

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday March 9th 2022 • 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

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1.	December 8 th 2021 meeting summary for approval	9:05

Council Meeting December 8th 2021 • 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items
This draft is subject to correction at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Discuss request re: financial assistance for glacier assessment
3. Finalize SWC Terms of Reference
4. Set meeting schedule for 2022

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
 Jay Simpson, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
 Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
 Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
 Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
 Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
 Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
 Dave Nordquist – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
 Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
 Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
 Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy *(from 10:45 AM)*
 Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative
 Lorne Hunter – Community representative *(from 9:10 AM)*
 Sharon Bennett – Community representative *(from 10:15 AM)*

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Barbra Fairclough

Regrets

Colleen Anderson
 Howard Nordquist
 Lindsay Benbow

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1.	December 8 th 2021 meeting summary for approval	9:05

Call to Order Chair Paul Demenok opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. He acknowledged the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people.

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Director Simpson/Mayor Christian that:
The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council, held September 8th 2021, be approved.

Approved

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:

The correspondence addressed to Minister Joyce Murray, November 26th 2021, be received for information.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok commented on a recent announcement about federal funding allocated to manage aquatic invasive species in Jasper National Park.

Approved

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Councillor Cannon that:

The draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, held November 4th 2021, be received for information,

And that:

The draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, held November 18th 2021, be received for information.

Approved

Report from Chair Chair Demenok provided a brief update on the recent jointly signed letter to federal Fisheries Minister, Joyce Murray, which was a collaborative effort by the SWC, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society. The Chair also commented on the work of the SWC's Governance Committee to prepare recommendations for finalizing the Terms of Reference.

Lorne Hunter entered the meeting at 9:10 AM

Report from Program Managers Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting in September:

- Staff facilitated a meeting of the Water Protection Advisory Committee on November 4th. The Committee discussed and modified the Water Quality Grant Program guidelines, in preparation of launching a new round of intakes.
- Staff also facilitated a regular meeting of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group on November 18th. The Monitoring Group reviewed this past season's

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monitoring programs, heard updates on the Phosphorus Action Plan and Water Quality Grant Program, and had a brief discussion on wildfires, water quality and post-wildfire water monitoring.

- The Water Quality Grant Program is now open for applications (closing January 31st 2022). The grant program is being promoted widely. Prospective applicants can find a program guide and application template online at www.shuswapwater.ca. The Water Protection Advisory Committee will review and recommend applications in February; the SWC will approve projects for funding in March.
- Development of the Phosphorus Action Plan is underway. A framework for the plan is established; staff are in the stage of seeking input from various orders of government, agricultural groups, and others for the P Action Plan.
- The monitoring season for Zebra and Quagga Mussels (ZQM) has concluded. All samples tested negative, meaning the Shuswap remains invasive mussel-free.
- Staff participated in a Provincial Working Group meeting for aquatic invasives on November 25th. Provincial staff reported that the watercraft inspection program conducted 33,000 inspections and intercepted 17 mussel-fouled watercraft. The Province also reports that compliance at watercraft inspection stations is increasing. All samples from across BC for ZQM tested negative (no mussels detected) which is great news.
- Staff coordinated the writing of a joint letter by the SWC, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to new federal Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Joyce Murray. The letter outlines concerns regarding a potential new invasion of Zebra and Quagga Mussels to BC, and calls for new federal investment for prevention and for better containment of ZQM-infested waterbodies.
- Staff submitted an application for \$22,900 funding from Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program. If successful, the funds will support the SWC's Safe Recreation Program and reduce the SWC contribution for this program in 2022 by about 75%. Staff anticipate hearing a response from Transport Canada in March 2022.
- A financial update up to the second quarter, April 1st - September 30th 2021 was provided:

REVENUE - Source	\$
For the fiscal year April 1 st 2021 - March 30 th 2022	
Surplus (from March 31 st 2021)	69,072
Operating Reserve	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement *</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	97,200
TNRD	32,590
City of Salmon Arm	24,320
Adams Lake Indian Band	790
<i>Contribution from partner: Shuswap Lifeboat Society</i>	3200
Total revenue	426,167

** Funders' contributions are reduced by \$100,000, or 39% each, in 2021 to reduce the SWC's Operating Reserve*

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EXPENSES	Budgeted (\$)	Expense (\$)
Up to second quarter April 1 st - September 30 th 2021		
Water Quality Monitoring	32,950	15,607
Water Quality Protection	111,650	23,633
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	42,750	34,903
Safe Recreation	21,550	20,668
Communications, engagement, advocacy	48,100	22,671
Management & administration	41,500	16,427
Sub-total Program Operations	298,500	133,909
Operating Reserve	127,667	0
Total expenses	426,167	133,909

Discussion

Chair Demenok inquired about Farmland Advantage that's mentioned in the draft Water Protection Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting summary for November 4th. Mike Simpson explained that the WPAC discussed it as an alternative to the SWC administering its own Water Quality Grant Program - instead, the SWC could provide the funds to a third party such as Farmland Advantage to administer. The WPAC does not want to pursue this option, at this time. Chair Demenok and Mayor Christian agreed with the WPAC's opinion.

