materials	Bookmarks and flyers - \$300	Bookmarks and Flyers \$300	Bookmarks and flyers \$500	Bookmarks and Flyers \$344.65	\$ 2,000
Educational Materials	Lake Protection Workbook \$3000.00	Lake Protection Workbook \$2,224.97		Presentations \$947.50	\$1,500
Educational Materials			Septic Smart Booklet \$5000	Septic Smart Booklet \$4418.30 + \$207= \$4,625.30	\$ 500
Educational Materials	Catch and Release Signs and Posts \$500	Catch and Release Signs and Posts \$1,028.30			
			Other educational materials plus new initiatives \$3,900	2 pamphlets – 2000 copies for mailing \$2497.30	\$2000
			Remedial Plantings \$2500	0	\$ 2,500.00
Sub Total			\$22,080	\$17,576.42	\$22,210.00
PLUS GBB ICECAP	\$ 8500	\$8500	\$8500	\$ 8,000	\$8,000
Grand Total			\$30,580	\$25,576.42	\$ 30,210