

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday June 4th 2025 • 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM
City Hall – Room 100
500 2nd Avenue NE, Salmon Arm BC

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Agenda item	Time
March 5 th 2025 meeting summary for approval	

Council Meeting
March 5th 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Chase Community Hall
547 Shuswap Avenue, Chase BC

Draft meeting summary as at March 12th, 2025
This record remains a draft until it is approved at the next Council meeting

Present

Rhona Martin – Community representative (*from 10:15 am*)
Stephen Karpuk – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Cliff Arnouse – Adams Lake Indian Band
Robyn Laubman – Splatstsin te Secwepemc (*via Zoom*)
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*via Zoom*)
Brian Schreiner – City of Enderby
Erik Kok – Community representative
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Diane Sutherland – BC Ministry of Environment & Parks (*via Zoom*)
Jeff Nitychoruk – BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship
Phil Owen – Agriculture representative
Megan Ludwig – Science/academia member
Daniel Selbie – Science/academia member (*via Zoom*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Fred Torbohm
Barbra Fairclough (Zoom)
Clyde Mitchell (Zoom)
Anne Grube (Zoom)

Regrets

Debbie Cannon
Rick Fairbairn

Guests

Tay Powrie and Tom Pypker

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Call to Order Alex de Chantal called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. He acknowledged the meeting taking place on the ancestral traditional territory of the Secwepemc Peoples'. Tk-wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse provided welcoming comments and prayed a blessing over the meeting. Alex suggested that election of Chair and Vice Chair be postponed until more people arrive to the meeting.

Adoption of meeting agenda **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:
The agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Brian Schreiner/Phil Owen that:
The draft meeting summary from December 11th 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

New candidates for SWC membership Program Manager Erin Vieira gave a brief overview of the SWC membership structure and introduced three new candidates for the SWC membership: Megan Ludwig, Jeff Nitychoruk, and Daniel Selbie. They each introduced themselves and provided a bit of information about their backgrounds and expertise.

Moved/seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:

Megan Ludwig, Daniel Selbie, and Jeff Nitychoruk be appointed to the SWC membership for three year terms commencing immediately.

CARRIED

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:
The correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Kimm Magill-Hofmann/Erik Kok that:
The draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on February 20th 2025 be received for information.

CARRIED

Report from Program Managers Erin Vieira provided a financial report up to the end of the third quarter, April 1st – December 31st 2024:

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Program	Annual Budget (\$)		Expenses (\$)	
	Disbursements	Program Mgmt	Disbursements	Program Mgmt
Water Quality Monitoring Program	33,059	13,725	31,763	9668
Water Quality Protection Program	124,821	20,250	47,270	18,027
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	27,432	7425	27,744	7605
Safe Recreation Program	9480	3713	8619	2835
Communications & Public Engagement	2725	16,763	2544	16,165
Administration	1850	38,131	758	28,760
Sub-totals	199,367	100,344	118,698	82,302

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Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal provided an update on work completed since the last Council meeting in December:

