

Notes of a Sherbrooke Lake Stewardship Committee Meeting

Held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Tuesday May 17 at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance

Garth Bangay (Chair)

Robin McAdam

Blake McNeely, 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

Regrets:

William Baldrige

Shanna Fredericks, Coastal Action

1. Revision of Draft 2021 Water Quality Report

Blake advised he had made the requested changes to the document, the main thing being including details of the algae pilot project.

Further edits were requested:

- Numbering recommendations
- Removing the recommendation of the Terms of Reference for the Committee as this was due to be done by the Municipalities this year.

A discussion followed regarding the recommendation on Page 32 *not* to continue the pilot project.

- The project is not really yielding the data that was anticipated
- Considerably more funding would be needed, to perhaps install permanent monitoring stations with dedicated persons available to immediately react to any spikes in data in order to obtain samples. This would be a financial and logistical challenge.
- Involvement from Nova Scotia Environment would be beneficial, the Committee should try to re-engage with the department.
- A single monitoring station would be unlikely to generate viable data for the whole lake, due to its size.
- Suggestion to change the wording on the recommendation on Page 32, to include multiple stations and financial challenges.

2. Pilot Project

The Committee discussed the merits of continuing the pilot project but agreed it was necessary to take a step back and reassess the problem. Consideration for hiring a third party to review what is being done elsewhere was given. It was noted that the original purpose of the Committee was to gather base-line water quality data to assess the feasibility of building a public water-access park for the lake, although due to blue/green algae bloom related lake closures in previous years, there were economic development pressures from both residents and potential residents of the lake, hence the Committee's direction with the Pilot Project.

3. MOC Update

Chad informed the Committee that subsequent to the SLSC presentation to MOC, Council had discussed that there was pressure from other lakes in the area to carry out monitoring and as excellent base-line data for Sherbrooke Lake had been established, could monitoring be carried out elsewhere. It was noted that both Councils had committed to a 5-year program on Sherbrooke Lake.

4. Next Steps

- Bill would arrange for Garth to attend an upcoming workshop hosted by Nova Scotia Environment regarding Cyanobacteria and related toxins.
- Get some research done on similar projects being undertaken elsewhere in order to get some more information and create a better blue/green algae monitoring project (additional funding from the municipalities may be needed for research staff).
- Bill to re-engage Cameron from Nova Scotia Environment
- Blake to update Page 32's recommendation to include a recommendation from the committee, that they wish to step back and working with the Province, redesign a pilot for the lake that's assured of providing the information needed to provide the public with good advice.
- Blake to connect with Hugh McIntyre from Dalhousie for his input.
- Try to arrange a face-to-face meeting with SLSC, NSE, Coastal Action and Hugh McIntyre for a brainstorming session.
- Confirmation of funding approval was needed by Coastal Action to order sampling supplies. Sampling due to begin in June. Bill to confirm with Blake.
- Blake to give Garth notice of when the first monitoring will take place.

The meeting closed at 5:16 p.m.