

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes

Thursday July 17, 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>Land Acknowledgement:</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 (); Ross Crockford (v); Peter Duffey (v); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (v) ; Carl Mitchell (); Nick Ryeland (v); Rick Speers (v); Rob Gibson ()</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (v)</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 June 12, 2025. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Peter Seconded: Ross Approved: v</p> <p>Amendment: none</p> <p>Approved with Amendment :</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? – no</p> <p>Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Seconded: Accepted ()</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss?</p> <p>Discussion of Strategic planning moved to the end of the meeting.</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p> <p>NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.</p>
4.1		<p>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection</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> <p>June 12 2025 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 200 copies of Environmental Considerations booklet have been printed – 25 left at the Township Office for now – Members of the committee were assigned a section of the 88 new property owners who have moved into the Township since the beginning of 2022 when the LSEC and many volunteers distributed the Lake Protection Workbook and assorted other environmental information to all households.

		<p>3. Members picked up as many copies of the Environmental Considerations as they needed, as well as copies of the Lake Protection workbook and the addresses to deliver them to by July 1 2025.</p> <p>4. The remainder will be available at the McKellar Market MLCA booth for other McKellar residents. At the end of the summer, any leftovers will be delivered to the Library and the Township office for residents to pick up if they are interested.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling July 17 – sampling for phosphorus started again this week – E coli and phos samples go in July 28</p>
4.3		<p>Publicity July 17, 2025 Permission was obtained from the Township Office and the Fire Chief to put signs up on the Fire Board at the Transfer Station, and signs were posted. After the Fire Prevention day – July 20 – the Facebook sites will be advertised at the market. We will make FB posts as needed and not necessarily weekly. June 12 we plan to do at least one FB post per topic and put a notice on Facebook with the link to the document The library requested that LSEC have a table on environmental issues at the Sept 27 repair day at the library – Peter can attend, as can Jennifer and possibly Ross July 6th - We have also been requested to host a table at the Rib Fest Jennifer, Ross and Rick attended https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL 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 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		Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling
4.5		<p>Fishing / Wildlife – July 17 - 1. Update on Save the Turtles campaign (Ross) – 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 McKellar Reptile Crossings 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 June 15The campaign has received 15 reports of turtle locations – mainly painted turtles. A google map has been created. June 12 – Get the Lead Out campaign - Lead tackle can be dropped off at the McKellar Market or the McKellar Township Library – There is also a petition to sign asking the Ontario government to ban the selling of lead tackle.</p>
4.6		<p>Benthic Study July 17 - GBB will do Benthic sampling again in July 2025 – 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 – Next brochure/campaign 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 –</p> <p>July 17 –</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 –</p> <p>Feb 13 – the updated paper on water levels and the appendices were reposted Jan 2025 https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF</p>
4.10		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p> <p>July 17 2025 – Moved:Peter Seconded: Ross that LSEC no longer take any action on the pollinator garden at the Community Centre. Approved.</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to contact GBB to see if they will participate
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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 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"> - “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 - 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. - 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.
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</p> <p>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>												
		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.												
5.		Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025												
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
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7.		<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Ross Seconded: Rick Approved: Yes Time: 8:30 pm</p>												