

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Final Minutes

Thursday April 10, 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 (X); Ross Crockford (X); Peter Duffey (); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (X) ; Carl Mitchell (X); Nick Ryeland (X); Rick Speers (); 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 Feb 13, 2025. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Nick 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? (np)</p> <p>Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Seconded:</p> <p>(Motion to add item to the agenda if needed) Moved: Seconded: Approved: ()</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning</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.		General Updates on Current Issues.
4.1	*	Waterfront/ Shoreline protection – April 10 2025

		<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. <p>A. Jan 9 2025: Cost estimate: Welcome package – Proposed Table of Contents (attached) Cost: WELCOME BOOKLETS QTY: 200 NUMBER OF PAGES: 12 including Covers FINISHED SIZE: 8.5" x 11" STOCK: 60lb text white / Covers on 10pt Gloss White INK: CMYK FINISHED: Coil Bound</p> <p>\$5.95 each + tax; 200 copies would be ~ \$1350 plus envelopes (~\$100) and postage to send out the welcome page and the Lake Protection Workbook together.</p> <p>Committee members agreed that it is best for new residents to be presented with hard copy information. Ross and Jennifer will decide what information to include and it will be bound with cerlox binding.</p>
4.2		Water Sampling Feb 13 – the water sampling is complete for 2024. Data is in the process of being arranged for uploading to DataStream.
4.3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Education –
4.4		Publicity Feb 13 2025 – Peter is disappointed that the number of followers has not increased beyond 70 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could be seasonal – we may need to re-evaluate whether the postings should be weekly - Keep going for now and see if the traffic picks up in the summer FB postings have been continuing on Fridays 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 has been gradually updating the page with Mary Smith’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx
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>April 10 – we need to put up the sign for the Clean Up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads at the TS and do publicity and</p> <p>Rob will talk to Karlee about putting up the Clean Up our Lakes sign at the transfer station for the month of May</p> <p>Feb 13 – update from Peter on the effort to have an expanded list of recyclables – no further progress;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nick said there were large (plastic) bags available at the Transfer Station which are for collecting recyclables, possibly as a substitute for bins - Many people are still putting regular plastic bags in the recycling - The tracking sheets we have been sending in to monitor the number of days the bins are unavailable because they are full have not been filled out due to staffing issues. We will stop sending them to Tom Stoneman (Public Works Superintendent) and Karlee Briton (Township Clerk) for now. Karlee said that the staffing issues should be resolved soon and then we can collect these stats to support a possible application for more compactor bins. <p>-</p>
4.7		<p>Fishing / Wildlife – Jan 9 2025 Jennifer will send Ross a copy of the file of the Catch and release sign which is up at launch sites to Ross for editing for the Welcome package.</p> <p>Carl forwarded an MNR notice of changes in Fishing regulations – FB article on this was highlighted by MLCA</p>
4.8		<p>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</p>
4.9		<p>Benthic Study – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites</p> <p>Report from GBB was posted in November</p>
4.10		<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p>
4.11		<p>Invasive Species –</p> <p>Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff</p> <p>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.</p>
4.12		<p>Dark Skies – We have a brochure that was made in about 2021. Rewritten for welcome package.</p>
4.13		<p>Water Levels –</p> <p>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)</p> <p>https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF.pdf</p> <p>Reposted in January 2025</p>
4.14		<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</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
		<p>ICECAP – This item removed. Council will communicate directly with GBB about this.</p>
4.15		<p>EV Chargers –</p>
4.16		<p>Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)</p>

4.17		<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 1st at the FOCA AGM which Jennifer will attend – a presentation should be made to Council</p> <p>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.</p>												
5.	*	<p>Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025</p> <p>Feb 13th – 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.</p> <p>Jan 9th - Adjustments needed to the budget. Attached. Moved:Tony; Seconded:Ross. Approved.</p>												
6.		<p>LSEC will continue to meet on the second Thursday evening of each month at 7 pm.</p> <p>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 8 th	November 13 th	June 12 th	Dec 11 th
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7.		<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Rob Seconded: Carl Approved: all Time: 7:34</p>												