

Township of Muskoka Lakes and the Towns of Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville
BRIEFING NOTE – Update of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan
2022 Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Conference

TO: The Honourable Graydon Smith, Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry

FROM: Township of Muskoka Lakes and the Towns of Bracebridge, Gravenhurst and Huntsville

DATE: August 15, 2022

SUBJECT: Update of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan

Background

Watershed

The Muskoka River Watershed starts in Algonquin Park and drains an area of 4,600 square kilometers, travelling over 200 linear kilometers and dropping 350 metres in elevation before discharging through Lake Muskoka, the Moon River and into Georgian Bay.

The Muskoka River Watershed supports a wide range of aquatic and wildlife ecosystems, and numerous recreational uses including; swimming, canoeing, boating, angling, hunting, trapping, tourism and power generation. There are 42 control structures across the system with three navigation locks.

The annual Spring Freshet is typically characterized by localized flooding across the watershed, due to several choke points that limit the volume of water that can flow through the system. Typically, the further downstream in the watershed, the more significant the flooding.

Table 1: Muskoka River Choke Points

Location	Water Flow Rate (CMS = Cubic Meters/ Second)
Huntsville - downtown bridge	50 cms
Bracebridge - Highway #117 bridge	90 cms
Muskoka Lakes - Bala Park Island	3 X 100 cms channels
Muskoka Lakes -Moon River Chutes	280 cms

It should also be noted that the two dams in Bala (Lake Muskoka), ahead of the Moon River Chutes, in combination, can spill in excess of 430 cms. With Lake Muskoka being the largest receiving waterbody in the Watershed, with an inflow rate of up to 600 cms, it is easy to see that Lake Muskoka, the Moon River and other bodies of water upstream of the Moon River Chutes can and will flood with any significant spring rainfall and or quick melt.

MRWMP

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), in accordance with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), regulates the water levels of the Muskoka River Watershed. The MRWMP was approved in 2006 to replace the Ministry of Natural Resources 1997 Dam Operating Manual, which, in turn, updated the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement.

The stated goal of the MRWMP is to contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the people of Ontario through the sustainable development of waterpower resources and to manage

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these resources in an ecologically sustainable way for the benefit of present and future generations. During the development of the MRWMP a variety of these key considerations were evaluated including, but not limited to, the generation of hydro power, fish spawning and recreational use of the river system.

In 2006 when the MRWMP was approved, the most significant management regime change that came into effect was that the target for the winter draw down level of the largest body of water, Lake Muskoka, was 8" (0.2m) less (more water remaining in the system) than the level identified in the 1997 Operating Manual. In addition, the MRWMP recommends the spring target high water level is 3.5" (0.09m) greater. This means that there is almost 1 foot more water in the system from the winter low to spring high under the new MRWMP operating regime.

The MRWMP was to have a 10-year plan lifespan and expire on March 31, 2016, with a review process commencing 18 to 24 months prior to that date. All information collected during the term of the plan (compliance monitoring data, effectiveness monitoring data, gaps and science and information needs data) was to be considered during the review process. Rather than initiate the update of the Plan as originally contemplated, the Province simply extended the term of the Plan for another five year period. It is now 16 years after the implementation of this revised MRWMP and clearly flooding in the last decade is becoming common place due to the changes noted in the 2006 plan.

Additional Rationale for an Update

Water levels

In the Spring of 2020, the District of Muskoka conducted a survey to understand the elevation of boathouse and dock infrastructure on the lakes most affected in the watershed (Lake Muskoka, Rosseau and Joseph). People were asked to measure the level from the top of their dock(s) to the top of the water's surface. Close to 200 people responded and dock heights at a specific date were compared to lake levels on that date. On Lake Muskoka, 85% of the docks/ boathouses were at an elevation of 225.89 m. This measurement when mapped against the MRWMP target water levels highlights the issues of flooding and infrastructure damage. Assuming 6" (.15m or more) of dock fascia board to protect from wind, waves and ice damage, one can conclude that the majority of the properties on our largest lake may sustain damage when the water reaches an elevation of 225.74 m. As a point of reference, 225.74m is the TOP of the current Normal Operating Zone according to the MRWMP.

Climate Change

Since the Plan was originally approved, research undertaken by the Muskoka Watershed Council identifies that climate change modeling suggests that weather patterns impacting the watershed are changing. This means that the historical data used to develop the MRWMP (now 20 plus years old) are not reflective of current climate conditions. The past decade of data and future modelling suggests there will be significant changes today, and in the future with wetter winters, fluctuating snow cover and more intense rainfall that could produce more severe spring flooding. The usual Spring Freshet will prove more variable from year to year.

While the MRWMP was never intended to be a flood-control plan, its current operating regime of lower winter draw downs and higher spring target levels, combined with the effects of climate change, are actually exacerbating annual spring flooding issues. It should be noted that the risk of spring floods was stated as highly unlikely when the MRWMP was adopted. However, the extent and level of flooding in the Spring of 2019 surpassed that of the flood of 2013, which was considered a 1:100 Year Flood suggests that changes to the plan were inappropriate.

These trends coupled with an increased demand to keep water levels high to provide additional water in the system for hydroelectric generation are problematic. Clearly, as a result of climate change, increased power production and a change to the water levels contained in the MRWMP, without modification to the plan, we can anticipate continued flooding, increases the economic loss, damage to infrastructure and an environmental threat to the ecosystem across the watershed.

