

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Final Minutes

Thursday May 8, 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. |
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| 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 (X); Ross Crockford (X); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Carl Mitchell (); Nick Ryeland (X); Rick Speers (X); Rob Gibson (X)</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y)</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 April 10, 2025. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Rick Seconded:Rob Approved: yes</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? – Drinking Water Safety</p> <p>Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Rick Seconded: Rob Approved</p> <p>(Motion to add item to the agenda if needed) Moved: Seconded: Approved: ()</p> |
| 3.3 | * | <p>Strategic Planning</p> <p>May 8 2025 – 1. Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss</p> <p>2a. Information about drinking water safety and well maintenance attached for discussion.</p> <p>In February of 2022 we resolved to do education on drinking water. We did a video with Bruce Butler (Treating Lake Water or Well Water for Household Use with Bruce Butler) on Water Treatment.</p> <p>We could do some work on encouraging residents to test their treated water through the free testing offered by Public Health. Nick has notes and has talked to the Public Health personnel</p> <p>2 b. there is information on well-maintenance available we could use for education</p> <p>Two printed documents were attached to the agenda – Firstly, A Performance Audit of Non-municipal Drinking water – is too long and not related to maintenance of a well on private property (discusses mainly short-falls in inspection routines and provincial well records), Secondly, A printed Booklet entitled “Well Aware” by the Ontario Ground Water Association (OGWA) and Green Communities Canada was distributed – it is 32 pages and highly relevant – the link to this document could be posted under Environment (WA Booklet 2011 ART)</p> <p>There is also a video by Quinte Conservation featuring Kyle Smith, President of OGWA, speaking about well maintenance and safety – there is extraneous material on the Quinte Conservation video, so we could invite Kyle to do a presentation on zoom that we can save for residents on our YouTube channel.</p> |

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| | | <p>2.c Fireproofing your home – A FOCA video features Shayne McCool from FireSmart Canada – we could invite him to do a similar video for us for all residents. He also discusses landscaping with fire resistant plants and mentioned that there are 250 such plants described on the FireSmart web site</p> <p>- MNR also has a speaker on Wildland Fires Northern Ontario and printed brochures and videos – they are conducting training in McKellar with the volunteer firefighters shortly. MLCA will be holding a wildfire awareness day on July 20.</p> <p>We can contact Rob Morrison. –</p> <p>April 10 2025</p> <p>We have largely accomplished our goals set in our strategic planning in October 2024. The shoreline preservation pamphlets are printed and ready for distribution in July and the 2025 version of the “Welcome Package”, now entitled “Environmental Considerations for McKellar Residents” is almost complete. We can work on identifying properties that changed hands since Sept 2022 and target those residents as a first priority. We also have Lake Protection Workbooks to be distributed simultaneously. Ross will be working on establishing the location of turtle crossings and getting signs erected in those locations as approved by Council in the early fall.</p> <p>We can continue working on improvements in recycling.</p> <p>We may need to do some further strategic planning this spring and summer.</p> |
| 4. Goals | | General Updates on Current Issues. |
| 4.1 | * | <p>Waterfront/ Shoreline protection –</p> <p>May 8 2025</p> <p>Environmental Considerations package was approved by Council and is at the printers awaiting checking and go ahead</p> <p>May 8 2025:</p> <p><u>WELCOME BOOKLETS – ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS</u></p> <p>QTY: 200</p> <p>NUMBER OF PAGES: 25 including Covers</p> <p>FINISHED SIZE: 8.5" x 11"</p> <p>STOCK: 60lb text white / Covers on 10pt Gloss White</p> <p>INK: CMYK</p> <p>FINISHED: Coil Bound</p> <p>\$8.25 each + tax</p> <p>\$5.95 each + tax; 200 copies would be ~ \$1864 to print.</p> <p>Additionally,</p> <p>Resolution 2025 -2</p> <p>Resolved that we spend approximately \$1864.00 to print the Environmental Considerations Package for McKellar Township Residents. Approved.</p> <p>April 10 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Considerations package draft is completed – will be presented to Council April 15th • Update on Graphics estimate – graphic designer approached by Ross did not work out Cost will be higher as the package is longer than it was originally conceived to be We can update the package each year • We decided not to distribute the package to a few • residents for feedback initially, rather ask for feedback in the introduction. |

