

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes

Thursday June 12, 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: 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 (X); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller X ; Carl Mitchell (); Nick Ryeland (); Rick Speers (X); Rob Gibson (X)</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (v)</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 May 8, 2025. (attached) Moved: Ross Seconded: Tony Approved: v Amendment: none Approved with Amendment :</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? – Get the Lead Out Campaign Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Peter Seconded: Ross Accepted (v)</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss? Possibility of a new project on the negative consequences of spraying for Mosquitos etc.</p>
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p>
4.1		<p>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection June 12 2025 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 200 copies of Environmental Considerations booklet have been printed – 25 left at the Township Office for now – 2. Members of the committee were assigned a section of the 88 new property owners who have moved into the Township since the beginning of 2022 when the LSEC and many volunteers distributed the Lake Protection Workbook and assorted other environmental information to all households. 3. Members picked up as many copies of the Environmental Considerations as they needed, as well as copies of the Lake Protection workbook and the addresses to deliver them to by July 1 2025. 4. The remainder will be available at the McKellar Market MLCA booth for other McKellar residents. At the end of the summer, any leftovers will be delivered to the Library and the Township office for residents to pick up if they are interested.

4.2		<p>Water Sampling June 12 - Spring sampling for phosphorus and calcium is complete and awaiting analysis Data for 2024 is uploaded onto data stream.</p>
4.3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic Education –
4.4	*	<p>Publicity</p> <p>June 12 we plan to do at least one FB post per topic and put a notice on Facebook with the link to the document The library requested that LSEC have a table on environmental issues at the Sept 27 repair day at the library – Peter can attend, as can Jennifer and possibly Ross July 6th - We have also been requested to host a table at the Rib Fest Jennifer, Ross and Rick can attend</p> <p>-</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61565497380905&mibextid=ZbWKwL</p> <p>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</p> <p>Our postings (listings and a table of contents) are uploaded on the township web page under “Residents/Environment.” Jennifer will continue gradually updating the page with Megan Attard’s help. https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/environment.aspx</p>
-		<p>Microplastics/Microfibres/ Washing Machine Filters – video on our YouTube channel posted</p>
4.6	*	<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</p> <p>June 12 – Clean Up Our Lakes sign was up at the transfer station for 2 – 3 weeks in May. 24, 25 Recycling – conversation with Carl Wakefield who runs the McKellar Marine (Rose Point) about the blue plastic covers that are put over boats for the winter. They are not recyclable. He prefers to build more boat storage rather than use the blue covers, which he’s done, but when he runs out of indoor space then they have to use the blue plastic. He’s says it’s labour intensive. He mentioned that Don Marshall in Wabamik makes reusable vinyl tarps that last about 10 years, that could be used instead. The vinyl tarps are ~ \$1000, where it costs \$200 annually to get the blue plastic tarp put on, so eventually there is a cost savings.</p>
4.7	*	<p>Fishing / Wildlife –</p> <p>June 12 – 1. Update on Save the Turtles campaign (Ross) – The campaign has received 15 reports of turtle locations – mainly painted turtles. A google map has been created.</p> <p>May 8 2025 – 2. We do not have a place available for people to wash their boats when they come from different lakes – There much difficulty in having and staffing a boat wash. A brush and bucket at home could do the cleaning. There is concern about dumping live wells that have been filled in other lakes as a potential issue. We need to check on the signage that is at the McKellar Township boat launches.</p> <p>3. Jennifer attended a Watersheds Canada Conference and will be sharing information from that, such as the research on whether catch and release disrupts the nest guarding of male black bass.</p>