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In this regard, it is evident that an updated plan is required to address current and future activity impacting the Muskoka Watershed. An update of the information used for the plan, including the more recent baseline data, as well as modelling the future hydrology across the MRWMP is necessary. That information could then be used to update the plans, policies and infrastructure to compensate for, to the degree feasible, the anticipated shift of precipitation through the winter and spring months.

The municipalities across Muskoka believe that by modifying or replacing infrastructure on the river system, it may be possible to both increase flows of water when needed (spring freshet) and to on occasion hold water back for late summer/fall flow, thereby ensuring the retention of the environmental and societal values of this water system, while mitigating flood risks. The development of future infrastructure plans should be done based on new and updated information set out in a revised MRWMP.

Through a variety of resolutions, and meetings with provincial officials, including the Premier, the municipalities in Muskoka continue to advocate to the Province the immediacy of the need to update the MRWMP. The following resolutions and meetings with Provincial Officials, outlining requests for changes to the MRWMP have gone unanswered:

Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolutions: See Appendix I

16- 15/11/13; 29- 15/04/16; 37- 13/04/17; and 23- 15/02/19.

District of Muskoka Resolutions: See Appendix II

186/2013; 79/ 2016; April 26/ 2016 letter and June 6, 2016 letter .

In person or zoom meetings:

May 3, 2019 – Meeting with the Premier Ford and Mayor Harding;

April 14, 2020 – Conference call - Premier Ford, Ministers Yakabuski & Yurek, MPP Miller & Mayor Harding

Nov 1, 2020 – Zoom meeting with Minister Rickford, MPP Miller & Mayor Harding.

Muskoka Watershed Initiatives

Following the advice and recommendations of the Muskoka Watershed Advisory Group (MWAG) to the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) to help protect and safeguard the Muskoka River watershed and support economic growth in the region, the Province and the District of Muskoka entered into a transfer Partner Agreement in 2021. This enabled the transfer to the District of Muskoka, part of \$5 million earmarked by the Province to better identify risks and issues facing the Muskoka Region of Muskoka. The District plans to address these issues by using this funding to complete a number of the key projects envisioned by MWAG.

Thus far, the Muskoka Watershed Council has established a Community Round Table to explore the Integrated Watershed Management concept and the District is taking a phased approach to select projects. In the first phase, the development of a baseline hydrologic model is ongoing. This model will assist with the identification of long term operational adjustments to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP) that could reduce spring flooding. The Scoping Study will prepare suggested scope of work for updating the MRWMP but will not develop a terms of reference. It is anticipated that this will lead to potential watershed-scale flood mitigation modifications based on results of the Phase 1 hydrology study. Phase 3 projects include the development of watershed health and other indicators.

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Next Steps/Recommendations

As it will take some time to finish the Muskoka Watershed Initiatives projects that will provide fulsome information to update the MRWMP, in the interim, to reduce the risk of more severe flooding, the Muskoka municipalities would appreciate the Minister to consider:

1. Immediately making 2 minor modifications to the MRWMP to reduce the chances of flooding for the 2023, 2024 and 2025 spring freshets as follows:
 - a) For the period of (March through May) that the Target Operating Levels are lowered to a point ½ way between the Current Target Level and the Bottom of the Normal Operating Zone; and
 - b) For the period of (March through May) that the Top of the Normal Operating Zone be lowered to a point roughly 20% lower than the current Top of the Normal Operating Zone;
2. Monitor the impacts of the two minor amendments over the next 3 years; and
3. Investigate options for increasing flows through the choke points.

Contacts

Town of Bracebridge	Rick Maloney, Mayor rmaloney@bracebridge.ca (705) 645-5264
Town of Gravenhurst	Paul Kelly, Mayor Paul.kelly2@gravenhurst.ca (705) 687-5605
Town of Huntsville	Karin Terziano, Mayor mayor@huntsville.ca (705) 789-1751
Township of Muskoka Lakes	Phil Harding, Mayor phil.harding@muskokalakes.ca (705) 765-3156



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.c.

DATE: November 15, 2013

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C-16 -15/11/13

MOVED BY: Councillor Phil Harding

SECONDED BY: Councillor Brad Burgess

Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed has experienced extremely high water levels in 2013;

And Whereas the high water levels in 2013 created excessive flood conditions in the spring of 2013 and near flood conditions in the fall of 2013 in the Township of Muskoka Lakes;

And Whereas the subject high water levels have caused damage to personal property, critical infrastructure and have placed the safety of residents and visitors at risk;

And Whereas such damage to personal property and critical infrastructure is generally not covered by compensating insurance;

And Whereas due to the lack of compensating insurance coverage, repairs to personal property and critical infrastructure must be paid directly by property owners and property taxes;

And Whereas harm to residents and visitors in any form should be prevented;

And Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed is managed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) is responsible for the implementation of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas, starting in the spring of 2013, Council Members of the Township of Muskoka Lakes requested specific information from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) on how the Muskoka River Water Management Plan has been used to address the high water levels and the concerns of residents and visitors;

And Whereas the requested specific information relates to the impact of the present low and high water zones used to administer the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the requested information has not been provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests that the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

And Further that the Ministry of Natural Resources be requested to present to the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, an analysis of the actions taken during the flooding in the spring of 2013 and the high water levels in the fall of 2013 including but not limited to specific dates and quantities of logs (water flow restriction systems) utilized at each facility controlled by the Ministry of Natural Resources throughout the system;

And Further that if the Ministry of Natural Resources is unwilling to undertake the above noted study or provide the above noted analysis then the Township of Muskoka Lakes is prepared to request an amendment to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, through the amendment process with the details of such an amendment to be developed if and when necessary.

