

## **Notes of a Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee Meeting**

Held virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Wednesday April 27 at 4:00 p.m.**

### **Attendance**

Garth Bangay (Chair)

Robin McAdam

William Baldrige

Blake McNeely, Coastal Action

Shanna Fredericks, Coastal Action

### **Staff:**

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation, Parks & Tourism – MODL

Chad Haughn, Director of Community Development and Recreation – MODC

Sandra Challis, Administration Assistant, MODL

### **Guests:**

Abhi Jain, Sustainability Planner, MODL

### **Regrets:**

## **1. Welcome and Update on Recent Developments**

- Abhi introduced to the Committee, the Sustainability Planner with MODL and working on the Climate Change Action Plan.
- Garth gave an overview of events surrounding the resignation of Mike Morrison.
- Now only one boat and crew to carry out monitoring

## **2. Review of Draft 2021 Water Quality Report**

Blake provided a thumbnail overview of the Water Quality Report noting the following:

- Overall water quality was good in 2021
- It was a little warmer than preferred, cold-water baseline is 20 degrees for certain lake fish species
- Phosphorous & Nitrogen levels quite low in the lake
- There were a couple of blooms this year, but no detectable results for microcystins
- Arsenic levels a little high, but lower than previous years
- Ph was a little low, but typical of South Shore lakes.
- Trophic state of lake is steady, no significant change since 2019
- Recommended to carry out monitoring on calmer days, very difficult to obtain meaningful depth profiles on a windy day.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Calm days are hard to come by.
- Challenging to react quickly.
- Recommendation to install weather monitoring system could be a problem, almost need a tower on an island to get accurate results as the shape of the lake created problems for gauging wind speeds
- H&S issue for lake monitoring on windy days.
- Don't want to produce a report that glosses over potential issues, and provides a false sense of security
- Section 2.2.3 didn't make clear that levels are low, could guideline information be contained in the graph or as part of the title?
- Name of Committee on front cover should be corrected to Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee
- People may find Cyanobacteria/Microcystins information difficult to follow – mentioned on pages 3 and 20 but relationship not clear.
- A separate report on Cyanobacteria is to follow – Committee to review both documents together, may be better to combine or have Cyanobacteria report as an appendix to the main report.
- Lake 3 is only tested for E. coli.
- No deliverables contract signed with PLUM Foundation funding, but copy of final report should be sent to them.

### **3. Summary Report on 2021 season findings**

- CA will produce a 2-page community audience friendly document.
- Requested to include a summary of the cyanobacteria report too.

### **4. Communications (Councils, Sherbrooke Lake Residents, Public)**

- High-level summary report to be presented to MOC & MODL (referencing new lakefront zoning in MOC and MODL 2040 project)
- Invite Jennifer Webber to next meeting to discuss public distribution and safeguarding messaging – website social media etc
- Already have email distribution list of residents and interested persons

### **5. Lake Monitoring for Blue-Green Algae/Cyanobacteria & Microcystins, report status**

Report is to follow, expected end of next week.

### **6. 2022 Sherbrooke Lake Monitoring Program Design & Funding**

CA presented draft budgets:

- One based on one boat & crew and reducing sampling to three months. This budget did increase microcystin sampling, with 10 samples included; these could be grabbed quickly in

response to a bloom report (the probe is always connected to the YSI unit). Cost for this option was just over \$20,000 (last year, budget was \$23,000).

- The second option including regular testing over 5 months schedule was approximately \$23,000.
- The Pilot Project wasn't going to be continued for 2022, hence the increase in microcystin sampling, as the Pilot required collaboration with NSE.
- Reacting swiftly to blooms can be problematic as the YSI Unit & Probe are deployed to other water bodies in Lunenburg and Chester Counties.
- CA will confirm if Hugh McIntyre's lab at Dal will still process samples free of charge.
- Suggested to include an additional \$2000 in budget in case a third volunteer boat and crew was found, a smaller boat could be used for this purpose.
- CA will undertake to carry out the single high rainfall event monitoring of lake tributaries. This can be accomplished without a boat.

It was agreed that the vacancy for a committee member and for the Water Quality Monitoring Expert would be advertised shortly

#### **7. Next Meeting**

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 p.m. location TBA (Shanna can attend virtually).

The meeting closed at 5.18 p.m.