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| 4.2 | | Water Sampling Data for 2024 is uploaded onto data stream. |
| 4.3 | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Education – |
| 4.4 | * | <p>Publicity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - May 8 2025 – postings will continue on Fridays depending on availability of posts – may miss some Fridays – Posting are being made on an Ad Hoc basis and most publicity is coming through the MLCA newsletter – we could hand out the Facebook info at the Market this summer on a business card - Encouraging members to send Ross (and Peter after mid-June) articles, ideas for articles and graphics for postings - <p>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 has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</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>May 8 – Council approved the Clean Up Our Lakes campaign. Concern was expressed that people would take advantage of it to bring large items from their own property. It was noted that residents still have to pay for large items they bring in whether they are from their property or refuse from the lake – if members hear of someone complaining about having to pay for lake refuse – it is usually covered in algae etc, so easy to distinguish on a picture – we could discuss paying for the tipping fee Rob will post the sign</p> |
| 4.7 | * | <p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>May 8 2025 – 1. We do not have a place available for people to wash their boats when they come from different lakes – There is a concern about the significant infrastructure needed to provide such a service, such as a pressurized water supply. A brush and bucket at home could do the cleaning. There is concern about dumping live wells that have been filled in other lakes as a potential issue. We need to check on the signage that is at the McKellar Township boat launches.</p> <p>2. Jennifer attended a Watersheds Canada Conference and will be sharing information from that, such as the research on whether catch and release disrupts the nest guarding of male black bass.</p> <p>3. FYI – MLCA will be conducting a Get Out the Lead campaign this summer whereby anglers are encouraged to drop off their lead tackle and receive a \$10 coupon for purchase of non-lead tackle – Canadian Tire is a supporting retailer – tackle drop off will be at the Market Booth and the Library</p> <p>4. Turtle signs are at the library. They will be featuring them when they include the turtle nest protectors. Ross will have a Facebook group or a page. The signs include snakes – discussion on whether to include snakes; consensus was to do so.</p> |

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| 4.8 | | Fish Catch reporting signs for Armstrong Lake - are up at Armstrong Lake beach. Catch and Release best practices signs were put up at all launch sites by Al Last and Jeremy Sintzel, as well as the FOCA sign on preventing the spread of invasive species by cleaning, draining and drying boats if they move from lake to lake |
| 4.9 | | Benthic Study – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites Report from GBB was posted in November |
| 4.10 | | Pesticides/Fertilizers – |
| 4.11 | | Invasive Species – Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff 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. |
| 4.12 | | Dark Skies – We have a brochure that was made in about 2021. Rewritten for welcome package. |
| 4.13 | | Water Levels – Feb 13 – updated the paper on water levels with information from Rob. Also requested the appendices be posted. – paper reposted on FB –Requested changes (clean up of the web page) https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF.pdf Reposted in January 2025 |
| 4.14 | | Pollinator Patches / Gardens– 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 |
| | | ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this. |
| 4.15 | | EV Chargers – |
| 4.16 | | Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?) |
| 4.17 | * | Drinking Water Source Protection May 8 – Jennifer attended a webinar by the Municipal Housing Infrastructure Program and the Health and Safety Water Stream in April, hoping that it was about Drinking Water Source Protection, however it was a description of available funding from the province for repair and building of water control infrastructure and a walk through the application process – slide deck and notes were forwarded to the Clerk, Treasurer and two Councillors for consideration. Feb 13 – The province held a workshop about Drinking Water Source Protection on Feb 5, but it was full when our application to attend went in. On the waiting list in case there is a rerun. Terry Rees will send a copy of the work he did on Crago Lake according to provincial guidelines (working with hydrologists to assess the watersheds). Terry is making a presentation on March 1 st at the FOCA AGM which Jennifer will attend – a presentation should be made to Council Nov 14 FOCA has developed a Guideline to implement the Best Practices Guidelines suggested by the Ontario Government for municipalities that are not covered under the Clean Water Act, such as McKellar Township. Former FOCA Executive Director, Terry Rees, who has worked on this issue for many years, has completed a pilot project of implementing these guidelines without major expenditures. Jennifer will follow up and request a copy of the guidelines when they are available. |
| 5. | | Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025 Feb 13 th – Mayor Moore suggested that our leftover budget money from 2024 could possibly be put into a contingency fund for future use, as this is what other volunteer committees with the Township do. He was going to speak to Roshan (Treasurer) about it. Jan 9th - Adjustments needed to the budget. Attached. Moved:Tony; Seconded:Ross. Approved. |

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| 6. | | <p>LSEC will continue to meet on the second Thursday evening of each month at 7 pm. LSEC Meeting Dates in 2025:</p> <table><tr><td>January 9th</td><td>July 10th</td></tr><tr><td>February 13th</td><td>August 14th</td></tr><tr><td>March 13th</td><td>September 11th</td></tr><tr><td>April 10th</td><td>October 9th</td></tr><tr><td>May 8th</td><td>November 13th</td></tr><tr><td>June 12th</td><td>Dec 11th</td></tr></table> <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 10 th | February 13th | August 14 th | March 13th | September 11 th | April 10th | October 9 th | May 8th | November 13 th | June 12 th | Dec 11 th |
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| 7. | | <p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Seconded: Approved: Time: 8 PM</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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