- The SWC Water Quality Grant Program is providing funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed. Five out of the six projects are complete, project reports have been received by staff, and grant payments have been issued. The deadline for the sixth project is March 31st, 2025.
- The Water Quality Grant Program was open for applications December 1st 2024 to January 31st 2025. The grant program was advertised locally, with up to \$45,000 available. A comprehensive program guide and application templates were available on the SWC website to prospective applicants.
- The Water Protection Advisory Committee met on February 20th to review the Water Quality Grant applications. The meeting was well attended and there was a thorough discussion on the grant applications received. The committee is recommending five projects for grant funding from the SWC, for a total grant budget in 2025 of \$34,645.89. Final grant approval is awarded by the Council and is subject to site visits by staff.
- The Fraser Basin Council (staff) have finalized a contribution agreement with the Canada Water Agency for a \$170,000 grant on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council. The funding will be reflected in the fourth quarter statement (January 1st – March 31st 2025).
- Early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels in the Shuswap watershed wrapped up late fall by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). The CSISS receives funding from SWC for this work. All samples tested negative for invasive mussels (i.e., no mussels were found in any samples from the Shuswap watershed).
- Program Manager Erin Vieira participated in a Provincial Invasive Animals working group meeting in early February. Updates were shared from the Province of BC regarding the Watercraft Inspection Program. A 2024 summary report from the Province can be found [here](#). All meeting attendees from across the Province also shared updates on their monitoring programs and educational prevention campaigns.
- Program Manager Erin Vieira and SWC Chair Rhona Martin presented to the ProBus Club of Salmon Arm in early February. It was a positive meeting with good discussion and feedback.
- Fraser Basin Council submitted an application for funding to the Watershed Security Fund of BC on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council. Staff expect to receive notice in May.
- Staff will apply for grants-in-aid and discretionary funding from local governments within the Shuswap watershed
- Staff have and continue to work on recruiting potential new members to fulfill the SWC membership as defined in the new Terms of Reference.

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Rhona Martin entered the meeting at 10:15

Discussion

A few people voiced their concerns over gaps in the Province's watercraft inspection program, including operational hours of the stations (not 24/7) and the many highway entry-points into BC that do not have a station.

There was also a discussion on fundraising for the Shuswap Watershed Council. Crowd funding was suggested as one strategy, and there was an inquiry about whether staff have applied to the Shuswap Foundation.

Elections

Program Manager Alex de Chantal presided over the election.

ELECTION of Chair for 2025 is Rhona Martin by acclamation.

ELECTION of Vice Chair for 2025 is Stephen Karpuk by acclamation.

Guest presentation

Erin introduced Tay Powrie and Tom Pypker from Thompson Rivers University.

Tay presented his research on glacier coverage and influence of glacial melt in the Adams River watershed. He presented some data about glacier coverage, and loss thereof, in his study area in the last 40 years. He explained the magnitude and timing of glacial melt, and illustrated how current glacial melt is increasingly contributing to seasonal discharge in the Adams River. Tay also showed some projections of glacier melt contribution to the Adams River. Changing river temperature and turbidity will have hydro-ecological impacts, such as on trout and salmon, algae, and macroinvertebrates.

There was a Q&A session. Chair Martin thanked Tay for his important research and for the presentation.

Report from Chair

Chair Martin reported that she attended and presented at a meeting of the ProBus Club of Salmon Arm with Program Manager Erin Vieira. It was a very good discussion with positive feedback from meeting attendees. She encouraged SWC members to invite a presentation from staff to their respective organizations.

New business: Water Quality Grant Program

Erin briefly reviewed the water quality grant recommendations from the WPAC.

Phil Owen left the room due to a conflict.

Moved/seconded by Brian Schreiner/Stephen Karpuk to accept the recommendations for awarding grant funding.

Tk-wemi'ple7 Arnouse asked about the purpose and impact of the grant program. Megan commented on the difficulty faced by small farms in accessing

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grant funding. She expressed her support for the SWC grant program providing funding for nutrient management. Erik asked Megan to comment on the technical merit of the recommended applications; she briefly reviewed each one and gave positive feedback. Stephen remarked that he trusts the recommendations from the committee.

CARRIED

Action item: Staff will follow up with grant recipients, and schedule site visits and draft contribution agreements with the recommended applicants.

New business: SWC membership

Program Manager Erin Vieira provided an overview of the SWC membership including those members whose terms are ending March 31st 2025, members whose terms may be renewed, and the other vacancies. She explained that the new seat for a Youth was advertised across the Shuswap watershed in January and February, but no applications were submitted.

The following people will have their terms renewed:

Representing local government: Brian Schreiner, Stephen Karpuk, David Lepsoe, and Pam Beech

Representing First Nations, pending confirmation from their communities: Cliff Arnouse and Robyn Laubman.

The remaining vacancies in the membership include two more representatives from local government, one from First Nations, and one for Youth.

