

Environmental Committee - August 24, 2019

Saturday, August 24, 2019 7:52 AM

AD HOC ENVIRONMENTAL AND LAKE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

SATURDAY AUGUST 24, 8AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MCKELLAR

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Welcome and introductions
3. Additions to the agenda
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Updates since last meeting:
 - a-Opening of the Butterfly Park - Aug 24 - 11am
 - b-Roads action-protecting butterfly- milkweed-Burnett's Rd
 - c-Aerial spraying issue
 - d-Boating signs correction
 - e-Library environmental project
 - f- restocking
 - g-aob
6. Discussion: Issue –Water quality testing and protocol – see draft attachment

Guests: Andrew Kellner- MLCA, David Bywater – GBBR, Drew Rachar – The Ridge, Teri Palangio-Health Unit, Robin Allen - Mattawa
7. Action: Hot test protocol
8. Measurable outcomes – process- Carl
9. Team topical research – Wave et all –issue, education, communication and enforcement
10. AOB
11. Next meeting: Saturday Sept 28, 8am, council

Call to order: 8am

Introductions

Additions to the agenda:

- Appointing new secretary.
- Tour of lake: pointed out some issues.
- Safe quiet lakes
- Recycling
- Approved \$2k to continue testing => Approved by council.

Removals:

Point D to e removed from updates from last meeting

Butterfly Garden:

GBBR involvement, official opening at 11am.

Roads:

Tie yellow ribbons around milkweed =>roads mowed them down regardless.

- Addressed with roads and correction expected for future reference.

Spraying = not an issue.

- MNRFPaying north of us for Pine. Nothing to occur.

Library environmental project

Walk thru of what the kids are working on in the library:



Restocking

Reviewing and forming a committee to re-look at re-stocking Walleye in the area. Coming from the top of MNRF.

MLCA

Tour - bridges built by citizens that may be in contravention of the MNRF.

- Large property decimated waterfront and put sand down for a beach.
- Reported to CBO with property numbers for investigation.
- Thanks to the MLCA for pointing this out.

Safe quiet lakes

See email:

Making items available

- Coming to future meeting and coming to our annual meeting in the spring.
- Noise pollution is a hot topic.

- Lake Simcoe has college kids at the launches. As people launch, they educate on the rules. Fee charged for launching.
- Best way to address - call 800 number or record online.
- Signs at the launches - cards explain the boating guidelines.
- Looking to get OPP-MNR-By-law for support and jurisdiction on our lakes.

Water Quality issue:

e-Coli issue (152)

- No protocol currently to do anything.
- Working to define the process for future.
- Inform the residents
- 3 different testing group
 - Health does beaches (2 of 4 tested this year)
 - MLCA - financials to support coming from Council (see above)
 - Septic people - have not done much to come and test.
- Provided key hot spots (PINS for properties) to go and inspect.
- Follow up required to ensure that this happens.

Additional Questions:

- Who inspects once we ID a problem?
- What is the protocol once we ID the problem => see agenda attachment.

The Ridge

Phosphates going into the lake well below standards.

- 15+ years well controlled and has decreased due to the purification due to the turf.
- Every 2nd year Drew comes into Council to present their findings.
- Interaction with GBBR: ensure that what they are doing is not negatively impacting. Regular monitoring.
- Micro applications to minimize the run off. Natural surroundings supports.
- Highly accountable management. Responsible community engagement.

Health Unit

Testing of our beaches

- Testing base for 200 e-coli colony forming units per 100mls.
- Geometric mean of 5 sample points within the beach.
- Only testing public, municipally owned beaches.
- Evidence of rec use of the water (signage, chairs, buoys).
- Community Centre beach and Stuart park beach in 2019.
- Suggestion to HU: to rotate test 2 the first round, test remaining 2 for the 2nd round.

HU happy to accommodate for recommended rotation based on priority and use.

- Town beach where swimming lessons are held - priority for consistent testing due to geese residents.

Selection criteria:

Sampling history - history of adverse results

- Perception of how busy the beaches were.
- Distance to Town/City Centre.
- Sampling timeline: June/July/August

Council is aware at the beginning of the season: rationale and locations.

MLCA tests all over the lake - random selection YoY based on history. New spots are selected to ensure coverage YoY. More water testers have volunteered.