Chair Demenok commented on a recommendation from the Water Monitoring Group meeting summary for November 18th, to include the installation of continuous data loggers in the Shuswap River and Salmon River as part of the Phosphorus Action Plan. The Chair expressed his support for this idea and suggested staff pursue this.

Chair Demenok suggested that staff explore the idea of bringing an expert in wildfire and water quality to present or host a workshop with the SWC, together with the Water Protection Advisory Committee members and Water Monitoring Group members. The purpose of a workshop would be to increase all members' general knowledge of wildfire impacts on water quality.

Director Martin inquired if staff have received any grant applications proposing fire rehabilitation projects. Mike Simpson replied that no grant applications have been submitted yet, in response to the recent call for applications.

Councillor Cannon inquired about the availability of guidelines for farmers for manure spreading, and suggested that there may be a need for the SWC to produce educational material for farmers. The Chair remarked that there are many resources already available, including the Environmental Farm Plan program. Mike further remarked that the Phosphorus Action Plan in development will identify best practices related to nutrient and manure management, and he clarified that while SWC is not a regulator, the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy has the *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice* to enforce. The Chair further commented that observations of pollution should be reported to the RAPP line (Report All Poachers and Polluters) which is available to all members of the public.

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Dave Nordquist asked if the SWC is involved in the development of Water Quality Objectives, being led by the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. Erin Vieira replied that the BC MOE has not approached the SWC about this, however, MOE staff have given updates about it in meetings of the Water Monitoring Group.

Action item:

Staff will organize a presentation or workshop with a wildfire and water quality expert, as described above, to be held in the new year.

Sharon Bennett entered the meeting at 10:15 AM

**New business:
Request from
SEAS**

Chair Demenok briefly explained that the Shuswap Environmental Action Society (SEAS), led by Jim Cooperman, is seeking financial assistance to complete an update to their Adams Lake Glacier Assessment Project Report (authored by Forsite, July 2016). The cost of updating the report is projected to be \$500; Mr. Cooperman has approached other groups for financial assistance and has suggested that SWC's share of the expense could be \$200.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council approve SEAS' request for financial assistance, up to \$500, for updating the Adams Lake Glacier Assessment Project Report.

Approved

Action item:

Staff will follow up with Mr. Cooperman to arrange a payment as described above.

**New business:
Terms of
Reference**

Chair Demenok reviewed each of the SWC Governance Committee's recommendations regarding updating the Terms of Reference.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Crowe/Director Simpson that:

Each of the four Shuswap-area Secwepemc communities have one representative on the Shuswap Watershed Council, and that Pespesellkwe will recommend appointments to the SWC on behalf of Adams Lake Indian Band (who will retain financial voting rights), Little Shuswap Lake Band, Splatsin, and Neskonlith (the latter three will have non-financial voting rights, with the option to vote on financial matters if they become a funding partner).

Approved

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Moved/seconded by Mayor Crowe/Director Simpson that:

The Syilx Nation, Okanagan Nation Alliance and/or Okanagan Indian Band, and Secwepemc Fisheries Commission be invited to participate in the SWC's technical committees.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Mayor Christian that:

Staff be directed to seek a representative from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Mayor Christian that:

An honorary seat for Dennis Einarson, as a senior scientific advisor to the SWC, be created.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Mayor Christian that:

The Chair and Vice Chair be enabled to approve additional workplan expenses brought forward by staff, up to a maximum of \$1000 quarterly, so long as they are aligned with the Strategic Plan, and that staff report these additional approved expenses to the SWC.

Approved

Action item:

Staff will update the Terms of Reference with the above changes and circulate it to SWC members, and seek to fill the new seats as described above.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok explained that the Community Representative terms will be complete on March 31st 2022 and will need to be renewed. He inquired about the possibility of re-framing these positions so that the SWC could seek specific perspectives or organizations to be represented. Natalya Melnychuk commented that there is a risk of asking for certain perspectives to be represented on the SWC (as opposed to leaving it undefined, as in the current Community Representative seats). She suggested that the SWC could outline some clearer expectations for the Community Representatives. Sharon Bennett commented that the SWC could provide different avenues for other groups to engage with the SWC, such as the opportunity to make a presentation to the SWC and share viewpoints. Chair Demenok added that public forums would be an effective way of communicating the SWC's activities and accomplishments.