Action item: Staff will follow up with Tk-wemi'ple7 Arnouse and Robyn Laubman to confirm their terms renewing.

Roundtable updates

Erik suggested staff request a presentation from the Alberta 'Cows and Fish' organization at a future meeting of the SWC. Megan suggested that the BC Environmental Farm Plan program is very similar and getting a presentation from an EFP planner would be more suitable.

David reported that the Village of Chase received a federal grant for sewer upgrades.

Diane reported that the BC Ministry of Environment & Parks is continuing their twice-a-year water monitoring program on Shuswap Lake, and a new report summarizing the past two years of water monitoring is underway.

Megan reported that BC Wildlife Federation will have some staff working in the Shuswap this summer doing some wetland assessments work. She also reported that Farmland Advantage is a program that provides funding to farms for restoration works.

Stephen reported that the City of Kamloops is seeking clarity how to maintain

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the integrity of dykes without compromising riparian health. He also commented on recent research on wildfires and harmful chemicals in the environment; the City is pursuing some advocacy on this.

Jeff reported that the BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship is working on foreshore guidelines. He also reported that the agency has some funding earmarked for work on Rocky Mountain Ridge Mussel (a native species mussel).

Phil reported that a Bessette Agricultural Sustainable Society has formed and received some Provincial funding for a water storage study. A new potential upland storage facility would sustain water flow for fish and agriculture.

Pam reported the District of Sicamous is working on a resolution to bring to the UBCM regarding Provincial watercraft inspection stations.

Robyn reported that she attended the BC Assembly of First Nations Water Forum earlier this week, it was attended with good presentations on water policy and other subjects. She also reported that BC Hydro is proposing a sediment release trial from upstream of the Wilsey Dam (Shuswap River) in May and June; there are concerns about the impact of large quantities of sediment on the downstream salmon habitat. She also reported that Splat sin continues to work with the Province on the Hullcar aquifer.

Rhona reported on the significant efforts toward the Bruhn Bridge replacement in Sicamous.

Action item: Staff will reach out to the Environmental Farm Plan Program and request an introductory presentation at a future meeting of the SWC.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:

The March 5th 2025 SWC meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council is June 11th at City Hall in Salmon Arm, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm.

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Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C. V1W 3Z4
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www.obwb.ca

May 9, 2025

Honourable Randene Neill
Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn. Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC, V8W 9L6
Email: WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Urgency of Bringing Wildlife Act Amendments into Force to Prevent Invasive Mussels

Dear Minister Neill,

Thank you for your May 7, 2025 letter and for the update on proposed legislative amendments to the Wildlife Act to address the threat of invasive mussels. The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) appreciates the Ministry's acknowledgement of our longstanding concerns and the efforts underway to strengthen B.C.'s aquatic invasive species prevention framework.

The proposed authorities—for mandatory "pull-the-plug" requirements and required stops at open inspection stations—are important steps in the right direction. We also note the provision to enable mandatory inspections for out-of-province watercraft, to be implemented through future regulation.

While these developments are welcome, the timelines for implementation remain a pressing concern. As the 2025 boating season rapidly approaches, the absence of enforceable regulations leaves B.C.'s waters exposed to increasing risk. At the end of April, Alberta inspectors already intercepted their first watercraft of the 2025 season confirmed to be carrying invasive mussels—originating from Ontario. This incident is a clear reminder of how quickly these threats can cross provincial borders.

With invasive mussels now established in neighbouring jurisdictions, and with the discovery of golden mussels in the western U.S., the window for prevention is narrowing. We strongly encourage the Province to not only pass these legislative amendments without delay, but to also expedite the development of the enabling regulations. The regulatory tools must be in place and enforceable this summer to provide the level of protection that communities, First Nations, utilities, and ecosystems urgently require.

The OBWB stands ready to support the Ministry in moving from legislation to implementation. We would welcome a clear timeline for the rollout of the new regulations and look forward to collaborating on public communications and operational planning to ensure they are effective.

