

# LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes Thursday Aug 21, 2025

† 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.		<p><b>Land Acknowledgement:</b></p> <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 (X); Ross Crockford (X); Peter Duffey (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Carl Mitchell (No); Nick Ryeland (No); Rick Speers (X); Rob Gibson (X)</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (6) Township Clerk, Karlee Britton was also in attendance.</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? No</p>
3.1		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of July 17, 2025. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Peter           Seconded: Rob</p> <p>Amendment: Add date to 4.19</p> <p>Approved with Amendment : Yes</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? Yes – 4.1 track property changovers since the list was made until Sept 1 2025</p> <p>Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Peter   Seconded: Rob   Accepted ( Yes )</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss?</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.</b></p>
4.1		<p><b>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection</b></p> <p>August 21, 2025 We should track the house sales since we last made the list until Sept 1 and take the Environmental Considerations book and the Lake Protection book to those new residents. Following that, the remainder can go to the Township office and the Library. Rick agreed to check on change overs.</p> <p>July 17 2025 – Shorelands brochure going out with the tax mailings this month. Most residents are still on snail mail. All committee members finished the distribution to their list of new residents of the Environmental Publications booklet. The response was good with some residents getting in touch to say how much it was appreciated.</p>
4.2		<p><b>Water Sampling</b></p> <p>Aug 21 –E coli samples go in August 25.</p> <p>Sampling for Phosphorus and Calcium will be repeated at the end of September.</p>

4.3	<p>Publicity</p> <p>Aug 21 – Rob Morrison has agreed to record the introduction to the Wildfire Preparation video to improve its presentation to the community.</p> <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&amp;mibextid=ZbWKwL">https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&amp;mibextid=ZbWKwL</a></p> <p>Presentations - YouTube videos from this committee are posted here:  <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 will continue gradually updating the page with Megan Attard’s help. <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>
4.4	<p>Earth Day / <b>Clean Up Our Lakes</b> / Recycling</p> <p><b>August 21</b> – Recycling changes</p> <p>We decided to create a pamphlet for the tax mailing in January that details the recycling materials acceptable on one side and the information about the harm pesticide spraying/fogging does on the other side.</p> <p><b>Recycling side:</b> Now that our recycled items are going to a different depot, there are changes in what is accepted:</p> <p>Notably now included are: Milk cartons, cream cartons and other waxed lined gable containers  Ice cream container tubs; Polystyrene and Styrofoam food and drink containers; take-out coffee cups; bottles, containers and lids marked with recycling symbol 3, 5 or 7. This may have to do with new buyers being found for recycled materials. Circular Materials will be doing an extensive advertising campaign in early 2026, will have new signs and will do all the community education for the province. If we put up new signs now, it will cause confusion because they will contradict the pamphlets and posters that are in use now.</p> <p>Karlee said she was in touch with Reverse Logistics Systems (RLG) who directed that people should not be putting their recycling in the household garbage and they will direct more trucks our way to exchange the compactor bins as soon as they’re full. If the bins are changed on time, the Township does not need new bins. We could also make a pdf of a list that people could print out at home. The pamphlet should look substantially different than the old pamphlet, using multiple colours, to help residents recognize it as new. The Township has blue boxes for sale. There was a big fuss on FB when we last advertised the blue boxes for sale.</p> <p><b>Pesticide side:</b></p> <p>Apparently Kapuskasing and Moonbeam have passed a “no spraying” bylaw under the Forestry Act which forbids spraying too close to drinking water sources. <b>Jennifer</b> to check with FOCA about other municipalities and whether they have bylaws against fog spraying.</p> <p>Peter and Rob will work on the pesticide part of the pamphlet and Rick, Ross and Jennifer will work on the recycling side.</p>
4.5	<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>Aug 21 – 1. update on Save the Turtles (Ross) – There are three roads with definite crossings – Tait’s Island Road, Grey Owl Road and McKellar Lake Road. Those sites would suit a Reptile Crossing sign. However the turtles cross all along Centre Rd and Hurdville Rd and don’t seem to favour one area for crossing. Karlee is going to look for a “Watch for Turtles” sign that would give a general warning for the whole road.</p> <p>July 17 - 1. Update on Save the Turtles campaign (<b>Ross</b>) – Signs need to be posted in pairs so traffic going each way can see them – twice the cost – keep in mind for the budget – The FB page <b>McKellar Reptile Crossings</b> has 47 followers and has received 31 reports – there are more on iNaturalist about the McKellar area over the past 5 years – There are reports of turtle crossings the full length of Centre Rd and Hurdville Rd and some on other roads</p> <p>June 15 The campaign has received 15 reports of turtle locations – mainly painted turtles. A google map has been created.</p>