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Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Talbot that:

Staff be directed to seek Expressions of Interest for up to four Community Representatives, and to bring short-listed candidates to the March 9th 2022 SWC meeting.

Approved

Action item: Staff will put out a call for Expressions of Interest, as described above.

Kym Keogh entered the meeting at 10:45 AM

**New business:
Meeting
schedule for
2022**

Chair Demenok reviewed the proposed SWC meeting schedule for 2022:

March 9th 2022 (4th quarter meeting, 2021-22)
June 8th (1st quarter, 2022-23)
September 21st (2nd quarter)
December 14th (3rd quarter)

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month except for September, to avoid conflict with the annual Union of BC Municipalities Convention. It is not yet known whether meetings will be held in person or via Zoom.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Mayor Crowe that:

The meeting schedule be approved as presented.

Approved

**Roundtable
updates**

Kym Keogh reported that the BC Ministry of Environment has completed the development of draft Water Quality Objectives for Shuswap Lake. The team developing the WQOs is collecting more input from Indigenous groups. Kym will ask the team to contact the Shuswap Watershed Council.

Kym also reported that BC MOE staff are working on a report summarizing the results of attainment monitoring in the Salmon River, which SWC helped to fund, from 2016-2018. She expects a report will be ready early in the new year, and will be shared with the SWC.

Sharon Bennett reported that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has recently developed a Source Water Protection Toolkit. The toolkit is available at www.sourcewaterprotectiontoolkit.ca.

Adjourn

The December 8th 2021 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council adjourned at 10:58 AM.

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CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

DRAFT

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2-i.	Correspondence	9:05 AM



REGIONAL DISTRICT NORTH OKANAGAN

MEMBER MUNICIPALITIES:

CITY OF ARMSTRONG

VILLAGE OF LUMBY

CITY OF ENDERBY

CITY OF VERNON

DISTRICT OF COLDSTREAM

TOWNSHIP OF SPALLUMCHEEN

ELECTORAL AREAS:

"B" – SWAN LAKE

"E" – CHERRYVILLE

"C" – BX DISTRICT

"F" – ENDERBY (RURAL)

"D" – LUMBY (RURAL)

OFFICE OF: ELECTORAL AREA ADMINISTRATION

OUR FILE No.: 0530.01

December 20, 2021

Paul Demenok, Chair
Shuswap Watershed Council
2518 Waverly Drive
Blind Bay, BC V0E 1H2

Via email: pdemenok@csrd.bc.ca

Dear Paul,

**Re: Shuswap Watershed Council Funding Request
Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan Priorities 2022**

In consideration of the work the Shuswap Watershed Council does with regard to water quality, I have allocated a one-time grant of \$5,000 from the Area "F" Discretionary Fund for 2022.

The RDNO is supportive of the Shuswap Watershed Council and their mandate to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap for the long term and will continue to collaborate on future initiatives and projects of shared interest where feasible.

Yours truly,

Director Denis Delisle,
Electoral Area "F"

Regional District of North Okanagan
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC
V1B 2K9

Toll Free: 1.855.850.3700
Phone: 250.550.3700
Fax: 250.550.3701
Web: www.rdno.ca
E-Mail: info@rdno.ca

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2-ii.	Correspondence	9:05



c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A – 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7
250.314.9660
www.shuswapwater.ca
f i t y

Director Denis Delisle
Regional District of North Okanagan
9848 Aberdeen Road
Coldstream, BC. V1B 2K9

Sent by e-mail to denis.delisle@rdno.ca

18 January 2022

Re: Financial contribution to SWC

Dear Denis,

Thank you for the contribution of \$5000 from the RDNO Area 'F' discretionary funds for the Shuswap Watershed Council. We are appreciative of the contribution, and will gratefully use it toward the delivery of our various programs for water quality, safe boating and recreation, and invasive species prevention in the Shuswap watershed.

Thank you, also, for your ongoing participation in the SWC; the discussions and decisions around the SWC table are richer because of your involvement and perspective representing the Shuswap River and upper Shuswap regions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Demenok".

