

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

Held virtually via Microsoft Teams

**Friday, June 11, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

### **Attendance**

Garth Bangay (Chair)

Robin McAdam (from 10:08 a.m.)

Mike Morrison

William Baldrige

Shanna Fredericks, Coastal Action

### **Staff:**

Bill Schurman, Director of Recreation – MODL

Chad Haughn, Director of Community Development and Recreation – MODC (left at 11:00 a.m.)

Sandra Challis, Administration Assistant, MODL

### **Guest:**

Kelly Maher, District Office Bridgewater, NSE

### **Regrets:**

Cameron Deacoff, Surface Water Quality Specialist, NSE

### **1. Approval of Meeting Notes, March 22, 2021**

**Moved by William Baldrige, seconded by Mike Morrison that the SLSC meeting notes of March 22, 2021, be approved as circulated. Carried Unanimously.**

### **2. Business Arising**

The focus of the previous meeting had been on the presentations to the respective Councils which have now taken place. Cameron Deacoff had sent his last-minute apologies, due to the current situation on Grand Lake, and luckily Kelly Maher had been available to attend.

It was noted there were gaps in Sherbrooke Lake's communications network for residents – specifically in the Gully Lake and Russells Cove areas. Robin had a contact for Gully Lake and Mike for Russells Cove; both would approach these people regarding their ability to circulate information to their neighbours and would provide information to Sandra if they agree.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved as circulated.

### **4. Timing of Technical Support from Coastal Action to baseline/cyanobacteria monitoring**

Shanna updated the Committee with the following:

- Job ad for the WQM Team Lead closes today, is it hoped to have the new person in place by the end of June.
- Bottles have been ordered for the monthly sampling.

- 2 x cyanobacteria coolers have been ordered.
- YSI scheduling may be tight this summer, in terms of pick-up and drop-off, this is due to some of the sampling events being tied to weather conditions; some flexibility in the schedule is required.

It was agreed that Sherbrooke Lake regular monitoring was intended to be carried out on Sundays; equipment pick-up would hopefully be on a Friday and returned Mondays early a.m. so that the samples can get to Bedford by 10:00 a.m. Details of locations for pick-up and drop-off of equipment were to be determined.

A discussion followed on the procedures that could happen on receipt of a public report of a possible blue/green algae bloom:

- Call received by NSE. Kelly would be point of contact and would inform other staff should she be on shift elsewhere or away from work.
- NSE contact Coastal Action. Shanna agreed to be the point on contact.
- Coastal Action inform Monitoring Teams.
- Coastal Action to arrange for Probe to be available to the relevant monitoring team.
- (Ideally) NSE/Coastal Action be available to go out with the monitoring team when samples collected.
- Sample sent for testing.
- Results provided to Coastal Action and given to NSE.
- NSE to evaluate results and collaborate with Public Health to decide on an outcome – i.e., issue advisory etc.
- NSE to communicate to SLSC their decision, and a multi-tiered communications plan could begin involving NSE/NS Gov. Communications Team, MODL, MOC, and the Sherbrooke Lake resident's network.

It was noted that NSE and/or Coastal Action may not be able to respond as quickly as desired, and it may prove difficult, due to staffing and schedules for members of NSE and/or Coastal Action to be available for sample collection.

NSE normal process would be to visit complaint area as soon as possible, take photographs, make observations, carry out interviews and take samples for testing.

It was discussed that the sample process time was around seven days, as they were sent to Alberta. It was unknown how long NSE would need to evaluate the results and communicate their decision, but it was suggested by SLSC that perhaps a further seven days could be reasonable. Therefore, by the time the decision was publicized, the data from the sample would be fourteen days old.

## **5. Schedule for Baseline Monitoring**

A discussion was held and the following points/decisions made:

- A refresher for the volunteers using the YSI equipment will be held at 10:00 a.m. Sunday June 27<sup>th</sup> at Garth's house – Kelly Maher was invited, and Bill Schurman said he would try to attend also. (Note: The YSI unit is scheduled to at Fox Point Lake on Monday).
- Training resources would be needed for the Blue-Green algae Probe.
- Garth's team would carry out the regular sampling in June (including tributaries), August and October and Mike's team would cover July and September.
- It would be beneficial to schedule a meeting with the Coastal Action's new WQM Team Lead in early July.

## **6. Options for Addressing Shortfall for Cyanobacteria Monitoring**

Both MOC and the Province had declined to pick-up the shortfall, of approximately \$4,000, for the Pilot project. William reported that he worked with a foundation in California who provide funding for a wide range of activities, and the environment is one of their priorities. He had discussed the project with the Executive Director, and they were very supportive of the project. A meeting is to be held on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and a decision will be made; it was felt that funding should be approved. It would be necessary for Coastal Action to complete some paperwork to satisfy the IRS to receive the funds, but it was felt that this would not be too onerous and would only need to be completed once, even if support from the organization was continued. William would email the details to Shannah.

## **7. Communications – Internal & External**

It was hoped that timelines for communications following a report of a bloom could be as predictable as possible, noting that if the SLSC were to have credibility, then they needed to be able to provide answers to residents.

It was noted that should people hear about things happening on the lake that is relevant to SLSC and/or the residents, like the recent lake-trout study that is being undertaken, it would be beneficial for the SLSC to be kept in the loop so that they are able to answer any questions. In particular, it would be useful to introduce the SLSC to the resident involved in the study, who may in turn be a useful resource to the Committee.

Robin reported that MOC are working towards preventative zoning in their district of the Lake and MODL are beginning to look at perspective zoning for areas of the municipality. It was suggested that it could be worthwhile to have the whole lake treated the same. Mike would circulate his update to Wildor Park residents regarding the MOC proposals and Robin would draft a communication for lake residents to make them aware of the situation. Chad advised that he was in regular contact with Jeff, the Director of Planning at MODL.

## **8. Other Business**

Bill advised he would brief MODL's CAO on the good news regarding funding. He added that it is still important for NSE to be involved, even without providing funding, and asked if Garth could update Cameron on the Pilot Project plans.

Shanna noted she would review the plan from the Pilot Project to see how it can be adapted to fit the later start date than anticipated. She would order some bottles for the cyanobacteria testing to be ready when the time comes. It was noted that establishing the calibration curve may be challenging this year, due to the late start of the Project.

Garth closed the meeting with special thanks to William for seeking out the funding, and wished Coastal Action good luck with their new hire.

Meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.