

Minutes of the Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association (OLRA) Board Meeting Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Attendees: Martin Chepesiuk, Brad Chittick (joined the meeting at 8:10 pm), Rob Cribbie, Gerry Doyle (joined the meeting at 8:01 pm), Brian Hindley, Nicole Mailloux, AJ Mueller, Kerry Mueller

Regrets: David Amy

1. Welcome: Kerry Mueller started the Zoom meeting at 7:02 pm. Quorum was confirmed.

2. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests: None were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes from April 22, 2023:

Motion: Approve the minutes of the April 22, 2023 Board Meeting.

- Moved by: Brian Hindley
- Seconded by: Rob Cribbie
- **Motion carried**

Motion: Approve the in-camera minutes of the April 22, 2023 Board Meeting.

- Moved by: AJ Mueller
- Seconded by: Rob Cribbie
- **Motion carried**

4. Approval of Board Positions:

Motion: That Marty Chepesiuk serve as Vice-President

- Moved by: AJ Mueller
- Seconded by: Nicole Mailloux
- **Motion Carried**

Motion: That Nicole Mailloux serve as Secretary

- Moved by: AJ Mueller
- Seconded by: Brian Hindley
- **Motion Carried**

5. Define the 2023 eDNA Project: Brian Hindley went over the draft proposal of various options that he previously submitted to the Board to get their input. Discussion included the following points:

- Is the goal to add to our existing biodiversity data?
- Look at same or different habitats?

- Look at 2022 areas but do not pool with tributary areas?
- Look at 2-3 2022 areas with the most diversity?
- Look at where we now do benthic sampling?
- Look at rocky shoals for crayfish? Lake trout?
- Would need to sample deep waters for lake trout which would be difficult to do.
- Look at fall, summer or next spring?
- Look at dividing Otter Lake into 5 quadrants, with Little Otter Lake being the 6th?
- Pool or not to pool samples, as pooling could lose the rarer species?
- Look at three 2022 areas at the same time sampled in 2022 (Sunny Point Bay, Little Otter Lake, Salmon Lake) and look at three new areas, pooled and at different times (near culverts in newly built causeway in Otter Lake, outflow of Little Otter Lake, loon area near Lillie Island)?
- Brian Hindley's application to FOCA for eDNA sampling for plant invasive species was accepted. He will participate in the upcoming webinar to find out more.

Actions: 1) Brian Hindley will follow up with Nature Metrics and/or Cameron to find out more about pooling sampling impacts on diversity and if there is value in sampling in the fall after the lake has turned over? 2) Marty Chepesiuk will follow up with MNRF regarding where they are netting 3) Brian Hindley will send a proposal to Board for final review asap.

6. Define an OLRA cheque signing policy as per the posted Post AGM Meeting Minutes:

Gerry Doyle joined the meeting at 8:01 am. Discussion took place relating to how best to avoid circumstances where two Directors from the same immediate family are required to sign cheques. The following points were made:

- An amendment to the Bylaw would be required at the next meeting of members. In the meantime, the Board could pass a resolution in good faith to improve the Bylaw, and present the Bylaw amendment for discussion at the next meeting of members and approval.
- Rob Cribbie could co-sign cheques as he is around Otter Lake more regularly than other Board members. (Brad Chittick joined the meeting at 8:10 pm)
- Since the board is reviewing financial controls, it was brought up to possibly also address the issue of a Treasurer both writing and signing cheques. Is there a way of adding a control for this step? There was consensus that it makes sense to add this control.
- Several motions were discussed.

Motion: While total confidence exists in the board, and while the intent is to address a concern raised at the 2023 AGM by a member, Article XIV Item #4 is amended until the next general meeting of the Members, to read:

“All Corporation cheques shall be signed by two Directors who have signing authority as determined by the Board, providing that they are not from the same immediate family.”

- Moved by: Nicole Mailloux
- Seconded by: Marty Chepesiuk
- **Motion Carried**

Motion: That the following Directors shall have cheque signing authority effective August 1, 2023: Kerry Mueller, Marty Chepesiuk, Rob Cribbie and Brad Chittick.

- Moved by: Nicole Mailloux
- Seconded by: Brian Hindley
- **Motion Carried**

Action: That appropriate steps be taken by Board Directors to have the resolution signed to initiate the required bank changes relating to cheque signing.

6. STR update: Kerry Mueller provided a brief update on short term rentals. The recent letter that OLRA sent to Seguin is listed in the June 19th correspondence. There was nothing discussed at the last Council meeting.

