

LAKE STEWARDSHIP AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE OF MCKELLAR TOWNSHIP

Draft Minutes

Thursday September 18, 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:</p> <p>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 (Y); Ross Crockford (Y); Peter Duffey (N); Jennifer Ghent-Fuller (Y) ; Carl Mitchell (Y); Nick Ryeland (Y); Rick Speers (Y); Rob Gibson (Y)</p> <p>We need 5 committee members to have a quorum (Y)</p> <p>Does anyone have a declaration of pecuniary and/or personal interest and general nature thereof? N</p>
3.1		<p>Motion to accept the minutes of August 21, 2025. (attached)</p> <p>Moved: Tony Seconded: Ross</p> <p>Amendment:</p> <p>Approved with () without (X) Amendment : Y</p>
3.2		<p>Would any committee member like to add any item to the agenda? No</p> <p>Motion to accept the agenda: Moved: Seconded:</p>
3.3		<p>Strategic Planning - Does anyone have any environmental issues they would like to discuss?</p> <p>Sept 18 -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nick to send information on an organization seeking donations. 2. Jennifer noted a Watersheds Canada webinar called Our Living Waters https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOIFa24WXHc – this organization’s goal is to have safe water in all of Canada’s watersheds and to standardize testing 3. Also, there have been a number of mentions in the news recently about water contamination by PFA’s – we should look into how to test for this
4. Goals		<p>General Updates on Current Issues.</p> <p>NOTE: Numbers have been changed to reflect deleted items.</p>
4.1		<p>Waterfront/Shoreline Protection</p> <p>Sept 18 –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. House sales/changeovers since last check: We have 15 copies of “Environmental Considerations” left. Rick and Lois did a check for new households – there are 13 – a number of them are conditional – Tony suggested we wait and do another check next spring from June 1 2025 because many people will have left by now. Remaining copies to go to the library. New 2026 version to be printed in the spring. 2. Rob believes it is legal to plant in the water at the shoreline – eg cattails, pickerel weed – we could consider a campaign to encourage people to do this since it plants in the water promote healthy water, provide habitat and prevent erosion. Seeds from pickerel weed and cattails should be simple to spread.

		<p>3. Patty Duffey took pictures of the river between Minerva Bay and the McKellar Narrows from the air at the invitation of Ran Moore. We could do a page on the importance of sticking to the deep channels when boating to not disturb the sediment and plants and put it in next year's version of Environmental Considerations. Rob says swim rafts need to be lit at night – according to the Public Lands Act. Boats should travel in the deep channels to avoid rocks and stumps and to avoid disturbing the sediment and the plants in shallow areas.</p> <p>4. There have been posts about the confirmation of blue green algae blooms by MNR on Whitestone Lake. A reported Algae Bloom on Manitouwabing did not contain BGA.</p>
4.2		<p>Water Sampling Sept 18 - Sampling for Phosphorus and Calcium will be completed by the end of September. Aug 21 –E coli samples went in August 25.</p>
4.3		<p>Publicity Sept 18 – Rob Morrison has completed recording the introduction to the Wildfire Preparation video to improve its presentation to the community and it will be sent for editing</p> <p>LSEC Facebook page url: 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>
4.4		<p>Earth Day / Clean Up Our Lakes / Recycling</p> <p>Sept 18 – Circular Materials is scheduled to begin an educational campaign explaining changes to recycling in Ontario that will happen once the responsibility for recycling is completely removed from municipalities on January 1, 2026. We have therefore cancelled any plans to put out new educational material on recycling. Nick was pleased to see township staff encouraging people not to put plastic bags in the compactor.</p> <p>August 21 Karlee said she was in touch with Reverse Logistics Systems (RLG) who directed that people should not be putting their recycling in the household garbage and they will direct more trucks our way to exchange the compactor bins as soon as they're full. If the bins are changed on time, the Township does not need new bins. We could also make a pdf of a list that people could print out at home. The pamphlet should look substantially different than the old pamphlet, using multiple colours, to help residents recognize it as new. The Township has blue boxes for sale. There was a big fuss on FB when we last advertised the blue boxes for sale.</p>
4.5		<p>Fishing / Wildlife – Sept 18 – FYI a curiosity – possible "Neptune ball " https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20250901-why-plastic-filled-neptune-balls-are-washing-up-on-beaches found in Manitouwabing posted on LSEC facebook page and in MLCA newsletter</p> <p>Sept 18 – Update on Save the Turtles (Ross) – Discussion on where to put turtle crossing signs. Ross has been looking for information on where to get the signs and is hoping to hear from Tom Stoneman soon. We have a budget for 10 signs/ 5 zones. On the map there are 6 locations on Highway 124 before Grey Owl Road. The members agreed not to consider putting signs on Hwy 124.</p>