RECORDED VOTE:

NAYS YEAS

COUNCILLOR BARANIK	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR BRENT	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR BURGESS	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR FURNISS	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	_____
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA(Acting Deputy)	_____	_____
MAYOR MURPHY	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____

MOTION DEFEATED []
 MOTION CARRIED [x]

Mayor Alice Murphy
 MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.a.

DATE: April 15, 2016 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** C- 29 -15/04/16

MOVED BY: Phil Harding

SECONDED BY: [Signature]

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property;

AND WHEREAS during the spring of 2016, Muskoka is experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood", which once again has caused significant uninsured damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) under the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), a plan established in 2006, updating the 1997 MNR Dam Operation Manual, updating the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the MRWMP according to the MNR was due to be updated in 2016;

AND WHEREAS in April of 2016 the Township of Muskoka Lakes ("the Township") received correspondence from the MNR stating that while the MNR is reviewing its *Lakes and River Improvement Act*, the Province will not be proceeding with amendment requests to the MRWMP, except in limited circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Township was advised by Provincial staff that a 5-year extension of the current MRWMP is proposed, instead of the expected 2016 MRWMP update;

AND WHEREAS the Township passed the attached resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 15, 2013 requesting the MNR conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained within the MRWMP including identifying the physical limitations to the water flows including the overall benefits to lowering those zones during the periods of October – May annually;

AND WHEREAS the District of Muskoka further supported the Township of Muskoka Lakes resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 18, 2013 at its regular Council Meeting through the attached resolution;

AND WHEREAS the Province, particularly through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for the people of Ontario as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP to be completed by 2021 so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property;

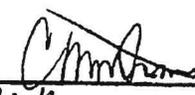
AND THAT the provincial public consultation include, but not be limited to, all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; Muskoka Watershed Council; First Nations and Métis peoples; area lake associations and appropriate community groups; and all those with personal, commercial or industrial interests who rely on the appropriate provincial management of the Township of Muskoka Lakes' shared natural environment and water system;

AND THAT through this consultation, the Province address the recommendations contained within the Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolution C-16-15/11/13 to identify the limitations within the Muskoka River Watershed as well as prepare an Impact study which considers the lowering of the MRWMP's identified low water zones during the winter months;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated for support to all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; including but not limited to the Township of the Archipelago and the County of Simcoe; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Minister Bill Mauro, MNRF; Minister Glen Murray, MOECC; MP Tony Clement; and MPP Norm Miller.

<u>RECORDED VOTE:</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	
COUNCILLOR BARANIK (Deputy Mayor)	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR BARRICK-SPEARN	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR CURRIE	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS <i>Regrets</i>	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL (Acting Deputy Mayor) <i>Regrets</i>	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR LEDGER	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA	_____	✓	
MAYOR FURNISS	_____	✓	
TOTALS	0	8	MOTION DEFEATED [] MOTION CARRIED [X]

Councillor McTaggart requested a recorded vote



 MAYOR Clerk



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.b.

DATE: April 13, 2017

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C-34 - 13/04/17

MOVED BY:

PLW Harding

SECONDED BY:

Colin Ledger

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the Township of Muskoka Lakes experienced severe flooding causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and personal property;

AND WHEREAS in the Spring of 2016, Muskoka again experienced water levels similar to those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood";

AND WHEREAS by correspondence dated March 9th, 2016, to the Minister, we encouraged the Ministry to review the Muskoka River Water Management Plan in 2016, as scheduled;

AND WHEREAS we were subsequently advised by correspondence dated May 16th, 2016, much to our disappointment that the scheduled review had been deferred to 2021 to ensure that the existing water management plan remains in effect while providing time for the results of the proposed changes to provincial requirements for the preparation, amendment and review of water management plans under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act to be known;

AND WHEREAS in October 2016 the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry issued a Technical Bulletin, titled Maintaining Water Management Plans stating that, "All simplified and complex WMPs remain in effect. Dam owners subject to a WMP must operate in accordance with their WMP. WMPs are long term resource management and regulatory documents that will not have an expiration date, a mandatory review or a plan term.";

AND WHEREAS this effectively cancels any previous commitment to time based reviews of Water Management Plans;

AND WHEREAS water levels are at record high levels this year as the watershed has been beleaguered by early thaws and heavy rains during the warmest February in Canadian history;

AND WHEREAS significant flooding again threatens the Township of Muskoka Lakes;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Township of Muskoka Lakes strongly encourages the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, to initiate both short and long term actions that will address the issues Muskoka residents have faced in recent years due to unprecedented flooding;

AND FURTHER that an immediate Provincial review of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan be initiated.