7. Boat Parade: Brad Chittick will lead the parade and Rob Cribbie will be in the anchor boat. Denise Exler has volunteered to be a judge if required. As of today, there was 5 registered boats plus the Lead and Anchor boats.

9. Discussion Regarding next AGM date: Since the meeting is virtual at this time, and given that some members may be busy on the long weekend, looking for an alternate date for the AGM makes sense.

Motion: That the 2024 AGM be held on Sunday, May 26, 2024 in the morning.

- Moved by: AJ Mueller
- Seconded by: Gerry Doyle
- **Motion Carried**

10 BBQ Update: A Committee is needed to plan the 2023 BBQ. The following Directors volunteered: Rob Cribbie, Kerry Mueller, Gerry Doyle, Marty Chesepeuk. AJ Mueller will create the tickets and process the sold tickets as in previous years.

11. Other Business: There was no new business.

12. Adjournment: Kerry Mueller called the meeting to a close at 8:54 pm.

ADDENDUM A

Email Business and Resolutions from May 26, 2019 to June 17, 2023

Motion: To approve the minutes of the post AGM May 21st, 2023 meeting.

- Moved by Kerry Mueller by email on May 28, 2023
- Seconded by AJ Mueller by email on May 28, 2023
- **Motion carried** by email on May 29, 2023

Motion: That the Board send a letter to Seguin supporting Rankin Lake Property Owners' Association letter indicating that they were not supporting what the Mayor said at the OLRA 2023 AGM.

- Moved by Kerry Mueller by email on June 1, 2023
- Seconded by Brian Hindley by email on June 1, 2023
- **Motion carried** by email on June 2, 2023

Road Salt: Brian Hindley and Nicole Mailloux attended the June 3 Friends of the Muskoka Watershed Presentation in Gravenhurst on the Impacts of Road Salt (Cl) on lakes. To summarize:

- Because increased salinity increases water density, cold water sinks and has been shown to delay/prevent the spring turnover in lakes. This can have serious implications for lake bottoms, phosphorus retention in sediments, cold water habitat volume for fish, sediment biodiversity, etc. The more sheltered (less windy) the lake, and the higher the watershed salt use, the more likely the impact.
- The Canadian Water Quality Guideline says ***most*** life is protected below 120 mg/L of Cl. But recent research at York University has shown that some plankton is negatively impacted at levels as low as 10 mg/L of Cl, which means that some Cl levels may be toxic in some Muskoka lakes.
- Levels of Cl less than the guideline of 120 mg/l can also cause physical changes in lake circulation and thermocline development (as "salty water" is more dense than normal lake water) which can affect organisms in the lake
- Climate change results in more lake effect snow falls, more cycles of freezing and thaws, etc. resulting in more salt used on roads. Animals are more sensitive in low calcium level lakes like ours.
- Data loggers (\$1,200/device) are used to continuously measure lake water conductivity, to calculate Cl levels.
- A representative from Gull and Silver Lakes provided a verbal update on their plan to talk to Council on June 18th to educate them and see if they can get them to: 1) Approve a resolution to recognize the environmental threat of road salt and commit to

reduce the use of road salt. This is not a bylaw, does not cost \$. It's a belief statement.2) Direct staff to produce a yearly report of the amount of salt used/year, cost, and uses. This is a reasonable request as they should have this data. 3) Explore some method to report on the amount of salt used by private business and homeowners on a voluntary basis. 4) Advocate province to mandate snow and winter tires, which is done in Quebec and 5) Become a Leader in Muskoka for other municipalities (similar to when they led Acid Rain).

Acronyms

- AGM: Annual General Meeting
- ATV: All-Terrain Vehicle
- Cl: Chloride (salt)
- dB: decibel
- DC: Decibel Coalition
- DFO: Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- DO: Dissolved Oxygen
- EP: Environmental Protection
- FOCA: Federation of Ontario Cottagers Association
- FOI: Freedom of Information
- GBB: Georgian Bay Biosphere
- LPP: Lake Protection Program
- MECP: Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks
- MMAH: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
- MNRF: Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
- MZO: Ministerial Zoning Order
- OLRA: Otter Lake Ratepayers' Association
- OLT: Ontario Land Tribunal
- ONCA: Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act
- OP: Seguin Township Official Plan
- OPP: Ontario Provincial Police
- PCOC: Pleasure Craft Operator Card
- PFD: Personal Floatation Device
- PPS: Provincial Policy Statement
- PWC: Power Water Craft
- SAR: Species at Risk
- SQL: Safe Quiet Lakes
- SRA: Shoreline Allowance
- STA: Short Term Accommodation
- STR: Short Term Rental
- TC: Transport Canada
- WDALB: Where Does a Lake Begin