

Mississippi Lakes Association

Road Association Meetings with MLA

Minutes of Meeting – 8 Aug 2023 at Independent Community Room

Attendees:

Name	Road Association	Township
Rob Bell	MLA - President	
Chris Winter	MLA - Roads	Beckwith
Graham Whitelaw	MLA – Municipal Relations	Mississippi Mills
Pat Kavanaugh	LPCA	Beckwith
Ken Ray	IRA	Beckwith
Jim Alexander	Willis Island	Beckwith
Kelly Vankoughnet	PIPOA	DNE
Bonnie Robertson	FBR	Beckwith
Jon Phipps	GSA	Beckwith
Brian Metcalfe	Robertson’s Shore	DNE

Next Meeting: September date to be determined depending on MVCA report

Agenda

1. Review MVCA Unsafe Roads report
2. Plan the Roads Workshop

1. Road Association Update - Chris:

- MLA has 18 member road associations out of 35 road associations; and 64 private roads around the lake
- Chris has attended 14 road association AGM’s this Spring/Summer so far to update attendees on MLA activities and to listen to issues
- Primary road association concerns are ‘Unsafe Road Sections’ and municipal Equalization grants (PREP) to help with road maintenance costs

2. Unsafe Road Update – Graham:

- This is a top-of-mind issue as they are affecting building permit approvals and resident concerns regarding emergency vehicle access during 1:100 flood events.
- MLA is assisting road associations to define the unsafe road sections by working with municipalities and MVCA.
- MLA has received a list of private roads from BW, DNE, CP, MM and provide them to Matt Craig – MVCA Mgr of Planning & Regulation

- MVCA will overlay the road coordinates with the flood map to determine which road sections are deemed 'unsafe' – being more than 12" of water above road level during a 1:100 year flood event. Results are expected by end of August/early September.
- **ACTION:** MLA will share MVCA results with all road associations so they can validate the flooded sections given 2017 & 2019 flood events, and also to identify any road improvement work since the MVCA survey in 2015 – which may improve the results.
- **ACTION:** Bonnie and Kelly volunteered to organize a Unsafe Road workshop where we can invite some guest speakers from the municipalities (EMS personnel, road operations, etc), The goal would be to identify standards to mark out unsafe sections, possible voluntary safe road certification process that can be posted for EMS vehicles?

3. Private Road Equalization Payments (PREP) - Graham:

- Beckwith annual budget allowance is \$30,000. This has not increased since inception in 2008. Richard Kidd has made it known that changes to the amount can only be considered when other municipalities introduce a PREP program (DNE). Note that there are road associations that do not claim their entitlement and the surplus funds are added to Beckwith reserves.
- DNE Council had turned down PREP for 2023 saying they felt compelled to put in the program for ALL private roads – a non-starter in terms of costs. They were also told that MPAC assessments adjust for living on a private road – which is NOT the case.
- One of our attendees - Key Ray was involved in the original Beckwith PREP study and provided a summary of the study highlights. His summary is attached – all recipients are encouraged to **read it** as it is very well done.
- **ACTION:** Any progress on PREP with Beckwith and DNE councils will require road associations to band together. MLA can help organize presentations to councils ahead of 2024 budget deliberations in the Fall. Ahead of these meetings, we need to identify road association costs and property tax increases over time. We need some data to support our concerns. Bottom line is that we are subsidizing subdivision services....

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