

Environment North

AGM 2014

Location: Waverley Library @ Red River Rd.

Call to Order: 6:20 pm April 15, 2015

There was a motion to approve the 2013 AGM Minutes.

Moved by: Lucy Lafromboise 2nd by: Kerstin Muth carried

Our Treasurer reported that there were small financial endeavours. In 2012 we had \$16,723 and in 2013 we had \$24,668. Currently, we have \$19,000 in assets and liabilities.

There was a motion to accept the 2013 Financial Report.

Moved by: Charlene Rogers 2nd by: Jim B carried

The Annual Report listed our past year's activities in various local communities, an overview of our CJ newspaper articles and assistance with funding. We were involved as an Intervener status for the Environmental Assessment for the Marathon PGM Mine. Our partnership with other groups: Earth Care, EcoSuperior, Ontario Nature, North Watch and Remedial Action Plan were noted. Activities that we supported or shared were highlighted.

There was a motion to accept the 2013 Annual Report.

Moved by: Lucy Lafromboise 2nd by: Paul Berger carried

Elections

There was a call for nominations to be open.

Moved by: Graham Saunders 2nd by: Paul Berger

The term continues for the following: Susan, Lucy, Kirsten, Roopa and Graham. Julee, Scott and Lea agree to return to the board.

There was a motion to close nominations.

Moved by: Jim B 2nd by: Charlene Rogers carried

There was a motion to accept the new 2014 – 2015 EN Board.

Moved by: Deanna Ford 2nd by: Maurice Grinstead carried

The new EN board members for 2014-2015 are: Julee Boan, Susan Grinstead, Scott Harris, Lucy Lafromboise, Lea Matyuska, Kirsten Odber, Roopa Rakshit and Graham Saunders. There is a position open to have the full slate of 9 Board of Directors, as Karen Peterson is on leave.

Notifications

On Mon. April 21st there will be a concert entitled "Earth Rhythms". The performers are Rodney Brown, Sarah Harmer and Valdy. It is a fundraiser for us and 2 other charities: New Directions Speaker's School and the Thunder Bay Friendship Centre. It is presented by Elizabeth May and Bruce Hyer. Doors open at 7pm. at the Italian Cultural Centre. Ticket prices are: adults \$25, students \$15, at the door \$30 available at LUSU office, Fireweed, Hoito, Calico Coffeehouse and Chaltrek.

On Thur. May 29th Dr. Ralph Martin is the next speaker in our series. His topic is entitled "Conserving and Sustaining Food Sources" and the presentation will be at 7pm at the Waverly Library Auditorium.

On World Environment Day, Thurs. June 5th, 2014, there will be an Environmental Funders Forum at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery from 9am – 1pm. The Ontario Trillium Foundation will give a presentation.

On Wed. April 16th there will be a seminar on food security at the Oliver Rd. Rec. Centre from 4:30 – 7pm. Green Drinks are from 5 – 7pm at the Madhouse and the next EFN film will be at the Paramount Theatre starting at 7:30 pm.

Ongoing Issues

1. Nuclear Waste

NWMO is still looking for a willing host for a waste disposal site. Bruce Hyer will be on tour to the following communities: Oshawa, Parry Sound, Marathon, Schreiber and Nipigon. He is planning a big meeting in the autumn in Thunder Bay.

2. Mining and Extraction

Noront's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Ring of Fire is due soon. The 1st item they did was to contact the 5 first Nations in the area and to ask about access with an east-west all weather road. Stillwater Marathon PGM Mine has backed away from their EIS and is reviewing it. We had intervener status at the EIS consultations and found various areas for improvement. The Energy East Pipeline issues are just beginning.

3. Weather Whys

The "Weather Whys" column has now gone from the CJ newspaper. It is now part of the EN membership benefits. It is emailed directly to each member.

4. Remedial Action Plan

RAP is looking at various options to clean up the north harbour at the former site of the Provincial Papers Mill. EN will attend the RAP meetings on the selection process for clean-up of the mercury laden sediment.

5. Wilderness Protection Areas

Hundreds of rivers and streams are no longer protected since the introduction of The Navigable Waters Protection Act. EN is urging the public to pressure the current government to reinstate their protected status.

We adjourned at 7pm.

Al Douglas spoke about warmer, wetter weather predicted with specific and localized effects, such as flooding due to rapid snow melt, changes in peak flow of streams and an increase of some insects. The lessons from the early adapters are to collaborate with policies that support climate change adjustment. To learn more go to www.climateontario.ca

Mayor Keith Hobbs talked about the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. This group has 141 municipalities that live on the shores of the Great Lakes and use this water for drinking and transportation. There was over \$50 million in flood costs to our area and 2 cities are being sued for not being ready for climate change impacts. There is a website and webinars are available to the municipalities for information and other resources. Thunder Bay and Windsor are reporting best practises on the website. www.glslcities.org City council is devoting 1.5% of our budget for water and sewer infrastructure improvements. There will be more storm sewers installed, trees planted, rain gardens developed and a program to assist homeowners to purchase and install back-flow and sump pump systems in their basements. The city is also looking at the Blue Community Program. On June 17 – 20, 2014 Thunder Bay will be hosting the next GLSL Cities Initiative Conference.

A question and answer period followed the presentations.