RECORDED VOTE:

- COUNCILLOR BARANIK (Deputy Mayor)
- COUNCILLOR BARRICK-SPEARN
- COUNCILLOR CURRIE
- COUNCILLOR EDWARDS
- COUNCILLOR HARDING
- COUNCILLOR HAYES (Acting Deputy Mayor)
- COUNCILLOR LEDGER
- COUNCILLOR McTAGGART
- COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA
- MAYOR FURNISS

NAYS

YEAS

AND FURTHER that the Province respond to the prior requests stated in the Township's 2013 and 2016 Resolutions as attached.

MOTION DEFEATED
MOTION CARRIED

TOTALS

[Signature]
MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Item 10. d.

Date: February 15, 2019

C- 23 -15/02/19

MOVED BY:

SECONDED BY:

WHEREAS the Muskoka River Watershed drains an area of 4,600 square kilometers, travelling some 150 straight line kilometers and dropping 350 metres before discharging into Georgian Bay;

AND WHEREAS the Township of Muskoka Lakes covers an area of 800 square kilometers, including major portions of the largest lakes (Muskoka, Rosseau, Joseph) as well as the headwaters of the Moon River that controls the egress of all water from the watershed to Georgian Bay;

AND WHEREAS the Moon River at the bottom of the watershed, can only accommodate discharge at the rate of 280 cm/s due to physical constraints;

AND WHEREAS the developed properties on the big lakes that are susceptible to flooding due to high water levels represent approximately \$10 billion of assessed value;

AND WHEREAS management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), in accordance with the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), with a ten year term that expired on March 31, 2016;

AND WHEREAS the Plan set out a plan review process to be initiated 18 to 24 months prior to the date of the plan renewal which would consider all information collected during the term of the plan (compliance monitoring data, effectiveness monitoring data, gaps and science and information needs data);

AND WHEREAS Climate Change has altered our weather patterns resulting in either draught or flood conditions which threaten the environment (Septic Systems), the economy (Tourism) and property values (Flood damage);

AND WHEREAS municipalities in Muskoka have urged the Provincial Government to initiate the update of the plan, as evidenced by Council resolutions from 2013, 2016 and 2017 attached hereto;

AND WHEREAS data used in the development of the last plan implementation (2006) will be from the 80's and 90's which now can be considered old and significantly out of date data;

AND WHEREAS the Environment, Economy, Tourism and Recreation all depend heavily on effective and appropriate management of the MRWMP;

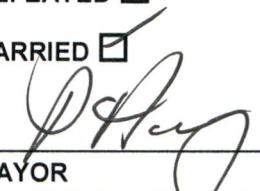
NOW THEREFORE be it resolved that the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes hereby enacts as follows:

1. That the Province of Ontario immediately undertake a review and update of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan.
2. That the MNR is strongly encouraged to thoroughly investigate removal of the “choke point” of the system at Ragged Rapids to facilitate an increase in the speed of water removal from the system to reduce flooding of waterfront properties.
3. And that this resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry, the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the District Municipality of Muskoka and all Muskoka lower tier municipalities for support.

RECORDED VOTE:	NAYS	YEAS
COUNCILLOR BRIDGEMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR HAYES (Acting Deputy Mayor)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR JAGLOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR KELLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR MAZAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR ROBERTS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COUNCILLOR ZAVITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MAYOR HARDING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TOTALS	_____	_____
Recorded Vote Requested by: _____		

DEFEATED

CARRIED



MAYOR



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.c.

DATE: November 15, 2013

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C- 16 -15/11/13

MOVED BY: Councillor Phil Harding

SECONDED BY: Councillor Brad Burgess

Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed has experienced extremely high water levels in 2013;

And Whereas the high water levels in 2013 created excessive flood conditions in the spring of 2013 and near flood conditions in the fall of 2013 in the Township of Muskoka Lakes;

And Whereas the subject high water levels have caused damage to personal property, critical infrastructure and have placed the safety of residents and visitors at risk;

And Whereas such damage to personal property and critical infrastructure is generally not covered by compensating insurance;

And Whereas due to the lack of compensating insurance coverage, repairs to personal property and critical infrastructure must be paid directly by property owners and property taxes;

And Whereas harm to residents and visitors in any form should be prevented;

And Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed is managed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) is responsible for the implementation of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas, starting in the spring of 2013, Council Members of the Township of Muskoka Lakes requested specific information from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) on how the Muskoka River Water Management Plan has been used to address the high water levels and the concerns of residents and visitors;

And Whereas the requested specific information relates to the impact of the present low and high water zones used to administer the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the requested information has not been provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests that the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

And Further that the Ministry of Natural Resources be requested to present to the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, an analysis of the actions taken during the flooding in the spring of 2013 and the high water levels in the fall of 2013 including but not limited to specific dates and quantities of logs (water flow restriction systems) utilized at each facility controlled by the Ministry of Natural Resources throughout the system;

And Further that if the Ministry of Natural Resources is unwilling to undertake the above noted study or provide the above noted analysis then the Township of Muskoka Lakes is prepared to request an amendment to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, through the amendment process with the details of such an amendment to be developed if and when necessary.

