

Council Meeting
December 8th 2016 | 10:15 AM – 2:15 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive, Salmon Arm

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items

Note: this record is subject to correction when adopted at the next SWC meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Have roundtable discussions on SWC goals and objectives, and communications
3. Receive guest presentations from BC Ministry of Environment and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
4. Approve meeting schedule for 2017

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – CSRD Area ‘C’
Larry Morgan, Vice Chair – CSRD Area ‘F’
Rene Talbot – CSRD Area ‘D’
Rhona Martin – CSRD Area ‘E’
Todd Kylo – District of Sicamous (*entered the meeting at 10:26*)
Dave Nordquist – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Herman Halvorson – RDNO, Area ‘F’
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment
Laura Code – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Ray Nadeau – Community representative
Lorne Hunter – Community representative

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Guests: Martina Beck and Robyn Hooper

Observers: Clyde Mitchell, Bob Misseghers, Dale Kerr, Gerry Paquette, Hamish Kassa

Regrets: Nancy Cooper, Rick Berrigan, Peter Milobar, Greg Witzky, Tundra Baird, Randy Wood

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM

Adoption of Meeting Summary Moved/Seconded by Directors Morgan/Halvorson that:
The meeting summary of the September 19th 2016 meeting of the SWC be adopted.

Chair Demenok noted a correction to Randy Wood's Roundtable Update from September 19th 2016.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Shuswap Lifeboat Society
(November 8th 2016) Letter from Bruce Weicker, Shuswap Lifeboat Society. The letter thanks the SWC for their financial contribution toward the newly-installed lifejacket kiosk at the downtown Salmon Arm boat launch and gives a brief overview of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue activities in 2016.

Watersheds 2016 presentation
(October 1st 2016) Presentation by SWC Chair Paul Demenok at the *Watersheds 2016* conference held in Vancouver on October 1st hosted by Fraser Basin Council, POLIS (University of Victoria) and First Nations Fisheries Council.

Discussion:

Director Martin expressed a desire to provide support to the Shuswap Lifeboat Society next year.

Ray Nadeau inquired about what the SWC can learn from other watershed-based organizations that were present at the *Watersheds 2016* conference. Chair Demenok noted that while the SWC has a relatively sustainable funding model, other groups have higher degrees of volunteerism.

Moved/Seconded by Directors Martin/Talbot that:
The correspondence contained in the December 8th SWC agenda be received for information.

CARRIED

Councillor Kylo entered the meeting at 10:26 AM

Report from Chair Chair Demenok highlighted his participation at the *Watersheds 2016* conference held in Vancouver on October 1st hosted by Fraser Basin Council, POLIS and First Nations Fisheries Council.

Report from Program Managers Erin Vieira reported on the program managers' activities since the September 19th SWC meeting:

- Water quality monitoring by partners is ongoing, most is wrapped up

until ice-free conditions in spring

- Water Monitoring Group meeting will meet on December 15th to review 2016 monitoring activities, do preliminary planning for 2017, and discuss water quality reporting
- The special water quality monitoring project for emerging threats is in development (Water Monitoring Program, Activity F). Staff are working with scientists from the BC Ministry of Environment and Department of Fisheries and Oceans to consider a short-list of contaminants to monitor in 2017; cost for this program is a limiting factor. Applications to two external funding sources were submitted but not successful. A project recommendation will be brought to the SWC at its next meeting.
- Work on creating open access to water quality monitoring data is in early stages (Water Monitoring Program, Activity D)
- 10,000 additional *Water Protection Initiative* brochures were printed and are being distributed around the watershed via multiple methods
- Ongoing liaison with the Water Protection Advisory Committee regarding planning for education events and restoration projects; the committee will next meet early in the new year
- Ongoing liaison with UBC-Okanagan regarding the phosphorus research project; anticipating next quarterly report later in December and a presentation to the Water Protection Advisory Committee in spring 2017
- Boating safety was promoted through social media this fall
- Shuswap Lifeboat Society opened a lifejacket loaning kiosk at Marine Peace Park downtown Salmon Arm on October 16th; this effort was partially financed by the SWC, and Chair Demenok and Mayor Cooper were in attendance
- Staff submitted safety articles to two recreation/tourism publications for 2017

Mike Simpson reported the expenses for the first and second quarters, April 1st 2016 – September 30th 2016:

- \$5507 on the Water Quality Monitoring program
- \$56,348 on the Water Protection program
- \$12,094 on the Recreation Safety Education program
- \$10,867 on communications
- \$17,248 on management and administration

Discussion:

Director Morgan inquired if Styrofoam is being considered as a potential candidate for monitoring in the 'emerging threats' project in 2017. Dennis Einarson confirmed that it isn't.

