

WHAT IS THE SHUSWAP WATERSHED COUNCIL?

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership that enhances water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap.

There are 17 SWC members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, two provincial government agencies, and Shuswap communities.

The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group. It works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complimenting their work and carefully avoiding duplication.

The SWC's Vision is Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

OBJECTIVES

To maintain and enhance water quality in the Shuswap watershed through collaboration with water quality monitors. By working together, we can help ensure clean water and the many benefits it affords including a healthy ecosystem and a thriving tourism economy.

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS INCLUDE:

- Coordinate water quality monitoring activities with all partners
- Provide support and coordination to implement additional water quality monitoring projects to ensure locations and parameters of interest are monitored at appropriate intervals throughout the Shuswap watershed
- Identify sources or causes of water quality degradation
- Explore and develop actions to reduce and remedy water quality pollution, and make recommendations to partner agencies and regulatory bodies or undertake action through the SWC
- Encourage new management practices that improve or protect water quality.

Success will be measured by the effective collaboration and coordination of participants in watershed-wide monitoring; completion and conclusions from science-based projects about sources of water quality degradation; and completion of water quality improvement projects. The most important measure of success – although it's contingent upon factors external to the work of the SWC – will be the long-term preservation and improvement of water quality in the Shuswap.

The following organizations participate in the SWC:

- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- City of Salmon Arm
- District of Sicamous
- Secwepemc Nation
- Regional District of North Okanagan
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Ministry of Agriculture

There are also three members-at-large from Shuswap communities.

There are many groups involved in water quality monitoring:

- Regional districts
- Municipalities
- First nations
- BC Ministry of Environment
- BC Parks
- BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Interior Health Authority
- Drinking water purveyors
- Environment Canada
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Stewardship groups
- Community groups
- Universities / Research institutions

OBJECTIVES *(continued)*

To coordinate and report on water quality data and information in the Shuswap watershed.

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS INCLUDE:

- Coordinate the collection of water quality monitoring data in the Shuswap and ensure its inclusion in a single database
- Enable public access to water quality data
- Prepare an annual water quality summary report, for distribution in print and online to Shuswap residents and visitors.

Success will be measured by the continued growth of a 'master' water quality database for the Shuswap, the development or improvement of a publically accessible online water quality portal, and the completion of annual water quality summaries.

To communicate with and inform residents and visitors about water quality in the Shuswap, and advocate for good practices to prevent water quality degradation. The SWC will also communicate with the public about its activities and accomplishments.

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS INCLUDE:

- Develop and distribute materials about water quality initiatives, issues, and stewardship, online and in print
- Provide support for educational events and initiatives
- Regularly prepare media releases about the SWC's key activities and decisions
- Advertise SWC meetings; make meeting summaries and financial statements publically available
- Enable members of the public to communicate directly with the SWC by structuring a diverse and approachable Council membership, and positioning dedicated staff.

Success will be measured by the quality and quantity of communiqués, educational initiatives, website traffic, and engagement on social media. An additional measure of success, contingent upon factors external to the work of the SWC, is the long-term increase in awareness, appreciation and stewardship of water quality by Shuswap residents.

To encourage safe behaviour by recreationists on and near the water.

ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE THIS INCLUDE:

- Collaborate with safety authorities to develop effective safety campaigns without causing duplication
- Deliver safety campaigns for the most-needed water recreation safety issues
- Provide support for water recreation safety equipment

Success will be measured by the implementation of safety campaigns, and increased availability of water recreation safety equipment. An additional measure of success, contingent upon factors external to the work of the SWC, will be fewer safety-related incidents on the water.

FUNDING

Funding from the CSRD, TNRD, City of Salmon Arm and District of Sicamous supports the work of the SWC. Each of these jurisdictions has established its own means of contributing. Additional funding may be obtained from third parties such as universities or foundations.

FIVE YEAR PLAN

The Water Quality Program & Recreation Safety Education Program in the Shuswap watershed for 2016 to 2020 guides the SWC's work for five years. It explains the SWC's programs and initiatives, and the resources required to implement them. Additional activities may be initiated to address emerging threats.

GOVERNANCE

The SWC's Terms of Reference outlines the roles, responsibilities, representation, and decision-making.



 **SHUSWAP**
watershed council

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