RECORDED VOTE:

	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	
COUNCILLOR BARANIK	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR BRENT	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR BURGESS	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR FURNISS	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL	_____	_____	MOTION DEFEATED []
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA(Acting Deputy)	_____	_____	MOTION CARRIED [x]
MAYOR MURPHY	_____	_____	
TOTALS	_____	_____	

Mayor Alice Murphy
MAYOR



Agenda Reference 10.a.

COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: April 15, 2016 **RESOLUTION NUMBER:** C- 29 -15/04/16
MOVED BY: Phil Harding
SECONDED BY: [Signature]

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property;

AND WHEREAS during the spring of 2016, Muskoka is experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood", which once again has caused significant uninsured damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) under the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), a plan established in 2006, updating the 1997 MNR Dam Operation Manual, updating the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the MRWMP according to the MNR was due to be updated in 2016;

AND WHEREAS in April of 2016 the Township of Muskoka Lakes ("the Township") received correspondence from the MNR stating that while the MNR is reviewing its *Lakes and River Improvement Act*, the Province will not be proceeding with amendment requests to the MRWMP, except in limited circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Township was advised by Provincial staff that a 5-year extension of the current MRWMP is proposed, instead of the expected 2016 MRWMP update;

AND WHEREAS the Township passed the attached resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 15, 2013 requesting the MNR conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained within the MRWMP including identifying the physical limitations to the water flows including the overall benefits to lowering those zones during the periods of October – May annually;

AND WHEREAS the District of Muskoka further supported the Township of Muskoka Lakes resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 18, 2013 at its regular Council Meeting through the attached resolution;

AND WHEREAS the Province, particularly through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for the people of Ontario as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP to be completed by 2021 so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property;

AND THAT the provincial public consultation include, but not be limited to, all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; Muskoka Watershed Council; First Nations and Métis peoples; area lake associations and appropriate community groups; and all those with personal, commercial or industrial interests who rely on the appropriate provincial management of the Township of Muskoka Lakes' shared natural environment and water system;

AND THAT through this consultation, the Province address the recommendations contained within the Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolution C-16-15/11/13 to identify the limitations within the Muskoka River Watershed as well as prepare an impact study which considers the lowering of the MRWMP's identified low water zones during the winter months;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated for support to all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; including but not limited to the Township of the Archipelago and the County of Simcoe; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Minister Bill Mauro, MNRF; Minister Glen Murray, MOECC; MP Tony Clement; and MPP Norm Miller.

<u>RECORDED VOTE:</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	
COUNCILLOR BARANIK (Deputy Mayor)	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR BARRICK-SPEARN	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR CURRIE	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS <i>Regrets</i>	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL (Acting Deputy Mayor) <i>Regrets</i>	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR LEDGER	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	✓	
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA	_____	✓	
MAYOR FURNISS	_____	✓	
TOTALS	0	8	MOTION DEFEATED [] MOTION CARRIED [X]

Councillor McTaggart requested a recorded vote



 MAYOR Clerk

PED-3-2017-1-Appendix "I"

8

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Moved by Phil Harding DISTRICT COUNCIL
 April 18, 2016
 7/9/2016

Seconded by P. Donaldson.

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property;

AND WHEREAS during the spring of 2016, Muskoka is experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood" which once again has caused significant uninsured damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) under the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), a plan established in 2006, updating the 1997 MNR Dam Operation Manual, updating the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the MRWMP according to the MNR was due to be updated in 2016;

AND WHEREAS in April of 2016 the Township of Muskoka Lakes ("the Township") received correspondence from the MNR stating that while the MNR is reviewing its *Lakes and River Improvement Act*, the Province will not be proceeding with amendment requests to the MRWMP, except in limited circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Township was advised by Provincial staff that a 5-year extension of the current MRWMP is proposed, instead of the expected 2016 MRWMP update;

AND WHEREAS the Township passed the attached resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 15, 2013 requesting the MNR conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained within the MRWMP including identifying the physical limitations to the water flows including the overall benefits to lowering those zones during the periods of October – May annually;

PED-3-2017-1-Appendix "I"

AND WHEREAS the District of Muskoka further supported the Township of Muskoka Lakes resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 18, 2013 at its regular Council Meeting through the attached resolution;

AND WHEREAS the Province, particularly through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for the people of Ontario as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Muskoka requests the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP to be completed by 2021 so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property;

AND THAT the provincial public consultation include, but not be limited to, all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; Muskoka Watershed Council; First Nations and Métis peoples; area lake associations and appropriate community groups; and all those with personal, commercial or industrial interests who rely on the appropriate provincial management of the District of Muskoka's shared natural environment and water system;

AND THAT through this consultation, the Province address the recommendations contained within the Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolution C-16-15/11/13 to identify the limitations within the Muskoka River Watershed as well as prepare an impact study which considers the lowering of the MRWMP's identified low water zones during the winter months;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated for support to all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; including but not limited to the Township of the Archipelago, Seguin Township and the County of Simcoe; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Minister Bill Mauro, MNRF; Minister Glen Murray, MOECC; MP Tony Clement; and MPP Norm Miller.

Carried

Defeated


District Chair

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

DISTRICT COUNCIL
November 18, 2013

18/11/2013

Moved by

Phil Harding

Seconded by

[Signature]

THAT Muskoka District Council supports the attached Resolution No. C-16-15/11/13 of the Township of Muskoka Lakes which requests the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) to conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bracebridge office.