Thank you for your continued attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Blair Ireland, Chair, Okanagan Basin Water Board

Agenda item	Time
Old business: draft summary of the May 14 th WPAC meeting	9:30

Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group
March 13th, 2025 • 9:00am – 10:30am
Virtual meeting held via Zoom

Draft meeting summary as of March 19th, 2025

Attendance

Rob Fleming – First Nations Health Authority
Lucie Thomson – Ministry of Environment
Marge Sidney – Gardom Lake Stewardship Society
Carly Foster – BC Ministry of Environment & Parks
Colan Morrow – District of Sicamous
Marlee Verleigh – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Jolene Raggett – Ministry of Environment
Robert Niewenhuizen – City of Salmon arm
Robyn Laubman – Splatsin te Secwepemc
Mike Baker – Village of Chase

Alex de Chantal – SWC staff c/o Fraser Basin Council

1. Welcome and introductions

Alex welcomed all present and acknowledged Secwepemc Territory. A round of introductions took place. Alex reviewed the meeting agenda and it was adopted as presented.

2. Meeting summary from November 7th 2024

The draft Water Monitoring Group meeting summary from November 7th 2024 was approved.

3. Group discussion: 2024 water quality monitoring

Alex reviewed a spreadsheet of water monitoring throughout the Shuswap watershed. All committee members gave a brief report on their 2025 monitoring programs. The spreadsheet was updated as needed. Key changes are also noted here:

- Tappen Creek and White Creek Row 17 – The summary report for Tappen Creek and White Creek monitoring program will be available for review this summer. The primary objective of this special monitoring program by the MOE is to determine if nutrients from these creeks are contributing to Salmon Arm Bay poor water quality. It has been observed that White Creek consistently releases nutrients, particularly during the spring freshet, which subsequently flow into Shuswap Lake. The report also identifies differing land uses between the two creeks: Tappen Creek is primarily forestry-based, while White Creek is predominantly agricultural.
- District of Sicamous has initiated a new comprehensive water monitoring program on the Eagle River. This program is the first step in a larger process to assess the feasibility of increasing the capacity of their liquid waste and water treatment plant. The District has contracted Stantec to

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Old business: draft summary of the May 14 th WPAC meeting	9:30

conduct the water quality monitoring. Surface water sampling will occur monthly, with increased frequency to bi-weekly during freshet. Groundwater wells will also be tested on a bi-weekly basis. At this time, it's uncertain whether a report on the findings will be made publicly available.

- Lucie Thomson asked for more details about the District's new program because she's looking for source water quality data from water suppliers. She's interest in whether they would be willing to share their data, Colan and Lucie to connect offline.
 - **Action: Colan to update Water Monitoring Group whether water quality data and the final report can be shared.**
- Splatsin – Will be doing another spring sampling event, same approach as the fall, in the Jack Pine drinking water system. They are also deploying water temperature monitoring in Bessette Creek, Eagle River and Fortune Creek. Would like to do more sampling in Eagle River in the future.
- Mike Baker provided an update for Chase, they are now doing monthly testing for *E. Coli* and coliform bacteria at South Thompson river in Chase, and groundwater DW source @ Chase.
- CSISS will continue to test at same sites listed.

4. Update on SWC initiatives

Whirling Disease

Staff relayed that a new detection of whirling disease has been found in Kootenay Lake, in the Columbia watershed, highlighting the need for everyone to follow best practices including clean-drain-dry and stopping for all watercraft inspection stations.

Whirling disease update from CSISS – Conditional approval for a grant from Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program on education, outreach and monitoring in Columbia watershed. CSISS is partnering with Splatsin and other Indigenous communities to support monitoring specific to whirling disease. This BC Hydro funding program exists to offset operational impacts on the Columbia river.

Robyn shared that the same BC Hydro program supports the work on decommissioning the Wilsey dam.

