

## Minutes: Beaver River Watershed Advisory Committee



**MEETING DATE:** October 11, 2011  
**LOCATION:** Town Office – EPW Meeting Room  
**PREPARED BY:** Adam McMullin, Engineering and Public Works

### A. Call to Order

**Present:** Brian Goodings, Mike Hammond, Jay Kivell, Brian McAteer, Alex Maxwell, Adam McMullin, Bill Remus

**Regrets:** John Ardiel, Sean Brady, Pat McGirr, Norman Ragetlie

#### A.1 Previous Approval of Minutes

- Jay Kivell, Alex Maxwell

### B. New and Unfinished Business

#### B.1 Five Minute Review

- Bill Remus noted that he is from Thunder Bay and enjoys sailing and canoeing. He came to the area in 1981 and moved here five years ago. Bill said that he has worked with damming and hydroelectric projects as a lawyer.

- Brian McAteer discussed an issue regarding the name of the committee and that he had an understanding that the committee was to be named as 'The Blue Mountains Watershed Advisory Committee' and that the current title may limit the committee moving forward.

- Committee members agreed that the scope should include all of the watersheds within The Blue Mountains and the name should properly reflect that. The committee asked that Adam discuss the name with Shawn Everitt and report back.

#### B.2 Committee Priorities Workshop

- Each committee member identified their priorities for the committee, they are as follows:

- Education of landowners
- Education and involvement of students
- Foster positive relationships with government agencies
- Develop partnerships with other Municipalities
- Undertake projects that enhance the quality of the watershed
- Develop partnerships with landowners
- Develop procedures for the committee to follow in implementing any projects
- Develop partnerships with service clubs and other interested groups to undertake watershed projects
- Public education
- Information
- Legal
- Mapping/geography
- Projects
- Trees/Vegetation coordination
- Manmade Drainage
- Farm Operations
- Water System Monitoring
- Pond
- Press Officer
- Stewardship
- Stream Restoration
- Communications
- Advocacy
- Source Water Protection

- Protect Water Quality
- Engage Stakeholders
- Balance environmental and social issues
- Outline committee's role to council
- Declaration of pecuniary interest
- Develop policies and advise council
- Enhance and maintain water quality
- Develop facilities/programs for watershed
- Conservation Authority Role
- Inventory
- Current Conditions / Benchmarking
- Celebration
- Identify threats & prioritize action
- SWOT analysis

- The committee discussed these items and felt that the list could be refined by combining ideas.

- Brian McAteer said that he envisioned each committee member being responsible for a particular priority.

- Brian Goodings said that the group should use the term/mandate as a starting point. These will direct the committee. He added that the committee needed to identify its goal and be clear about what it is doing.

- Brian McAteer said that sometimes being specific can put you in a corner and limit your options.

- Brian Gooding said that people will have different ideas and subjective interpretation, for example Free Spirit Tours idea of enhanced waterway may be different then the Ministry of Natural Resources.

- The committee worked to develop a 'vision' statement to provide a clear idea of enhancement. The following statements were proposed:

Vision Statement

"Highest water quality possible"

Supporting Statement

"Enhance, maintain and monitor water quality"

- As cold as possible
- Stop degradation of the watercourse

- The committee asked Adam to circulate the statements for the next meeting where members can comment.

- Committee members discussed the need to gain a better understanding of the issues. The idea of contacting relevant agencies, regulatory bodies and organizations was raised. The committee made a motion, requesting that Adam:

- Contact relevant agencies and request a summary/overview of the concerns and issues regarding the watersheds of The Blue Mountains.

- The committee requested that Adam draft a letter and a list of agencies and then circulate to the group for feedback prior to sending out.

### **B.3 Council Communication Process Follow-Up**

- Adam clarified an inquiry from the previous meeting. He noted that all motions, resolutions or requests of the committee directed to Council will be forwarded to Council regardless if Staff supports the motion or not.

### **B.4 Lions Club Letter**

- Adam requested that the committee review the letter from the Lions Club submitted to the Town. The letter has been circulated to Council.

### **C. Next Meeting Date**

Next Meeting Date: Thursday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

### **D. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.