	<p>RESOLUTION #3 2025</p> <p>Moved: Rob, Seconded Ross – We will spend an amount not to exceed \$700 on turtle signs. Passed Unanimously.</p> <p>Sept 18 - Hard copies of the Habitat Creation manual were distributed to committee members 2. Habitat creation might be a good topic for this group. See for example this booklet https://watersheds.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Web-version-Shoreline-Habitat-Creation-Manual.pdf It's important to be certain that FireSmart guidelines are incorporated</p> <p>Sept 18 - Get the Lead Out campaign –Wolfe Island Cottagers have containers at the Transfer Stations which have netted a lot of lead deposits)</p>
4.6	<p>Benthic Study August 21 - GBB did Benthic sampling again in July 2025 – report likely November – July 2024 – Sampling took place in 3 sites - Report from GBB was posted in November – Magnetawan Land Trust may receive a grant to conduct benthic testing – they inquired whether we would like to be included – MLCA requested input from Jennifer who suggested a site at the north of Grey Owl Lake where Lorimer lake feeds in because there is/was a proposed industrial development at Hwy 124 and Lorimer Lake Rd. N. and the benthic population is sensitive to industrial waste so it would be good to have a baseline.</p>
4.7	<p>Pesticides/Fertilizers –</p> <p>Sept 18 – A few of us realized that the education on pesticide fogging needs to go out before the spring (ie with the January tax mailing). A pamphlet has been written to discourage fogging for biting insects because the contamination kills other insect species, interferes with the food supply for animals and birds, remains in the ground, pollutes the groundwater, and is carried to the streams, rivers and lakes with rain runoff, affecting aquatic life. This pamphlet is presented for evaluation and approval by the committee.</p> <p>Moved: The pamphlet distributed with this agenda entitled “Spraying for Mosquitoes: Things to Consider” be approved by this committee and presented to Council for approval Moved: Tony Seconded: Ross <u>without</u> amendments: Passed unanimously</p> <p>August 21 - Next brochure/campaign should be discouraging widespread spraying to kill insects – affects food supply for birds, kills off bees that are housed in local apiaries</p>
4.8	<p>Invasive Species –</p> <p>July 17 –</p> <p>Signage was put up at the Lakeshore Rd. boat launch to protect our lake against invasive species with Township permission – All the boat launches have signs now. It was closed in 2022 when we put up the other signs.</p> <p>Discussion at the Market – a lady who used to work for FOCA on invasive species said that she hadn't seen any invasive milfoil in Manitouwabing – only indigenous milfoil</p>
4.9	<p>Water Levels –</p> <p>Sept 18 – We need to put a notice about the lowering of water levels on the LSEC web page so people are reminded why the water levels are dropping and the fact that the range of level is governed by an agreement - first paragraph of the paper on our Environment page: “There is a lot of effort that goes into prevention of flooding when the snow melts in the spring. Water levels are lowered in the fall to accommodate the spring run-off of melting snow which puts a large amount of water into the lake and rivers in a short amount of time. In the fall, the MNR and the power companies in the province look at the weather patterns and try to estimate the snow load that will be melting in the spring. The water level on Lake Manitouwabing is controlled by the hydro power</p>