Water Quality Grant Program

The 2024 Water Quality Grant Program provided funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed. Five out of the six projects are complete, project reports have been received by staff, and grant payments have been issued. The remaining project is scheduled to be complete by March 31st, 2025.

The 2025 Water Quality Grant Program was open for applications December 1st, 2024, to January 31st, 2025. The grant program was advertised locally through a variety of print, online, and radio ads. A comprehensive program guide and application templates were available on the SWC website to prospective applicants.

The Water Protection Advisory Committee met on February 20th to review the Water Quality Grant applications. The meeting was well attended and there was a thorough discussion on the grant applications received. The committee provided a recommendation of support for five projects to the SWC,

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Old business: draft summary of the May 14 th WPAC meeting	9:30

for a total grant budget in 2025 of \$34,645.89. The Council approved the applications for funding on March 5th subject to site visits by staff and the signing of contribution agreements.

Wetland Strategy Phase 3

The Wetland Strategy Committee met on November 15th. The Fraser Basin Council (FBC), on behalf of the SWC received \$65,000 in funding from Environment & Climate Change Canada (now Canada Water Agency) to advance the next phase of the Wetland Strategy.

Phase 3 will focus on ground-truthing the wetland prediction and ranking model developed in Phase 2, as well as collecting additional data to better understand the health of the wetlands and guide future steps.

Project objectives include:

- Ground Truthing the Wetland Model: Validate the spatial extend and function of the wetlands identified in Phase 2.
- Wetland Health Assessment: Gather additional data to assess wetland function based on key hydrological and ecological parameters.
- Data Integration and Reporting: Compile field data to refine wetland classification, update predictive models and provide management recommendations.

Fund Development

A brief update was provided by staff on the fund development strategy for the SWC moving forward. SWC is pleased to receive \$170,000 in funding from the Canada Water Agency this year, which will support the program activities outlined in the strategic plan. Staff have also applied to the BC Watershed Security Fund for \$400,000 over the next two years and anticipate receiving notification in May whether SWC were successful in receiving funds.

Furthermore, we received verbal commitments from Regional Directors in both the CSRD and RDNO to fund our work through their Grants in Aid programs; applications for these grants will be submitted in the coming weeks. We are also in the process of meeting with the District of Sicamous and the City of Salmon Arm to determine their desired level of continued engagement with the SWC.

Staff also highlighted a new funding initiative from the [Canada Water Agency](#) title the [Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative](#). The program is accepting applications from March 7th, 2025 through April 10th, 2025. The Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative aims to improve the water quality and aquatic ecosystem health of the Fraser River Basin, including all watersheds draining into the Fraser River.

The Fraser River FEI will fund projects implemented by domestic partners within the Canadian portion of the Fraser River Basin that address water quality and aquatic ecosystem health and at least one of the following program priorities:

- Advancing Science and Knowledge
- Collaboration and Engagement
- Taking Action to reduce Nutrients and Sediments

5. Roundtable Partner Updates

Lucie Thomson provided an update on her team within the WLRs Watershed Security Branch. Her team of four, with backgrounds in science and geomatics, focuses on water quality and water sciences.

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Old business: draft summary of the May 14 th WPAC meeting	9:30

Their primary mandate is to analyze and interpret water quality information at both local and provincial levels. They work closely with the Province of BC's drinking water team on source water assessment and are interested in collaborating with water suppliers who may be able to share relevant data.

Lucie also highlighted a collaborative project with Michael Lee of the BC Center for Disease Control, which uses satellite data to track algal blooms. Lucie's team includes a Geomatics expert with a PhD, and the project will be modeled after similar initiatives in Alberta, while adapting to the complexities of BC's landscape and smaller lake systems. If you have any in situ or monitoring data that could help ground truth the satellite data, please reach out to Lucie.

Lucie also offered to provide a presentation at the next meeting on their work to date.

- **Action: Follow up with Lucie to discuss a presentation in October in preparation for November meeting.**

Marge Sidney – Provided an update on the wetland on Gardom lake, it will be monitored upstream and downstream again this year. Wetland is already full with the snowmelt and recent wet weather.