Carried

✓

Defeated

[Signature]
District Chair



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.c.

DATE: November 15, 2013

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C- 16 -15/11/13

MOVED BY: Councillor Phil Harding

SECONDED BY: Councillor Brad Burgess

Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed has experienced extremely high water levels in 2013;

And Whereas the high water levels in 2013 created excessive flood conditions in the spring of 2013 and near flood conditions in the fall of 2013 in the Township of Muskoka Lakes;

And Whereas the subject high water levels have caused damage to personal property, critical infrastructure and have placed the safety of residents and visitors at risk;

And Whereas such damage to personal property and critical infrastructure is generally not covered by compensating insurance;

And Whereas due to the lack of compensating insurance coverage, repairs to personal property and critical infrastructure must be paid directly by property owners and property taxes;

And Whereas harm to residents and visitors in any form should be prevented;

And Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed is managed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) is responsible for the implementation of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas, starting in the spring of 2013, Council Members of the Township of Muskoka Lakes requested specific information from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) on how the Muskoka River Water Management Plan has been used to address the high water levels and the concerns of residents and visitors;

And Whereas the requested specific information relates to the impact of the present low and high water zones used to administer the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the requested information has not been provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests that the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

And Further that the Ministry of Natural Resources be requested to present to the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, an analysis of the actions taken during the flooding in the spring of 2013 and the high water levels in the fall of 2013 including but not limited to specific dates and quantities of logs (water flow restriction systems) utilized at each facility controlled by the Ministry of Natural Resources throughout the system;

And Further that if the Ministry of Natural Resources is unwilling to undertake the above noted study or provide the above noted analysis then the Township of Muskoka Lakes is prepared to request an amendment to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, through the amendment process with the details of such an amendment to be developed if and when necessary.

RECORDED VOTE:

	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>		
COUNCILLOR BARANIK	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR BRENT	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR BURGESS	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR FURNISS	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	_____		
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL	_____	_____	MOTION DEFEATED	[]
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	_____	MOTION CARRIED	[x]
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA(Acting Deputy)	_____	_____		
MAYOR MURPHY	_____	_____		
TOTALS	_____	_____		

Mayor Alice Murphy
MAYOR

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Moved by Phil Harding DISTRICT COUNCIL
 April 18, 2016
 79/2016

Seconded by P. Donaldson.

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property;

AND WHEREAS during the spring of 2016, Muskoka is experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood" which once again has caused significant uninsured damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) under the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), a plan established in 2006, updating the 1997 MNR Dam Operation Manual, updating the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the MRWMP according to the MNR was due to be updated in 2016;

AND WHEREAS in April of 2016 the Township of Muskoka Lakes ("the Township") received correspondence from the MNR stating that while the MNR is reviewing its *Lakes and River Improvement Act*, the Province will not be proceeding with amendment requests to the MRWMP, except in limited circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Township was advised by Provincial staff that a 5-year extension of the current MRWMP is proposed, instead of the expected 2016 MRWMP update;

AND WHEREAS the Township passed the attached resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 15, 2013 requesting the MNR conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained within the MRWMP including identifying the physical limitations to the water flows including the overall benefits to lowering those zones during the periods of October – May annually;

PED-3-2017-1-Appendix "I"

AND WHEREAS the District of Muskoka further supported the Township of Muskoka Lakes resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 18, 2013 at its regular Council Meeting through the attached resolution;

AND WHEREAS the Province, particularly through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for the people of Ontario as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Muskoka requests the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP to be completed by 2021 so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property;

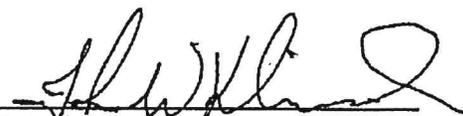
AND THAT the provincial public consultation include, but not be limited to, all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; Muskoka Watershed Council; First Nations and Métis peoples; area lake associations and appropriate community groups; and all those with personal, commercial or industrial interests who rely on the appropriate provincial management of the District of Muskoka's shared natural environment and water system;

AND THAT through this consultation, the Province address the recommendations contained within the Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolution C-16-15/11/13 to identify the limitations within the Muskoka River Watershed as well as prepare an impact study which considers the lowering of the MRWMP's identified low water zones during the winter months;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated for support to all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; including but not limited to the Township of the Archipelago, Seguin Township and the County of Simcoe; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Minister Bill Mauro, MNRF; Minister Glen Murray, MOECC; MP Tony Clement; and MPP Norm Miller.

Carried

Defeated


District Chair



THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

70 PINE STREET, BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO P1L 1N3
Telephone (705) 645-2231 Fax (705) 645-5319 1-800-461-4210 (705 area code)
www.muskoka.on.ca

Office of the District Chair

April 26, 2016

The Honourable Bill Mauro
Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
300 Water Street
Peterborough ON K9J 8M5

Dear Minister Mauro:

Please be advised that the District of Muskoka passed the attached resolution on April 18, 2016, requesting that the Province of Ontario immediately initiate a full review of its Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan. This will ensure that the Muskoka River Watershed Management Plan can accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property.

During the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property. This Spring, Muskoka is again experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood".