When a Hot Spot is declared:

- Re-sample ASAP.
- If the mean is still over 200, the flip down sign of warning signs detailing high levels of bacteria to warn the public.
- Full beach closure warranted when:
 - Barricaded off in cooperation with township
 - Safety hazard present
- On the Health Unit website details of beaches and their current condition is posted (not exact results)
- Municipalities are contacted directly where adverse conditions are present.
- HU intent to treat all municipalities the same by providing the same level of detail to all. No direct communication with municipalities => see website.



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Water tes...

Suggestion: Proposal for Council.

- Report comes to Council.
- Council can share with the MLCA/Ridge to ensure that the testing groups are connected and communicating.

For residents

- Regularly test drinking water
- UV light inhibited when there is organic color in the water.
- Pre-treatment ahead of the UV light is needed to enable the light to be effective.

HU limited to investigating health hazards.

They act as consultants and refer to other experts to support for potential solutions.

Best info:

Sample water 3 times (Spring/Summer/Fall).

- In what concentration is the issue there
- Based on said concentration, define the health risk.

Liability:

- HU posts signs, MLCA is testing and get high levels => what is the liability
- Make our own signs to use to post and advise the public.
- Refer to the HU signs for wording as a baseline for our own signage.
- Include reference to websites at boat launches to define locations for resources on water quality etc.

Once we define a spot: what are the next steps?

- ID the cause of the problem

What actions can be taken?

- By whom? Township/Matawa
 - Policy on Septic beds? Inspect, within capacity?
 - Property changes hands, inspect and brought up to standard (buyer and seller responsibility).
 - Establish a by-law to define parameters
 - Charge a fee for inspection and licensing.
 - Resolution: inspection is mandated that the septic system is executed and must be completed before they change hands.
 - Resolution 2nd and passed at 8:58am.
 - Annual inspections?
 - Capacity for rental units?
 - Rental license?
 - Definition of standards.
 - Hold property owners accountable for the shared responsibility of the lake health.
- Action Plan needed - resolution good start.
 - What can we control
 - Short term action
 - Education, signage
 - ◆ Dump signage/hand out.
 - ◇ Specific, concise instruction and education on what the problem is, how to proactively address and test.
 - ▶ Website/dump signage
 - ◇ Define where you can source to tabs and cost.
 - ▶ Make it easy to source the tablets => Market, Town Hall, the Dump.
 - ▶ Source: lab in North Bay - details to be shared from the Ridge.
 - ◇ When to use the tabs (Friday night).
 - ◇ How to use the tabs.
 - What can we do with our current resources?
 - Long term action
 - By-Law, Regulation, Action Plan.
 - Resolution: Move to education (signage, brochures) in where we can best communicate to focus resources => Immediate information at dump/Facebook.
 - Draft to be shared with valuable
 - 2nd and carried at 9:31am.

- Post results on websites to the public can be informed and make informed choices.
- Post suggestions on what residence can do to ensure that they are not contributing to the problems.
 - Timing of use of die tabs - use on Friday night to maximize use.
 - Can the municipality provide for residents at a low cost
 - Post on websites? Include in education packet.
 - Sharing of inspection certification with taxation.
 - Potential program for residents that can't afford to replace? Include in taxation?
- Meeting with Mattawa needed to define what we can do.
 - Guidance.

Natural buffer zones to prevent the geese from coming up on the lawns.

- Education budget is needed to define how we can best reach the people.
- Leverage the tax record to reach the population.

MLCA tester (Ridge) email provided for further correspondence.

Measurable outcomes:

- What do we want to see.
- How do we want to know that we have been successful and achieved our goals?
- Where do we focus our resources?
- What has changed?

#1 = Water quality

Set goals regarding water testing and quality = Measurable based on timeline.

- Short term
 -
- Long term

Phosphorus and septic.

Share with the public to ensure shared community accountability.

- Graph it out to simplify the results so they can understand the results of the testing and how we are progressing to our goal
- Add information on why and how residence can help.

What's coming:

- New website coming
- Mailout in Feb planned
- 3500 brochures are being done.
- Define our goals in this publication.

Include focus 5 from the office.

Next meeting: September 28th.

- Subcommittee to meet based on availability of Robin from Mattawa .
- Date to be shared for availability.

Change of secretary: to Barb Ancinelli.

Meeting closed at 10am.