Robyn Laubman - Shared an update regarding BC Hydro's plan to release 60,000 cubic meters of accumulated sediment above Wilsey Dam in June as part of the dam decommissioning process. The release will coincide with the spring freshet to mitigate potential downstream damage. This trial will assess the impacts on fish and aquatic environments, informing future sediment management as the dam's full decommissioning will require releasing an estimated 500,000 cubic meters. Splatsin is actively involved in this process, with the aim of preventing harm to salmon.

Rob asked what water source the dam was in, Robyn shared it was on the Middle Shuswap River.

6. Next steps and adjourn

Alex announced that the next Water Monitoring Group will meet in November. A doodle poll will go out in October to find a time that suits the majority.

Meeting adjourned 10:30am.

A few links were shared in the chat regarding interesting new technology related to algal blooms:

- <https://www.phytoxigene.com/>
- <https://www.waterrf.org/research/projects/autonomous-situ-monitoring-harmful-algal-blooms>

Agenda item	Time
Report from Program Managers: year-end financial report for April 1 st 2024 – March 31 st 2025	11:00

Program Managers' Report: Year-end financial report (April 1st 2024 – March 31st 2025)

REVENUE

Source	Amount (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus (from March 31 st , 2024)	25,113
2023-24 funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	59,961 ¹
<i>Contribution Agreement partners</i>	
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	0
City of Salmon Arm	0
<i>Grant funding</i>	
Canada Water Agency	153,765
<i>Reserve funds</i>	
SWC Operating Reserve balance from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total Revenue	468,726

EXPENSES

Program	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program	111,784	109,753	2031
Water Quality Protection Program	205,634	143,856	61,777 ²
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	34,857	35,349	-492
Safe Recreation Program	13,193	12,039	1154
Communications & Advocacy	19,488	23,351	-3863
Administration	64,631	60,319	4312
Surplus	19,140	0	19,140
Total Expenses	468,726	384,667	84,058

¹. The Water Quality Protection Program often ends the year with a surplus due to funds that have been approved for spending but not carried out until the following year. \$59,961 were carried forward from March 31st 2024, dedicated to projects that were completed in 2024-25. See also note #2.

². Of the \$61,777 surplus in the Water Quality Protection Program as of March 31st 2025, \$34,646 is allocated to projects that will be completed in 2025-26.

Agenda item	Time
Report from Program Managers: Program Operations update	11:00

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal (Fraser Basin Council) provide the following update on work completed since the last Council meeting in March:

- Financial year-end was March 31st. Staff have ensured all invoices are paid and have reconciled year-end financial reports with the finance department.
- Staff have submitted a report to Canada Water Agency (CWA) for the grant funds received in 2024-25. Eligible project expenses came to \$153,765 and went toward many projects and programs including water monitoring, wetland strategy phase 3, a water budget for the Salmon River completed in partnership with Splatstine Secwepemc and the Province of BC, and administration. The SWC is very grateful to the CWA for this critical support of its work in 2024-25.
- The 2024 Water Quality Grant Program provided funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed. All projects are complete, project reports have been submitted by proponents, and all grants are paid out.
- The 2025 Water Quality Grant Program is underway. \$34,646 is being awarded to four Shuswap-area farms and one non-profit stewardship organization. Staff did site visits in April to meet the proponents and have signed Contribution Agreements with each of them.
- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group met on March 13th, facilitated by staff. It was well attended by staff from many organizations involved in water quality monitoring in the Shuswap watershed. The main purpose of the meeting was to review all organizations' water monitoring plans for 2025.
- Program Manager Erin Vieira and SWC Chair Rhona Martin met with MLA Peter Milobar (Kamloops – Centre) and MLA Ward Stamer (Kamloops – North Thompson) on March 20th to provide an overview of the SWC's work and discuss pressing watershed issues
- Staff delivered educational campaigns about aquatic invasive species throughout the month of May, which is designated as Invasive Species Action Month in Canada
- Staff distributed two media releases this spring: one to announce Invasive Species Action Month, and the other to announce the water quality grant program funding
- Staff sent an informative 'spring newsletter' out to approximately 250 subscribers as a new way to expand the reach of SWC communiques
- Staff are working on the 2024-25 Annual Highlights Report; it will be ready in early June
- Staff delivered no-cost educational campaigns (via social media) during Safe Boating Awareness Week, a national campaign in mid-May to promote water safety
- Staff recently received notice from the BC Watershed Security Fund (WSF) – to whom the FBC submitted a funding application, on behalf of the SWC, last winter for \$400,000 over two years – was, unfortunately, unsuccessful. The WSF administrators said the fund was extremely over-allocated; while \$7M is available, it received funding requests from across BC in the amount of \$41M
- Staff submitted a new funding application to the Canada Water Agency for 2025-26; it's not yet known when an announcement will be made
- As a result of funding announcements, staff have revised the budget and work plan for 2025-26
- Staff have continued to recruit new members to the SWC membership, as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Agenda item	Time
Guest presentation: Floating Treatment Wetlands research by Margot Webster	11:30