Both the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario recognize that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for Canadians as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time. As such, we request that action be undertaken immediately.

Federal and provincial leadership on this issue is essential for the sustainability and prosperity of our area as well as the health and wellbeing of all who rely on the appropriate management of the District of Muskoka's shared natural environment and water system.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John W. Klinck
District Chair

Managing Our Legacy Together

cc: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister
Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne
Minister Glen Murray, MOECC
MP Tony Clement
MPP Norm Miller
Lou Guerriero, Chair, Muskoka Watershed Council
Town of Gravenhurst
Town of Bracebridge
Town of Huntsville
Township of Muskoka Lakes
Township of Lake of Bays
Township of Georgian Bay
Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities
Township of the Archipelago
Seguin Township
Township of McMurrich/Monteith
Perry Township
Town of Parry Sound
Town of Kearney
Township of Algonquin Highlands
Township of Dysart et al
Haliburton County
City of Kawartha Lakes
Simcoe County

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

Moved by Phil Harding DISTRICT COUNCIL
 April 18, 2016
 79/2016

Seconded by P. Donaldson.

WHEREAS during the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property;

AND WHEREAS during the spring of 2016, Muskoka is experiencing water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 “hundred year flood” which once again has caused significant uninsured damage to property;

AND WHEREAS the management of the Muskoka River Watershed is governed by the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) under the Muskoka River Water Management Plan (MRWMP), a plan established in 2006, updating the 1997 MNR Dam Operation Manual, updating the 1969 amendment to the 1940 Hackner-Holden Agreement;

AND WHEREAS the MRWMP according to the MNR was due to be updated in 2016;

AND WHEREAS in April of 2016 the Township of Muskoka Lakes (“the Township”) received correspondence from the MNR stating that while the MNR is reviewing its *Lakes and River Improvement Act*, the Province will not be proceeding with amendment requests to the MRWMP, except in limited circumstances;

AND WHEREAS the Township was advised by Provincial staff that a 5-year extension of the current MRWMP is proposed, instead of the expected 2016 MRWMP update;

AND WHEREAS the Township passed the attached resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 15, 2013 requesting the MNR conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained within the MRWMP including identifying the physical limitations to the water flows including the overall benefits to lowering those zones during the periods of October – May annually;

AND WHEREAS the District of Muskoka further supported the Township of Muskoka Lakes resolution C-16-15/11/13 on November 18, 2013 at its regular Council Meeting through the attached resolution;

AND WHEREAS the Province, particularly through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC), recognizes that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for the people of Ontario as it devastates communities; damages homes, businesses, and crops; and affects municipal infrastructure not able to manage significant variations in weather, including record rain falls over short periods of time.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the District of Muskoka requests the Province to immediately initiate a full review of the MRWMP to be completed by 2021 so that it may accurately address Ontario's changing climate and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property;

AND THAT the provincial public consultation include, but not be limited to, all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; Muskoka Watershed Council; First Nations and Métis peoples; area lake associations and appropriate community groups; and all those with personal, commercial or industrial interests who rely on the appropriate provincial management of the District of Muskoka's shared natural environment and water system;

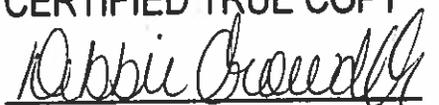
AND THAT through this consultation, the Province address the recommendations contained within the Township of Muskoka Lakes Resolution C-16-15/11/13 to identify the limitations within the Muskoka River Watershed as well as prepare an impact study which considers the lowering of the MRWMP's identified low water zones during the winter months;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be circulated for support to all Municipalities impacted by the Muskoka Watershed; including but not limited to the Township of the Archipelago, Seguin Township and the County of Simcoe; the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada; Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne; Minister Bill Mauro, MNRF; Minister Glen Murray, MOECC; MP Tony Clement; and MPP Norm Miller.

Carried

Defeated


District Chair

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY

CLERK
The District Municipality of Muskoka



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda Reference 10.c.

DATE: November 15, 2013

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C- 16 -15/11/13

MOVED BY: Councillor Phil Harding

SECONDED BY: Councillor Brad Burgess

Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed has experienced extremely high water levels in 2013;

And Whereas the high water levels in 2013 created excessive flood conditions in the spring of 2013 and near flood conditions in the fall of 2013 in the Township of Muskoka Lakes;

And Whereas the subject high water levels have caused damage to personal property, critical infrastructure and have placed the safety of residents and visitors at risk;

And Whereas such damage to personal property and critical infrastructure is generally not covered by compensating insurance;

And Whereas due to the lack of compensating insurance coverage, repairs to personal property and critical infrastructure must be paid directly by property owners and property taxes;

And Whereas harm to residents and visitors in any form should be prevented;

And Whereas the Muskoka River Watershed is managed by the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) is responsible for the implementation of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas, starting in the spring of 2013, Council Members of the Township of Muskoka Lakes requested specific information from the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) on how the Muskoka River Water Management Plan has been used to address the high water levels and the concerns of residents and visitors;

And Whereas the requested specific information relates to the impact of the present low and high water zones used to administer the Muskoka River Water Management Plan;

And Whereas the requested information has not been provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge);

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Township of Muskoka Lakes requests that the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

And Further that the Ministry of Natural Resources be requested to present to the Council of the Township of Muskoka Lakes, an analysis of the actions taken during the flooding in the spring of 2013 and the high water levels in the fall of 2013 including but not limited to specific dates and quantities of logs (water flow restriction systems) utilized at each facility controlled by the Ministry of Natural Resources throughout the system;

And Further that if the Ministry of Natural Resources is unwilling to undertake the above noted study or provide the above noted analysis then the Township of Muskoka Lakes is prepared to request an amendment to the Muskoka River Water Management Plan, through the amendment process with the details of such an amendment to be developed if and when necessary.