		<p>4. FYI – MLCA will be conducting a Get Out the Lead campaign this summer whereby anglers are encouraged to drop off their lead tackle and receive a \$10 coupon for purchase of non-lead tackle – Canadian Tire is a supporting retailer – tackle drop off will be at the Market Booth and the Library</p> <p>June 12 – Lead tackle can be dropped off at the McKellar Market or the McKellar Township Library – There is also a petition to sign asking the Ontario government to ban the selling of lead tackle.</p>
4.8		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
4.9		Benthic Study – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites Report from GBB was posted in November
4.10		Pesticides/Fertilizers –
4.11	*	<p>Invasive Species –</p> <p>June 12 We put up FOCA signs on boat cleaning and prevention of transfer of invasive species up at Stewart Park and McKellar Lake – need to check boat launch at Robinson Bay (Lakeside Drive). The sign at Lakeshore is not as descriptive. Also at Mary Jane Lake, Grey Owl (private – for cottage owners in Grey Owl Lake only), McKellar Lake. Moffat Lake has no boat launch. None at Armstrong, but no public boat launch – likely one for the camp ground/ trailer park. The Outpost had one, but it is closed. None at Rose Point (Tait’s Island). June 12 – There is no sign at the Lakeshore Road boat launch, likely because it was closed when we put them up in other places. Jennifer has one sign left and will ask about putting it up.</p>  <p>Sept 12 – Chair has discussed the existence and location of phragmites in McKellar Township with staff 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		Dark Skies – We have a brochure that was made in about 2021. Rewritten for welcome package.
4.13		Water Levels – Feb 13 – the updated paper on water levels and the appendices were reposted Jan 2025 https://www.mckellar.ca/en/living-in-our-community/resources/2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF
4.14		Pollinator Patches / Gardens–

		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 - Need to contact GBB to see if they will participate
		Item 4.15 Ice Cap and EV chargers deleted
4.16		Organic Waste Planning (investigate the possibility of a processing facility shared with other townships in the future?)
4.17	*	<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>June 12 – Terry Rees, former CEO of FOCA has been leading a project to format an implementation program for Drinking Water Source Protection for areas that are outside a municipal drinking water system. This summer there are three projects underway and the end result will be a manual giving guidance for other areas on how to implement this. We may be able to work on such a project for McKellar Township next summer, if the manual/guidelines are available.</p> <p>- “Best Practices for Drinking Water Source Protection” distributed to committee members for review prior to the meeting as well as a link to a video by Kyle Smith on Well Maintenance, placed on Youtube by Quinte Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FOCA is working with 3 lake associations this summer to develop implementation guidelines for establishing Drinking Water Source Protection in an area uncovered by current legislation. We may be able to follow these guidelines if they are ready to go next summer. - We could publicize the availability of the testing of treated household water by the Health Department – Peter will follow up with a Facebook post and publicity will be done at the Market Booth this summer. <p>Discussion</p>
4.18	*	<p>Fire</p> <p>June 12 – Preventing damage to your home during a wildfire= webinar https://youtu.be/z263Ek8CHcY</p> <p>May 8 Fireproofing your home – A FOCA video features Shayne McCool from FireSmart Canada – we could invite him to do a similar video for us for all residents. He also discusses landscaping with fire resistant plants and mentioned that there are 250 such plants described on the FireSmart web site</p> <p>- MNR also has a speaker on Wildland Fires Northern Ontario and printed brochures and videos – they are conducting training in McKellar with the volunteer firefighters shortly. MLCA will be holding a wildfire awareness day on July 20. We can contact Rob Morrison. –</p>
5.		Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025

6.	<p>We decided unanimously (members not in attendance agreed to this after the meeting by email) to move our meetings to the third Thursday evening of the month:</p> <table data-bbox="297 289 919 499"> <tr> <td>January 9th</td> <td>July 17th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>February 13th</td> <td>August 21st</td> </tr> <tr> <td>March 13th</td> <td>September 18th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>April 10th</td> <td>October 16th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>May 8th</td> <td>November 20th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June 12th</td> <td>Dec 18th</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Council Chamber is available and has been booked for Third Thursdays.</p> <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 9 th	July 17 th	February 13 th	August 21 st	March 13 th	September 18 th	April 10 th	October 16 th	May 8 th	November 20 th	June 12 th	Dec 18 th
January 9 th	July 17 th												
February 13 th	August 21 st												
March 13 th	September 18 th												
April 10 th	October 16 th												
May 8 th	November 20 th												
June 12 th	Dec 18 th												
7.	<p>Motion to adjourn. Moved: Peter Seconded: Rick Approved: √ Time: 8:01 pm</p>												