Please see the attachment that was distributed with this agenda package, “Margot Webster - Thesis Summary Report – Floating Treatment Wetlands.pdf”.

Agenda item	Time
New business: Updated work plan and budget for 2025-26	12:15

Background

This year, the Shuswap Watershed Council faces an unprecedented challenge of low levels of confirmed funding. In December 2024, staff applied to the new BC Watershed Security Fund for \$400,000 over two years (2025-26 and 2026-27) anticipating that the SWC is a perfect fit for the fund, but also well aware that there would be steep competition from organizations across BC for these funds. In mid May, staff received notice that the grant application was not successful. In the meantime, staff also applied to the Canada Water Agency for \$140,000 over two years and are still awaiting notification. Multiple grant applications per year is likely going to be a new reality for the SWC; these take time for staff to research, prepare, submit, and report on. This is a significant shift from the past several years for the SWC (2016 – 2023) when funding was consistently delivered through four partners via a multi-year contribution agreement.

A detailed, updated work plan and budget is presented on the following pages. This is a revision from an earlier work plan which included tentative funding from the Watershed Security Fund. Each major work plan item is tied to the source of funding. Some items are budgeted against Canada Water Agency funding and therefore should be considered ‘tentative’ as that funding is not confirmed.

Staff are recommending that funding be prioritized for the following work plan items: the Water Quality Grant Program; facilitating the two technical committees that support staff and the SWC; the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program; communications and outreach, including the publication of the 2024-25 Annual Highlights Report; administration, including Council meetings; and financial management and fund development, the latter of which is anticipated to be a much greater work plan item this year and on-going. Staff are also recommending a planned surplus in the budget as a cautionary measure and as a starting point for next year.

Staff are recommending eliminating a couple workplan items as a cost-savings measure this year. These include the Water Quality Report (savings of approximately \$12,500); and reducing the number of Council meetings this year from four to three (savings of approximately \$4800). Additionally, there is no new work planned on the Wetland Strategy. These items could be added back into the 2025-26 workplan if additional funding becomes available.

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New business: Updated work plan and budget for 2025-26	12:15

Workplan and budget for 2025-26 (April 1st 2025 – March 31st 2026)

Revenue – source	(\$)
2024-25 operational surplus (from March 31 st 2025)	49,412
2024-25 funds allocated to 2025 grant program	34,646
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Total confirmed revenue	138,958
Grant application to Canada Water Agency for 2025-26 – not confirmed	70,000
Pending applications to local governments for grant-in-aid, discretionary funds for 2025-26 – <i>approximate amounts</i>	30,000

