

MAGNETAWAN RIVER WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Magnetawan Friendship Centre

August 16, 2009

ATTENDED BY: Chris Armstrong , Municipality of Whitestone (Mayor); Ed Bennett , Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Assoc.; Clint Brooks, Ahmic Lake Cottagers Assoc.; George Brooks, Almaguin Fish Improvement Assoc.; Don Comrie, Wah-Wash-Kesh Conservation Assoc.; Steve Jones, Lake Bernard Property Owners Assoc.; Paul Kraemer, Ahmic Lake Cottagers Assoc.; Jeff Miller, Horn Lake Property Owners Assoc.; Logan Naftel, Cecebe Waterways Assoc.; Doug Millman, Jack Lake (Friends of) Assoc.; Dennis Mooney, Cecebe Waterways Assoc.; Arnie & Nancy Pundsack, Three Mile Lake; John Ramsey, Ahmic Lake Cottagers Assoc.; Gloria Schimmel, Jack Lake (Friends of) Assoc.; Terry Stanley, Whitestone Conservation Assoc.; Brian & Linda Waddick, Ahmic Lake Cottagers Assoc.; Stan & Marge Walker, Clam Lake & Kearney Watershed Environmental Foundation; Ted White, Cecebe Waterways Assoc.; Dan Willmore, Kearney Watershed Environmental Foundation

Meeting called to order at 10:05 by President Clint Brooks. Thank you to everyone for coming.

Terry Stanley moved to approve the minutes from the June 7, 2009 Annual General Meeting. Ed Bennett seconded the motion. All in favour. Carried

No business arising from the June 7th, 2009 Annual General Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Logan Naftel reported on the balance sheet and income and expense statement for the period ended July 31, 2009.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Secretary Logan Naftel presented the MRWA Membership List as at July 31, 2009.

Of the 35 Associations and Municipalities that were invoiced for 2009 membership fees, 11 had paid. An additional three memberships have been confirmed approved and awaiting receipt of fee payment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

- (1) The Kearney Graphite Mine is scheduled to re-open in 2010. Clint showed pictures of the mine location and surrounding waters taken from a plane as well as slides of the geological study done on the mine site. Clint visited the site in June 2009 and tested the water in a stream next to the mine site. The PH tested at 5.48 and the Conductivity tested at 527. Normal conductivity levels are 30 – 34.

- (2) Clint also tested the PH levels in the Little North Magnetawan River (5.67); North Magnetawan River (6.21) and the outflow of Pickeral Lake which was 5.41. Clint reported heavy silting was evident in the Magnetawan River from Burks Falls to Cecebe. It was suggested that silting may have been caused by Hwy 11 construction and site construction on the banks of the river between the Midlothian Road bridge and Burks Falls.

- (3) Clint showed slides of a comparison study of water temperatures at various levels on Ahmic Lake and PH readings at the east end of the lake compared to PH readings at the west end of the lake.

REPORT ON WASI LAKE

Doug Millman summarized the Almaguin News coverage on the blue/green algae problems in Wasi Lake, first reported June 10th, 2009 and reported again on July 9th, 2009. The article stated that phosphorus and nitrogen feed algae and the levels of both in the lake were very high. The allowable limit for Nitrogen is 1.5 parts per billion. Phosphorus levels over 20 lead to algae problems. A news release from the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit issued Friday June 12, 2009 warned of the dangers of this algae to humans and animals.

Blue-green algae thrive in areas where the water is shallow, slow moving, and warm, but they may also be present below the surface in deeper, cooler water. One key factor affecting growth rates is the level of available nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen. These nutrients come from runoff of household fertilizers, agricultural runoff, industrial effluent, effluent from waste management systems and faulty septic systems can elevate the levels of naturally occurring nutrients in water bodies.

Reducing or eliminating nutrient input from these additional sources is a proactive step in reducing the occurrence of algae blooms.

For more information go to: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/cons/5088.pdf>

Doug reported that 800-268-6060 is the number to call to report algae blooms and environmental spills.

SEPTIC SYSTEM TESTING

Clint led a discussion on septic system testing. Near North Labs in North Bay are conducting a septic system survey to establish how many problem septic systems there might be in our area. Near North will provide a capsule with dye in it to flush into a septic system. The owner will agree to allow their measuring person to have access to the owner's property for up to five days after they flush this into their system. This person will use a UV detector to examine for signs of leakage from the system. The report will only be shared with the property owner and will not be made public. Near North will share the overall results (no names) with the MRWA.

Steve Jones reported that the Lake Bernard Property Owners uses Near North Labs to conduct testing of 10 water samples twice a year. The cost is \$300 per year and the cost is shared by Strong Township and the Village of Sundridge. Individual water tests cost \$10 and must be at the lab by 10AM on the day the sample is taken. Samples must be kept cool in transit.

Clint reported that the University of Waterloo is establishing an environmental research centre in Huntsville after the G8 conference in Huntsville in 2010. A building used by security during the conference will be turned over to the University to establish a research centre. Clint will contact the Dean and suggest that our watershed be used as a testing ground for the research centre.

MRWA - ACTION ITEMS

- (1) The Agenda for the meeting included several topics which the Board had submitted, for consideration by the members as subject areas for the MRWA to act upon. These included: septic systems, lake capacity, water quality, data measuring, shoreline development, water levels, fish habitat and invasive species. Clint suggested that the MRWA conduct an electronic survey of lake associations and municipality members, to arrive at a common focus for MRWA efforts. The meeting attendees suggested that Shoreline Development and Lake Capacity Studies be the focus of the survey.
- (2) There was a discussion on the use/abuse of Jetskis/SeaDoos on the waterway from a noise and water pollution point of view. The actual use of watercraft is outside the mandate of the MRWA and if any laws are being broken members should report directly to the O.P.P.

- (3) The MNR is refusing to issue an operating fish hatchery license to the Almaguin Fish Improvement Association and as George Brooks, President of this Association reported, the reasons being given for the refusal are very weak and the Association will continue to seek support for their continued operations as the MNA states that they are doing “no harm”.
- (4) Clint led a discussion on the idea of putting packets of information together for member groups. There would be discount on the price of these packets to members. It was also suggested that the MRWA investigate the possibility of a discount for members on septic tank pump-outs. Ed Bennett distributed copies of an article from the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Development and Building Branch entitled “Septic Systems Re-Inspections”.
- (5) Clint asked the attendees for ideas on a Logo Contest. It was suggested that the school system would be an ideal place to hold such a contest as it would raise awareness of the MRWA and its goals
- (6) A discussion took place on the location of meetings and it was decided that two meetings be held each year, an AGM in Magnetawan in June and a second meeting to be held at an alternate location on the Watershed. For 2010, the AGM will be held in Magnetawan on June 6th and the second meeting will be held in the Dunchurch Community Centre on August 29th.

NEW BUSINESS:

- (1) Clint advised the meeting that Doug Millman had sold his property on Jack Lake and as a result could no longer represent that Association. Don Comrie moved and Terry Stanley seconded a motion That Doug should remain as a member at large of the Board until the 2010 AGM. Carried, all in favour.
- (2) Terry Stanley, on behalf of the Lorimer Lake Association, made a presentation of a thank you card to Clint Brooks for taking time out from his busy schedule to conduct water testing on their lake.
- (3) A list of environmental products was put together by Gloria Schimmel and will be distributed to members by mail/email.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting, which is the AGM, is scheduled for Sunday June 6, 2009 at the Magnetawan Friendship Centre.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.