

**Greater Sudbury Watershed Alliance Inc.
General Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2015
Vale Living with Lakes Centre**

I. Call to Order

Chair Margaret McLaughlin called the GSWA meeting to order at 7:10 pm at the Vale Living with Lakes Centre

II. Roll Call

Dave Young (McFarlane Lake), Rod Chambers (McFarlane Lake), Alex Cieslewicz (Richard Lake), Claude Nadon (Lake Wanapitae), Norm Eady (Lake Wanapitae), Lilly Noble (Lake Ramsey), Elaine Porter (Ramsey Lake), Stu Greaves (Lake Panache), John Lindsay (Minnow Lake), Larry Hautamaki (Silver Lake), Margaret McLaughlin (Fairbank Lake), Richard Witham (Long Lake)

III. Agenda/ Past Minutes (Sept 21st)

Lilly moves to adopt agenda/accept minutes; Claude seconds the motion – Carried

IV. Matters arising from Minutes

None except as discussed later in **Reports**

V. Treasurer's Report

The GSWA balance stands at \$12100.43

VI. Committee & Executive Reports

a) Invasive Species (a committee with the city)

i) Signs to discourage spread of invasive species from launched boats

-Find prices for signs in December; signs will be large; maybe hard plastic; extra signs required in case of vandalism

-More information will be available in next meeting in January

-As for the **media event** to introduce signs, perhaps at L. Penage at end of June - need participation of GSWA, media, city

-\$ contribution needed from GSWA for signs

Previously voted for \$3000 from GSWA...other funding agencies available?

-2 types of signs: one with city Logo, other with GSWA logo and/or local lake logo

ii) April Educational Event

-Perhaps event will be on Wednesday, April 20th, 2016; talked with Stephen Monet;

-Need specific topic: Love Your Lake /Private Drinking Water Program; No response yet from Science North

b) Private Drinking Water Committee

- Survey put out to private septic systems near lakes; measured support for a program financially helping out septic system renewals
- Decided not to pursue this grant program due to lack of support; instead, propose following an educational direction.

c) Railway Safety

Ideas Discussed about our Rail Safety Report and its abridgements:

- suggest sending letter to railways, government (safety committee) and all bodies mentioned in report
- the document changes are too specific.
- the idea that moving the material to another area could be a non-starter.
- different materials have different manners of disposal. Some can be legitimately placed in certain dumps or areas.
- remove some of the suggested additions and addressing specific transport problems in a separate letter from GSWA with its GSWA logo
- Elaine will collate & revise the Railway Safety letter on the basis of our recommendations.

d) Executive Report

i) Nation Builder

- Program promoted by ReThink Green, unsure of details and costs
- "NationBuilder is a community organizing platform. It allows users to build and manage websites and offers tools to communicate with supporters. Nation Builder is more about attracting members than managing them within a particular organization or business. But for a single monthly fee, you get a strong membership marketing tool with a wealth of social media-focused tools. " {from a magazine review} More details to come.

ii) Lake (renamed: Watershed) Advisory Panel

- Here is the link to the city's Watershed Advisory Panel formerly known as the Lakes Advisory Panel. <http://www.greatersudbury.ca/living/lakes-facts/lakes-advisory-panel/>
- Members 2015-2018 appointed by city council:
Community Members are: Lin Gibson (Chair), Mary Henderson (Vice Chair), Jeff Huska, Margaret McLaughlin, Lilly Noble, Paul Truskoski, Wendy Wisniewski, Sarah Woods
Technical Experts are: Dr. John Gunn (Vale Living with Lakes), Burgess Hawkins (Manager Environmental Health/Sudbury & District Health Unit), Derrick Luetchford (Partnership Specialist - Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry), Anoop Naik (Water Resources Technologist - Conservation Sudbury), Dr. Charles Ramcharan (Aquatic Ecologist, - Laurentian University), Ed Snucins (Surface Water Specialist - Ministry of Environment and Climate Change)
City of Greater Sudbury: Councilor Mark Signoretti (Ward 1), Dr. Stephen Monet (Manager Environmental Planning), Lana Haslam (Lake Water Quality Program Coordinator)
- There is a meeting of the watershed Advisory Panel on Thursday, November 19, 2015 at 5:00 to 7:00 at Tom Davies Square Room C-11. **Public Attendance is welcome**
- Meetings of the **Watershed Advisory Panel** for 2016: Feb.18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, all meetings at 5:00 to 7:00 at Tom Davies Square Room C-11 unless otherwise posted.

iii) Notes on Important Future GSWA dates

-Monday Jan. 18, 2016 **GSWA Board of Directors Meeting**

-Monday February 22, 2016 **GSWA General Meeting**-Sudbury Mayor is invited, presentation concerning overview of GSWA, what we have been up to, success & challenges & future projects & goals. Include challenges such as invasive species, storm water runoff, phosphorous by-law, ice hut brochure etc. and what GSWA is doing to address the issues. Ask the mayor about the freshwater goals of the City

Jillian Smith will organize a presentation for the Mayor on Powerpoint.

[Late Note: The Feb. 22 general meeting is still scheduled for the GSWA membership, but the Mayor unfortunately cannot attend.]

-Monday, March 21, 2016 -**GSWA Annual General Meeting,,AGM**

-Wednesday April 20, 2016- **Educational GSWA Public Event date at Science North**

-Monday June 20, 2016 -**GSWA General Meeting**

Also...

-In late June, Thursday before the long weekend, perhaps June 30, 2016, **Invasive Species Event** with media, GSWA members, the City, maybe by Lake Penage

-Early December, 2015-Meeting concerning Educational Event, perhaps with the city.

VII. Other Business

a) Letter- Watershed Studies

-Lilly drafted a letter concerning Watershed studies to the City, requesting that we want to be involved in structuring the terms of reference to look at the right things in the study

-We do not want the study to be suddenly completed without inputs and discussion by the GSWA and other groups

Motion to approve the letter written by Lilly to be sent to the Mayor, city councilors and the Watershed Advisory Panel describing the need for a watershed study and the requirement for proper public consultation in framing the study.

Dave Y. moves, Richard seconds the motion – Carried

b) Vale Spill

-discussed briefly the evident water pollution from Vale

c) Items to Consider from John Lindsay

-The Bancroft & Kingsway storm water protection and control has been studied by the city using an engineering firm

- Concerning the wetlands, the 10 year limit on the legal validity of the original environmental studies will expire soon, leaving this city's project in a difficult position.

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Margaret McLaughlin adjourned the meeting

Next GSWA General Meeting:

Monday, Monday February 22, 2016

7 pm Vale Living with Lakes Centre

Minutes prepared by David Young