Ray Nadeau asked if staff send a media release to outlets after each SWC meeting. Erin confirmed that to-date, meeting summaries are circulated via e-mail and posted online.

Action item: Staff will prepare a one-page SWC meeting highlights report and

distribute to media outlets.

**Roundtable
discussion: SWC goals
and objectives**

Erin Vieira explained that the *Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program Terms of Reference, v. 4 (June 16, 2014)* is the original SWC program document upon which the five-year plan was created.

Chair Demenok emphasized that the objectives that are contained in the original TOR are valuable and shouldn't be lost; this echoes the concerns raised by Ray Nadeau in May 2016. The original document is high-level, and the five-year plan is more detailed.

Chair Demenok proposed that a slight revision or re-crafting of the document be posted online and named an 'Overview of the SWC'.

Director Morgan commented that he is supportive of making revisions to the document and using it as an Overview.

Ray Nadeau noted his experience that "what gets measured, gets done" and emphasized the importance of metrics for the SWC. Some of the metrics outlined in the original TOR are achievable in the short-term, some in the long-term.

The Chair asked if there are any objectives, goals or metrics that should be stricken or modified. Erin Vieira suggested that reference to drinking water quality not be included in the Overview document to avoid the perception that the SWC is responsible for such (the responsibility for which rests with water purveyors). A discussion took place. Lorne Hunter stated that water quality goals for the watershed need to be reasonable – raw water shouldn't necessarily be of drinking water quality. Dennis Einarson pointed out that there are raw water standards that are suitable targets. Dennis also pointed out that drinking water purveyors are supposed to do a Source Water Protection Plan.

Action item: staff will create a new Overview document that defines the objectives and goals of the SWC, and outlines how the SWC measures or evaluates itself against its workplan. An ad hoc working group consisting of the Chair, Director Martin, and Ray Nadeau will work with staff on this. A draft Overview document will be included in the next SWC meeting agenda.

**Roundtable
discussion:
Communications
activities in 2017**

Erin Vieira presented an overview of the SWC's Communications Plan, which includes four priorities and four activities.

Chair Demenok noted the importance of reporting annually, in person, to the SWC partners and funders (local governments and first nations) and suggested that this become part of the Communications Plan.

Director Martin agreed that any opportunity to present to other Councils or Boards is beneficial. Director Morgan echoed Director Martin's comments. Director Halvorson commented that the SWC would be welcome any time to

present to the RDNO Board as a delegation.

Action item: Chair Demenok will follow up with SWC members to determine appropriate timing for delegations in spring 2017.

Agenda Amendment Chair Demenok suggested that the Roundtable Updates be moved up on the agenda.

CARRIED

Roundtable updates Lorne Hunter reported that he made a presentation about Shuswap Watershed Council at the Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association AGM. He emphasized issues that the agriculture sector needs to aware of.

Director Martin is participating in a conference call regarding invasive mussels, the goal is to explore options for persuading senior levels of government to take stronger action against mussels.

Ray Nadeau expressed that leaking septic systems are an ongoing concern that needs more attention. He acknowledged that the CSRD has a program for it and that it isn't in the SWC's five-year plan. Chair Demenok commented that it is an important problem with an expensive solution, but grant opportunities are as good now as they've been in a long time.

Break SWC members took a lunch break from 12:00 – 12:45 PM.

