

Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program (Commencing 2015)

TERMS OF REFERENCE v.5

Revised as at June 16th 2014

At a strategic planning meeting held September 11, 2013, the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process (SLIPP) Steering Committee reflected on the three year SLIPP pilot project, and provided input on a vision, objectives and other elements of a successor program, the 'Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program'. These terms of reference are based on the input provided at that meeting, the subsequent Steering Committee meeting of October 22, 2013, and individual input from Steering Committee members during November. These terms of reference were approved by the Steering Committee on December 4th 2013 and revised on June 16th 2014.

WHAT IS IT?

The Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program (SWWQP) is proposed to be a collaborative program.

VISION of the Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program: Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

OBJECTIVES of the Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program

1. COLLABORATE with all water quality monitoring partners and regulatory agencies to maintain and enhance the quality of water in the Shuswap watershed for the following reasons:

- To ensure that standards for safe drinking water are met or exceeded
- To support the economic and recreational benefits of good water quality including tourism, boating, fishing, swimming and sustainable development
- To avoid duplication of effort, save time and money, and work with partners through a fair and equitable resourcing of the program

Strategies:

- Identify sources and causes of pollution and degradation
- Explore and develop action plans designed to remedy pollution
- Recommend implementation/action tasks to partner agencies; OR
- Undertake actions directly through SWWQP (subject to funding)
- Encourage new or modified management approaches that improve water quality
- Oppose further diversions of water from the Shuswap watershed
- Support in principle the development of community sewer and water systems in rural areas of the CSRD where there is significant benefit to doing so

Goals/metrics associated with this objective:

- Water quality is within existing guidelines (or establish our own through this process)
- Number, type and extent of algae blooms
- Number of water quality issues caused by humans or human activity, vs. natural causes
- Number of boil water notices or water quality advisories issued
- Number of beach closures
- Number of new or modified management approaches due to water quality information

2. COORDINATE and report on water quality information in the Shuswap watershed

Strategies:

- Coordinate all collection and analysis of water quality monitoring data in the Shuswap watershed in a cost-effective manner
- Utilize science and objective data to support decision making
- Provide broad and open access to these data

Goals/metrics associated with this objective:

- Number of partners involved in data gathering and collection
- Partner evaluation of SWWQP data collection, coordination and reporting
- Proportion of total budget contributed
- Leveraging of in-kind time and expenses

3. COMMUNICATE with, inform and engage residents, visitors and the public and private sectors about water quality and the activities of the program

Strategies:

- Provide the public with educational communications about the quality of the water in the Shuswap watershed
- Engage residents and all relevant interests to participate in water quality enhancement

Goals/metrics associated with this objective:

- Number of residents and relevant interest groups in the public and private sectors engaged
- Number of students or classes engaged
- Evaluation of SWWQP communication by residents and all relevant interest groups
- Participation at meetings
- Number of website hits or downloads of information
- Engagement levels on social media sites

4. From time to time, the Shuswap Watershed Council will consider projects that EDUCATE recreational users about safety on the water

Strategies:

- Distribute information promoting safety in or on the water
- Meet with agencies/businesses/organizations with a safety mandate to determine effective ways that SWWQP can promote safety and minimize duplication

Goals/metrics associated with this objective:

- Number of safety partners engaged with
- Number of interactions/meetings with residents, visitors and public and private sector groups
- Number of safety related incidents on the water

WHERE?

The program covers the entire Shuswap watershed, including all tributaries that drain into it, and recognizing downstream effects to Ashcroft. See map on the last page of this document.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Partnerships with all orders of government and all relevant interests committed to achieving the objectives of SWWQP will need to be developed in 2014 to address the following:

- What is the governance structure
- What is the role of SWWQP
- What is the role of SWWQP partners, within the SWWQP partnership, and outside of it

Recognizing that partners have their own enforcement roles and legislation, there shall be no enforcement role for the SWWQP as a program or organization.

See *Developmental Year Plan* for the orders of government and relevant interest groups to be engaged in development of the governance structure.

WHEN WILL IT BE DELIVERED?

The SWWQP is proposed to commence on January 1, 2015 for a five year period. Annual performance reviews will be conducted, with a core review to be conducted at the end of year three (by December 31, 2017) with the possibility of a two year extension.