		<p>Aug 21                      2. Habitat creation might be a good topic for this group. See for example this booklet <a href="https://watersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Web-version-Shoreline-Habitat-Creation-Manual.pdf">https://watersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Web-version-Shoreline-Habitat-Creation-Manual.pdf</a> It's important to be certain that FireSmart guidelines are incorporated (hold for Sept 18– Get the Lead Out campaign – Petition signatures are the best performing part of this campaign – Wolfe Island Cottagers have containers at the Transfer Stations which have netted a lot of lead deposits)</p>
4.6		<p>Benthic Study August 21 - GBB did Benthic sampling again in July 2025 – report likely November – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites - Report from GBB was posted in November – Magnetawan Land Trust may receive a grant to conduct benthic testing – they inquired whether we would like to be included – MLCA requested input from Jennifer who suggested a site at the north of Grey Owl Lake where Lorimer lake feeds in because there is/was a proposed industrial development at Hwy 124 and Lorimer Lake Rd. N. and the benthic population is sensitive to industrial waste so it would be good to have a baseline.</p>
4.7		<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers – July 17 – <b>Next brochure/campaign</b> should be discouraging widespread spraying to kill insects – affects food supply for birds, kills off bees that are housed in local apiaries</p>
4.8		<p>Invasive Species – July 17 – Signage was put up at the Lakeshore Rd. boat launch to protect our lake against invasive species with Township permission – All the boat launches have signs now. It was closed in 2022 when we put up the other signs. Discussion at the Market – a lady who used to work for FOCA on invasive species said that she hadn't seen any invasive milfoil in Manitouwabing – only indigenous milfoil</p>
4.9		<p>Water Levels – Feb 13 – the updated paper on water levels and the appendices were reposted Jan 2025 <a href="https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF">https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF</a></p>
4.10		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens– July 17 2025 – Moved:Peter Seconded: Ross that LSEC no longer take any action on the pollinator garden at the Community Centre. Approved. Feb 13 – Sue will take a look at the pollinator garden in the spring. – Sue indicated that the pollinator garden has been taken over by golden rod and there are mainly plants that bloom in the fall – should move to more plants that bloom in the summer - Need to contact GBB to see if they will participate</p>
4.11		<p>Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)</p>
4.12		<p>Drinking Water Source Protection August 21 – Rob will review the guidelines sent by the OGWA concerning the video we will make on well maintenance, as they have asked for our input on what topics we want covered July 17 – Well Maintenance – we have contacted the Ontario Ground Water Association and they are willing to participate in a seminar – they sent an outline and want us to look it over – Rob is going to give feedback and then we'll set a date for a webinar July 17 – Plan going forward is to examine whatever plan FOCA evolves with their pilot project on Drinking Water Source Protection for those areas not covered under the Clean Water Act this summer of 2025 and discuss in 2026 the possibilities whether carry out a similar plan in 2027 in cooperation with MLCA June 12 – Terry Rees, former CEO of FOCA has been leading a project to format an implementation program for Drinking Water Source Protection for areas that are outside a</p>

		<p>municipal drinking water system. This summer there are three projects underway and the end result will be a manual giving guidance for other areas on how to implement this. We may be able to work on such a project for McKellar Township next summer, if the manual/guidelines are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Best Practices for Drinking Water Source Protection” distributed to committee members for review prior to the meeting as well as a link to a video by Kyle Smith on Well Maintenance, placed on Youtube by Quinte Conservation</li> <li>- FOCA is working with 3 lake associations this summer to develop implementation guidelines for establishing Drinking Water Source Protection in an area uncovered by current legislation. We may be able to follow these guidelines if they are ready to go next summer.</li> <li>- We could publicize the availability of the testing of treated household water by the Health Department – Peter will follow up with a Facebook post and publicity will be done at the Market Booth this summer.</li> </ul>
4.19		<p>Strategic Planning – July 17, 2025 The publication of “Environmental Considerations for McKellar Township Residents” represents a turning point for the committee. We can move into a mode of updating and expanding/retracting the booklet with a goal of updating it every year, distributing it to new residents with the Lake Protection Workbook, as well as long-time residents who want a hard copy and having the newest version online.</p> <p>We looked at the frequency of meetings and briefly considered cancelling winter meetings (December through March), however it was felt that we have done good work thus far and to pull back the frequency of meetings would cause us to lose momentum.</p> <p>We may cancel the December meeting, however, in order to do that we’d have to draft the budget in October and be ready to do revisions in November if Council so desires. However, we could have a meeting in December if need be.</p> <p>We will keep having the spring “Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads” campaign to encourage residents to maintain the beauty of the township.</p> <p>The committee members will each monitor one environmental publication/ Newsletter/ organization with a view to keeping the other members informed and updating ‘Environmental Considerations.’</p> <p><i>Peter</i> will monitor Safe Quiet Lakes, including the survey results and Transport Canada rulings on Wake Boats. [There have been public hearings. Municipalities have the jurisdiction to make the waterways motorless, allow motors of 9.9 HP or less, or have no limits on watercraft. There have been Transport Canada hearings about moving wake surfing into its own category, however boats cannot exceed 10 km/h close to shore (within 30m), but there is difficulty enforcing that limit. Only transport Canada can be effective at restricting the use of wake boats which are so destructive to the shoreline and shore bird nests.]</p> <p><i>Ross</i> will monitor FOCA</p> <p><i>Jennifer</i> will monitor Watersheds Canada and Water Magazine</p> <p><i>Rick</i> will monitor Firesmart.</p> <p><i>Nick</i> will monitor Council and report back any developments that affect our Environmental work Perhaps Rob can monitor changes at MNR that are of significance to us.</p> <p>We need someone to monitor changes in Fishing Regulations and trends etc.</p>
		<p>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. These items can be brought back as needed.</p>
5.		<p>Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025</p>

6.	<p><b>Our meetings are now held on the third Thursday of the month.</b></p> <table> <tr> <td><del>January 9<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b></td></tr> <tr> <td><del>February 13<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b></td></tr> <tr> <td><del>March 13<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>September 18<sup>th</sup></b></td></tr> <tr> <td><del>April 10<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b></td></tr> <tr> <td><del>May 8<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b></td></tr> <tr> <td><del>June 12<sup>th</sup></del></td><td><b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b></td></tr> </table> <p>The Council Chamber is available and has been booked for Third Thursdays.  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>	<del>January 9<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>July 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<del>February 13<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<del>March 13<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>September 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<del>April 10<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>October 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<del>May 8<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>November 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<del>June 12<sup>th</sup></del>	<b>Dec 18<sup>th</sup></b>
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7.	<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Ross Seconded: Peter Approved: Yes Time: 7:54 PM</p>												