Guest presentation:
Martina Beck,
BC Ministry of
Environment

Martina Beck, Invasive Mussel Defence Program Coordinator, BC Ministry of Environment gave an overview of invasive mussels:

- Aquatic invasive mussels = Zebra and Quagga Mussels
- Very high reproductive capacity (> 1M eggs per female) and have an extraordinary ability to attach to surfaces. Free-swimming microscopic larvae make their detection difficult; adult mussels are also small and not easily detected (< 3 cm). These attributes enable their populations to explode rapidly and for mussels to unknowingly be transported from one waterbody to another.
- There are no known predators that keep invasive mussel populations at bay.
- The *BC Wildlife Act* prohibits the possession, breeding, transportation or release of invasive species, dead or alive
- Ecosystem impacts occur at a food-web level. Mussels are filter-feeders, therefore they remove nutrients and plankton from waterbodies which in turn negatively affects invertebrates and fish communities.
- The potential economic impact of aquatic invasive mussels to BC is estimated at \$43M in annual maintenance/remediation costs.
- BC Ministry of Environment piloted its invasive mussel program in 2015, including roadside inspections, education and outreach, and early detection monitoring
- The program was expanded in 2016 with additional locations and hours

of operation, and improved signage and marketing

- 78 lakes were monitored for invasive mussels in 2016; all samples came back negative
- Western provinces and states are free of invasive mussels at this time (i.e., BC, Alberta, Washington, Idaho)
- Invasive mussel larvae were recently detected in Montana in two reservoirs. Immediate action was taken by authorities to restrict boat traffic as a measure of containment. BC MOE is continually working with authorities to manage the situation and protect the borders.

Director Morgan inquired if there are any eradication measures for the larval stage. Ms. Beck responded that there have been successful chemical treatments in small closed-system ponds; natural open water bodies are virtually impossible to treat.

Director Morgan inquired about the length of time taken for a watercraft to go through an inspection station. Ms. Beck replied that it varies by type of watercraft: kayaks and canoes are much quicker than larger sport boats or cabin cruisers. She further explained that watercraft decontamination uses high-pressure hot water to kill and wash away mussels. Risk assessment questionnaires are done simultaneously to inspection.

Ms. Beck outlined that efforts in 2017 will continue with the promotion of “Clean Drain Dry” messaging, and further water monitoring.

Lorne Hunter noted from the presentation that most fouled boats are coming from Eastern Canada (Ontario); he asked what requirements are in place for those watercrafts before departing. Ms. Beck replied that the province of Ontario doesn’t have a prohibition against possessing or transporting invasive species. There is federal legislation in place to enable the Canadian Border Services Agency to enforce inspection and prevention methods; this is new as of 2016.

Director Martin asked if the mussels can live in deep water, or if they’re limited to near-shore habitat. Ms. Beck answered that quagga mussels have been found living in depths greater than 100-feet in Lake Mead, Utah.

Director Morgan commented that aquatic invasive mussels represent that biggest threat to the Shuswap watershed. Director Martin further commented that this is an issue that affects everybody: the potential impacts will reach everybody, and everybody will pay financial and lifestyle costs.

The Chair suggested that the SWC write a letter in support of continued invasive mussel prevention programming.

Action item: staff will write a letter in support of continued invasive mussel prevention programming.

**Guest Presentation:
Robyn Hooper,
Columbia Shuswap
Invasive Species
Society**

Robyn Hooper introduced the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) as a non-profit organization that works toward the prevention, reduction and management of invasive species in the region. CSISS activities in 2016 included sampling for zebra and quagga mussels at 22 waterbodies in the Columbia-Shuswap region, in partnership with BC MOE and BC Hydro. All sample results were negative (free of mussel larvae). CSISS outreach activities in 2016 included visiting boat launches and marinas, and speaking with recreationists about invasive species and prevention methods; outreach focuses on “Clean Drain Dry”. Boater surveys in 2016 indicated zero at-risk boats. A short video about zebra and quagga mussels was played (see www.protectourwater.ca).

Ms. Hooper concluded her presentation by stating that CSISS is open to ideas for further engagement with the SWC regarding aquatic invasive species.

**SWC Meeting
schedule for 2017**

The SWC meeting schedule for 2017 was approved as follows:

Wednesday March 8th

Wednesday May 10th

Wednesday September 13th

Wednesday December 13th

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom from 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM.

Adjourn

Moved/Seconded by Director Morgan/Talbot that:
The December 8th meeting of the SWC be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.