Workplan	EXPENSE			FUNDING SOURCE		
	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)	SWC funds – confirmed	CWA – not confirmed	Local govt – not confirmed
Water Quality Monitoring						
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year; track monitoring activities 	\$6300		\$6300	\$6300		
Watershed monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution to CSISS for ZQM monitoring Community water monitoring fund 	\$1688	\$8312	\$10,000		\$10,000	
Water Quality Report 2024-25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing, data compilation, graphic design, printing, distribution 	0	0	0			<i>funding for this item? Need ~ \$12,500</i>
Water Protection and Improvement						
Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year 	\$4850	\$400	\$5250	\$5250		

Agenda item	Time
New business: Updated work plan and budget for 2025-26	12:15

Water Quality Grant Program 2025-26	\$5125	\$35,146	\$40,271	\$40,271		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program mgmt: site visits, agreements, correspondence Grant payments 						
Water Quality Grant Program 2026-27	\$7150	\$34350	\$41,500		\$41,500	<i>additional funding for this item? Could add \$10K-\$15K</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program mgmt: program guide, launch intake, promotion, receive and review applications Grant budget 						
Wetland Strategy	0	0	0			<i>funding for this item? Could add \$5K</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce guiding strategy document, summarize three phases completed to-date 						
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention						
Education and engagement	\$8775	\$15,210	\$23,985	\$10,485	\$13,500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness/prevention campaigns (multi media) Participate in Provincial Working Group; CSISS board; liaise with advocacy groups 						
Safe Recreation						
Safety campaigns (multi media)	\$2025	\$1500	\$3525	\$3525		
Communications & Advocacy						
Communications collateral	\$4150	\$2100	\$6250	\$6250		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report for 2024-25 Workplan document Strategic Plan document 						
Public and media engagement	\$11,263	\$2500	\$13,763	\$13,763		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases, website, social media Grant program promotion Miscellaneous 						

Agenda item	Time
New business: Updated work plan and budget for 2025-26	12:15

Advocacy	\$2700		\$2700	\$2700		
• Correspondence, letter-writing						
Administration and governance						
Council meetings	\$10,488	\$4900	\$15,388	\$12,138	\$3250	
• Meetings 4x per year						
• Honourariums and mileage claims						
Administration and governance	\$4925	0	\$4925	\$4925		
• Member recruitment and onboarding						
• Strategic planning for 2026-2031						
Financial mgmt. and fund development	\$17,800	\$1000	\$18,800	\$17,800	\$1000	
• Work planning and budgeting						
• Financial administration						
• Fund development, proposals						
• Reporting to funders						
• Financial audit (CWA item)						
Sub-totals	\$87,238	\$105,419	\$192,656	\$123,406	\$69,250	

Summary

In summary, the work plan and budget include \$123,406 expenses against a confirmed budget of \$138,958, leaving a surplus of approximately \$15,000. Additionally, another \$69,250 expenses can swiftly be added into the work plan if funding is confirmed from the Canada Water Agency. Further still, staff have two projects in queue to be added to the work plan, while other projects can be expanded, if funding is confirmed from other sources such as from local government.

Agenda item	Time
New business: Strategic planning for 2026	12:45

The Shuswap Watershed Council Strategic Plan for 2021-2026 was developed in 2020 to be the guiding strategic document for April 1st 2021 – March 31st 2026. The plan was created by staff, with input and approved by the SWC members. The strategic plan can be viewed on the SWC website here: [swc_strategic_plan_2021-26_web.pdf](#).

A new strategic plan should be undertaken in 2025. To begin the process, SWC members are asked to consider the following:

- Who should lead the new strategic plan?
 - In-house with SWC members supported by staff
 - In-house by a committee of SWC members supported by staff;
 - Hire a consultant to provide some guidance to the SWC or a committee through a strategic planning process. If so, the SWC will need to allocate some budget for this.
- How and when should the process unfold?
 - As part of the agendas for the next 2 – 3 SWC meetings
 - Schedule extra meetings for strategic planning.

The new Strategic Plan would ideally be complete by the end of March, 2026.