As SLIPP concludes its three year pilot project on March 31, 2014, it is proposed 2014 is a developmental year with three categories of activities:

1. Continued water quality monitoring
2. Development of the SWWQP including input from all relevant interests
3. Development of governance structure and secured funding

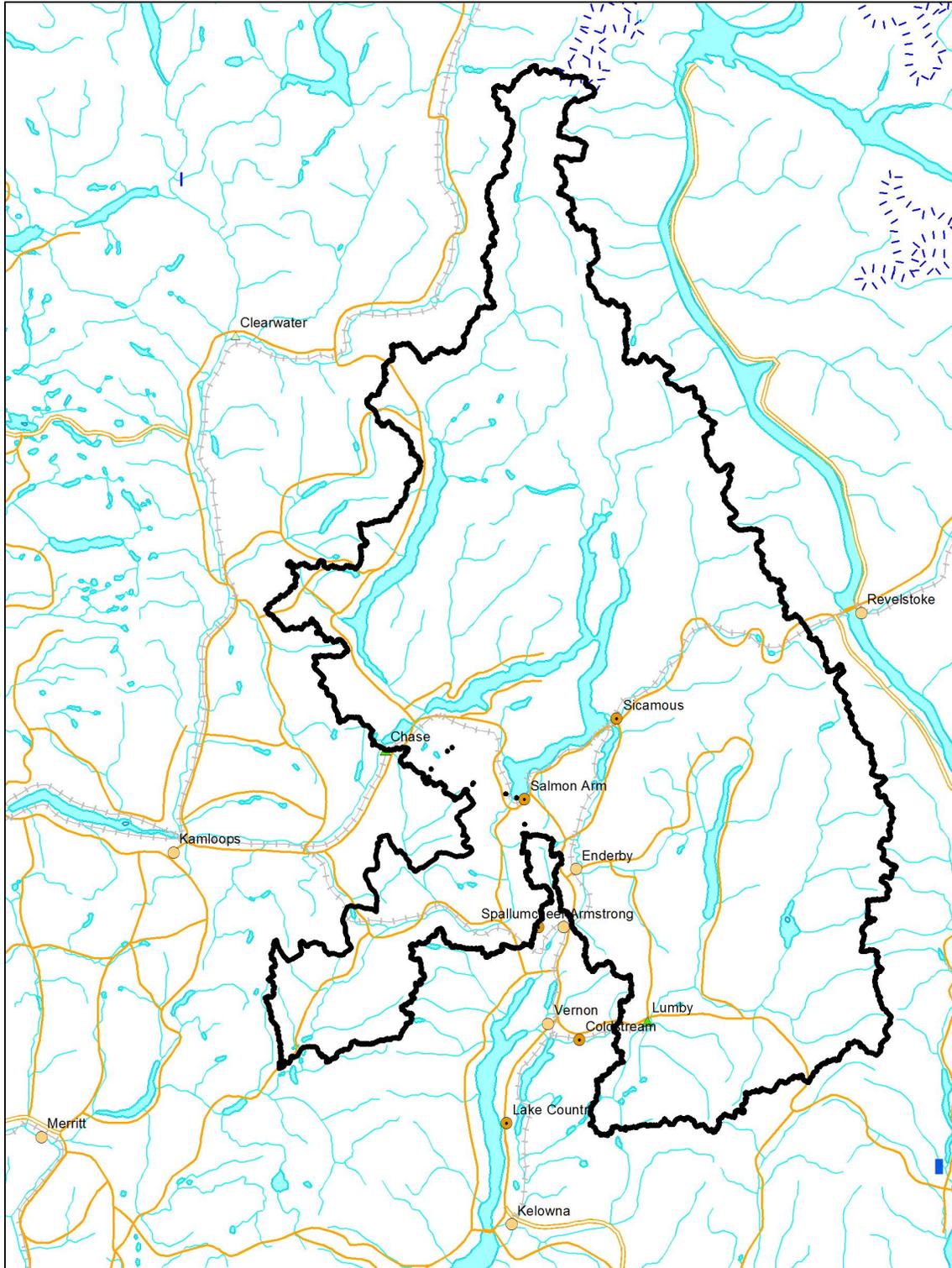
See the *Developmental Year Plan* for details on the proposed 2014 activities and a budget.

HOW WILL IT BE FUNDED AND HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

The goal is to have permanent, fair and equitable funding from all partners in place, and to determine this in the 2014 developmental year. Third party sources such as trusts, foundations and grants from federal and provincial governments may provide additional funding.

An initial draft, annual budget for the SWWQP commencing in 2015 is anticipated to range between \$200 000 to \$350 000 per year. The low end of the range will cover basic communication activities, coordination of a low level of water quality monitoring activities, management and administration. The higher end of the range would cover more activities and would likely involve more comprehensive water quality monitoring and reporting, a safety education program, and remediation activities.

A final budget for SWWQP will be developed in 2014 based on detailed program costs for water quality monitoring and protection, safety education and communications, as well as the degree of support expressed for each program from the engagement undertaken in 2014.



The proposed Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program will cover the Shuswap watershed: the lakes and major tributaries as defined by the watershed boundary above.