

Environment North Minutes
Of March 12, 2014

Location: basement @ Bay Credit Union

Board Members:

Julee Boan- Chair

Lucy Laframboise

Scott Harris

Lea Matyuska

Susan Grinstead

Graham Saunders

Members at Large: Bruce Hyer

Board Business

The agenda was accepted as amended.

Moved by: Graham 2nd by: Lea carried

January 2014 minutes were deferred.

February 2014 minutes were accepted.

Moved by: Graham 2nd by: Lucy carried

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. The Marathon Stillwater project that Karen Peterson was working on is finished. A cheque to the Council of Canadians - Thunder Bay Chapter was approved.

Moved by: Susan 2nd by: Scott carried

New Business

1. AGM

Al Douglas, the Director of the Ontario Centre for Climate Impacts and Adaptation Resources (OCCIAR) will be speaking on Tuesday, April 15, just after our 6 pm AGM Business Meeting. He will be followed by Mayor Keith Hobbs, the Director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. The topic will be managing for climate risks. The location will be the Waverly Library Auditorium.

The power point slide show of the Year in Review will be done by Kerstin. Susan will check on who is up for renewal on the Board of Directors and prepare AGM 2013 Minutes for the members' approval. Fifty copies for advertising the AGM 2014 with our speakers will be prepared and include short biographies. Scott will generate the list of jobs. Lea has requested that we make a note in the memo line when depositing money to our account.

2. Charitable Organization

The Federal/Provincial charitable organization compliance form is the same as last year. The T3010A form is used. EN has three main areas of expenses. They are: nature/habitat protection, preservation of species and education/research programs. Lea will check the Revenue Tax form for allowable percentages of expenses. We spent approximately 5% on political activities, such as lobbying government, collecting signatures for petitions, etc. Approximately 80% of our expenses are for educational activities.

3. Bill 83 Anti-Slap Legislation

Slap suits are intended to wear down the individual or organization that is opposed to a government or corporate policy. The court costs are both lengthy and expensive. Greenpeace is opposed to Resolute Forest Products claiming that their logging practises are sustainable. There are 10 northern mayors who believe that this will stifle jobs in the area, and do not like the legislation. Julee wants to do a press release on the proposed legislation and write a note about EN's opinion to the two parties.

4. Canada Water Week – March 16th – 22nd

Thunder Bay will start the celebrations with a water ceremony, at the Spirit Garden in Marina Park, led by a water keeper, Josephine Mandamin. This event is being co-ordinated by several groups: EcoSuperior, Council of Canadians, Environment North and the City of Thunder Bay.

Any group involved with water issues may display their information on the main floor at the Baggage Building. The only refreshment will be tap water, so a variety of refillable bottles will be given away to encourage this "Back to the Tap" event. Activities on the 2nd floor will be short films, crafts, science displays and free kids stuff. Outside activities will be skating and a treasure hunt (geo-caching).

5. Science Café

On March 18th, 2014 the next Science Café will be at the Finlandia Hall from 7 - 9 pm. It is called "Leaky Logic" and the topic is the Energy East Pipeline. Environmental Defence League will also be attending and spending the next day in town with Julee.

6. EFN

Graham Russell, a social justice advocate on mining issues, will be on hand for the next film. Fiona, the woman featured in the film with poisoned water due to fracking will also be in attendance. Lake Superior holds approximately 10% of the world's fresh water and needs protection from poor mining practices. EN will have a table set up for membership sales at the EFN Festival event from Wed. March 19th to Sunday, March 23rd.

7. E-newsletter

The WeatherWhys column that Graham writes will now come to the EN membership as an e-newsletter. It will remind members of events, ours and Earth Care's. It can let our membership know about any board needs and remind them when renewals are due. We can approach specific groups, such as hiking and bird watching clubs, to sign up for this new feature.

8. CJ Articles

Julee will write the March article about the Energy East Pipeline. Roopa will write the April article about the speakers at our AGM.

9. Correspondence

There are letters from Noront, Bay Credit Union, the Ontario Government and new memberships.

10. **There was a motion for EN to renew the term deposit that we have at the Bay Credit Union.**

Moved by: Susan 2nd by: Lucy carried

11. MP Bruce Hyer

On Mon. Apr. 21st, Bruce will be having a fundraiser and EN will be one of the recipients. New Directions Speaker's Bureau and The Indian Friendship Centre will also receive funding.

Sarah Harmer, Valdy and Rodney Brown will entertain. It will be at the Italian Cultural Centre with doors open @ 7pm. Admission price is \$25. The centre can hold 300-400 with tables and 600 with the floor open. There will be a bar and free food snacks available. There will be 3 tables set up at the entrance to the hall for the charity groups to display their work, accept donations and sell memberships. LU Radio is a co-sponsor for this event called "Earth Rhythms". This will be a non-partisan event.

Bruce's mail in questionnaire on nuclear waste is in the CJ newspaper. He hopes for a lot of mail back participation.

Bruce supports the carbon fee and dividend proposed by Karl Hansen. Anyone can email Bruce about the Citizen's Climate Lobby if they have questions. The group suggests a \$30/tonne for GHG emissions, a scientifically based fee related to GHG %. It will be a disincentive to wasters and big business. Rebates could be applied for on tax forms thru the CRA.

EN has an open invitation to come to the lodge at Armstrong for a retreat or workshop.