	<p>company, Bracebridge Generation Ltd. within the limits of the normal operating zone established in a resolution of the Public Utilities Commission of the Town of Parry Sound (No. 87-83).” And the url for the paper : 2025-01-17-Water-Levels-on-Manitouwabing-Lake-JGF.pdf</p> <p>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</p>
4.10	<p>Pollinator Patches / Gardens–</p> <p>July 17 2025 – Moved:Peter Seconded: Ross that LSEC no longer take any action on the pollinator garden at the Community Centre. Approved.</p> <p>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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to contact GBB to see if they will participate
4.11	<p>Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>Sept 18 – Content of presentation on well maintenance has been reviewed and approved, we need to book a date to record the presentation on Well Maintenance. We will need time to advertise. It could be in October after Thanksgiving. Rick agreed to do the introduction and will ask Steve Macdonell to moderate the questions again.</p> <p>Lake Bernard (Sundridge) is one of the three lake associations involved in the pilot project on ‘Drinking Water Source Protection’.</p> <p>July 17 – Well Maintenance – we have contacted the Ontario Ground Water Association and they are willing to participate in a seminar – they sent an outline and want us to look it over – Rob is going to give feedback and then we’ll set a date for a webinar</p> <p>July 17 – Plan going forward is to examine whatever plan FOCA evolves with their pilot project on Drinking Water Source Protection for those areas not covered under the Clean Water Act this summer of 2025 and discuss in 2026 the possibilities whether carry out a similar plan in 2027 in cooperation with MLCA</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “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 - 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.
4.12	<p>Strategic Planning – July 17, 2025 The publication of “Environmental Considerations for McKellar Township Residents” represents a turning point for the committee. We can move into a mode of updating and expanding/retracting the booklet with a goal of updating it every year, distributing it to new residents with the Lake Protection Workbook, as well as long-time residents who want a hard copy and having the newest version online.</p>

	<p>We looked at the frequency of meetings and briefly considered cancelling winter meetings (December through March), however it was felt that we have done good work thus far and to pull back the frequency of meetings would cause us to lose momentum.</p> <p>We may cancel the December meeting, however, in order to do that we'd have to draft the budget in October and be ready to do revisions in November if Council so desires. However, we could have a meeting in December if need be.</p> <p>We will keep having the spring "Clean up our Lakes, Rivers and Roads" campaign to encourage residents to maintain the beauty of the township.</p> <p>The committee members will each monitor one environmental publication/ Newsletter/ organization with a view to keeping the other members informed and updating 'Environmental Considerations.'</p> <p><i>Peter</i> will monitor Safe Quiet Lakes, including the survey results and Transport Canada rulings on Wake Boats. [There have been public hearings. Municipalities have the jurisdiction to make the waterways motorless, allow motors of 9.9 HP or less, or have no limits on watercraft. There have been Transport Canada hearings about moving wake surfing into its own category, however boats cannot exceed 10 km/h close to shore (within 30m), but there is difficulty enforcing that limit. Only transport Canada can be effective at restricting the use of wake boats which are so destructive to the shoreline and shore bird nests.]</p> <p><i>Ross</i> will monitor FOCA</p> <p><i>Jennifer</i> will monitor Watersheds Canada and Water Magazine</p> <p><i>Rick</i> will monitor Firesmart.</p> <p><i>Nick</i> will monitor Council and report back any developments that affect our Environmental work Perhaps Rob can monitor changes at MNR that are of significance to us.</p> <p>We need someone to monitor changes in Fishing Regulations and trends etc.</p>												
	<p>Ongoing items deleted from Agendas and Minutes: Septic Education, Microplastics, Fish Catch reporting sign at Armstrong Lake following stocking, Catch and Release signs, Dark Skies, ICE CAP, EV Chargers, Organic Waste Planning. These items can be brought back as needed.</p>												
5.	<p>Budget – discussed at Council April 1 2025</p>												
6.	<p>Our meetings are now held on the third Thursday of the month.</p> <table border="0"> <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 9th	July 17th	February 13th	August 21st	March 13th	September 18th	April 10th	October 16th	May 8th	November 20th	June 12th	Dec 18th
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7.	<p>Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Moved: Ross Seconded: Tony Approved: Yes Time: 8:10 pm</p>												