<u>RECORDED VOTE:</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	
COUNCILLOR BARANIK	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR BRENT	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR BURGESS	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR EDWARDS (Deputy Mayor)	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR FURNISS	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR HARDING	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR KRUCKEL	_____	_____	MOTION DEFEATED []
COUNCILLOR McTAGGART	_____	_____	
COUNCILLOR NISHIKAWA(Acting Deputy)	_____	_____	MOTION CARRIED [x]
MAYOR MURPHY	_____	_____	
TOTALS	_____	_____	
			<u>Mayor Alice Murphy</u> MAYOR

THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

DISTRICT COUNCIL
November 18, 2013

18/11/2013

Moved by

Phil Harding

Seconded by

[Signature]

THAT Muskoka District Council supports the attached Resolution No. C-16-15/11/13 of the Township of Muskoka Lakes which requests the Ministry of Natural Resources (Bracebridge) to conduct an impact study of the high and low water zones contained in the Muskoka River Water Management Plan and the physical limitations to the water flow and that it focus on the benefits of an overall lowering to those zones especially during the periods of October – May annually;

AND THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Bracebridge office.

Carried
Defeated

[Signature]
District Chair



THE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY OF MUSKOKA

70 PINE STREET, BRACEBRIDGE, ONTARIO P1L 1N3
Telephone (705) 645-2231 Fax (705) 645-5319 1-800-461-4210 (705 area code)
www.muskoka.on.ca

Office of the District Chair

June 6, 2016

Ms. Judith Muncaster
Senior Policy Advisor – Municipal Programs and Outreach Unit
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
College Park
777 Bay St, 16th Floor
Toronto ON M5G 2E5

Dear Ms. Muncaster:

On behalf of the District of Muskoka, we are pleased to submit the attached proposal for provincial consideration towards its forthcoming submission to the Federal National Disaster Mitigation Program. This proposal reflects District Council's April 18, 2016 resolution, attached, which was sent to the Province and requests the immediate initiation of a full review of the provincial Muskoka River Water Management Plan. The Township of Muskoka Lakes also recently passed a similar resolution which is attached for your information. These recent resolutions are evidence that this is a significant issue for this community and we are hopeful that the Province will make this Water Management Plan a priority.

The District of Muskoka is encouraging the Province of Ontario, through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, in seeking Federal funds to assist with a comprehensive and immediate review of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan. Given that both the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario recognize that climate change is having significant impacts and cost implications for Canadians as significant weather events devastate communities; damage homes and businesses; and affect municipal infrastructure not able to manage wide variations in weather (including record rain falls over short periods of time), we propose that action be undertaken as soon as possible.

An immediate review of the Muskoka River Water Management Plan will ensure that the Muskoka River Water Management Plan can accurately address Ontario's changing climate with specific regard to flood events and the associated impacts on municipal and personal property across the District of Muskoka.

During the Spring of 2013, the District of Muskoka encountered severe flooding across the entire Muskoka River Watershed causing significant damage to municipal infrastructure and to personal property. This past Spring, Muskoka again experienced water levels close to, if not exceeding, those seen during the 2013 "hundred year flood".

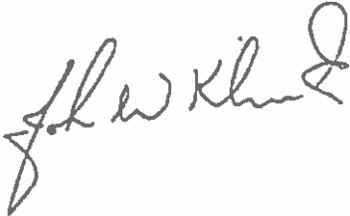
Managing Our Legacy Together

While the review of Muskoka River Water Management Plan was expected to be undertaken in 2016, we understand that this review is being postponed. However, as people across Muskoka continue to recover from significant rain events and floods, we propose that an immediate review of the Plan is essential to ensure appropriate management of the District of Muskoka's shared natural environment and water system.

The District of Muskoka acknowledges that this proposal requires direct provincial input to identify specific project activities and budgets. While the District of Muskoka is eager to encourage and support this undertaking whenever possible, we seek federal and provincial leadership on this issue to ensure the continued sustainability and prosperity of our area in the face of increasing flood events.

Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff should additional information be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Klinck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

John W. Klinck
District Chair

cc Tony Clement, M.P. Parry Sound-Muskoka
 Norman Miller, M.P.P. Parry Sound-Muskoka
 Dan Duggan, District Manager, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
 Mayor Graydon Smith, Town of Bracebridge
 Mayor Paisley Donaldson, Town of Gravenhurst
 Mayor Scott Aitchison, Town of Huntsville
 Mayor Don Furniss, Township of Muskoka Lakes
 Mayor Bob Young, Township of Lake of Bays
 Mayor Larry Braid, Township of Georgian Bay
 Lake of Bays Association
 Muskoka Lakes Association