Paul Demenok
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council
Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area 'C' South Shuswap
250 517-0810 | pdemenok@csrd.bc.ca

cc: Leah Mellott, General Manager, RDNO Electoral Area Administration

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3-i.	Old business: draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting	9:10

Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group
February 15th 2022 • 1:00 - 3:30 PM
Virtual meeting held via 'Zoom'

DRAFT meeting summary as at February 22nd 2022

Attendance

Ben Van Nostrand - Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Carmen Massey - Little Shuswap Lake Band (*from 1:40 pm*)
Christina Yamada - Interior Health
Colan Morrow - District of Sicamous
Connie Hewitt - Regional District of North Okanagan
Cory Barker - Shuswap Lake Estates
Darrell Symboluk - District of Sicamous
Diana Tesic-Nagalingam - Interior Health
Kelsey Desilets - Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Kym Keogh - BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Marge Sidney - Gardom Lake Stewardship Society
Patrick Frank - White Lake Residents Association (*to 2:40 pm*)
Priscilla Cheung - First Nations Health Authority (*from 3:15 pm*)
Sue Davies-McGill - Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (*to 3:00 pm*)
Rob Fleming - First Nations Health Authority (*from 2:00 pm*)
Rob Niewenhuizen - City of Salmon Arm
Robyn Laubman - Splatstin First Nation

Erin Vieira - Fraser Basin Council (SWC program manager)
Mike Simpson - Fraser Basin Council (SWC program manager)

Summary of discussions and action items

Erin welcomed all present. Secwepemc Territory was acknowledged, a round of introductions took place.

The draft summary of the last Water Quality Monitoring Group meeting (held on November 18th 2021) was approved without any revisions. Erin noted that all action items arising from that meeting were complete.

1. Shuswap Regional Algal Bloom Response Plan

The Shuswap Regional Algal Bloom Response Plan, which was developed in early 2021 by the Monitoring Group, was reviewed on screen. Key updates to the Plan include:

- Updated timelines from Interior Health for receiving algal samples, and communicating results
- Interior Health has a new "Public Beach Page" where the results of algal bloom testing will be posted publicly (<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/environmental-health-and-hazards/public-beaches#>). The former Interior Health "Cyanobacteria Blooms" webpage has been taken down.

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3-i.	Old business: draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting	9:10

Monitoring Group members discussed the \$5,000 Algal Bloom Response Fund that was made available from the SWC in 2021, but was not used. All agreed that it would be beneficial if the fund was renewed for 2022. The purpose of the fund is to re-imburse water quality monitors for expenses associated with collecting algal samples.

Action items:

- Erin will include a proposed \$5,000 algal bloom response fund in the 2022/23 SWC workplan and budget (for approval by the SWC on March 9th).
- Erin will re-circulate the updated Algal Bloom Response Plan to Monitoring Group members

2. 2022 Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring

A spreadsheet containing details of Monitoring Group member organizations' water quality monitoring programs was reviewed on-screen. Participants confirmed their monitoring plans for 2022; any changes to monitoring plans were captured in the spreadsheet.

Sue provided an update on sites in the Shuswap watershed that the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society plans to monitor for early signs of Zebra & Quagga Mussels in 2022. She noted that she does not currently have access to a boat to access off-shore site (Cinnemousun Narrows is a priority site); if any monitors will be out on the water this spring and summer and have space for someone from CSISS to tag along occasionally, please let her know.

Erin explained that the SWC and CSISS have a strong partnership for monitoring the Shuswap watershed for early signs of ZQM. SWC has provided \$15,000 funding to CSISS to support this monitoring. Erin proposed that SWC once again provide this funding; none were opposed to this.

Sue also commented that invasive clam larvae were detected at a new site in 2021, at Sicamous Narrows. Robyn inquired what the follow-up steps to this discovery are. Sue explained that the Province (BC Ministry of Environment) is the lead agency in responding to invasive species. The Province has done dive and shoreline surveys to determine the extent of invasive clams in Shuswap Lake. At this time, there are no plans to treat or eradicate the clams. Collectively, we must all focus on preventing the spread of invasive clams around the Shuswap and to other lakes. All watercraft should be cleaned, drained, and dry before moving them from one waterbody to another. Sue can arrange for Monitoring Group members to receive "Clean-Drain-Dry" signage for boat launch sites.

Kym provided an update that her section within the BC Ministry of Environment is likely going to discontinue a few monitoring sites on Shuswap Lake; this change is related to the development of Water Quality Objectives for Shuswap Lake. The sites to be discontinued are Encounter Point, Armstrong Point, Broken Point, Canoe Point.

Kym noted that the Province has a Surface Water Monitoring Sites webpage:

<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=0ecd608e27ec45cd923bdcfeefba00a7>

Patrick provided an update that White Lake is part of the Provincial Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program for 2022. 16 sample are being collected per year.

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3-i.	Old business: draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting	9:10

Erin asked Monitoring Group members if there are any concerns about gaps or duplication in the 2022 monitoring plans. Robyn commented that she remains concerned about the effects of last year's wildfires on water quality, particularly in the Salmon River drainage. Carmen echoed these concerns, and commented that the Province needs a post-wildfire strategy and that perhaps there is an opportunity for organizations to voice this concern in feedback to the Province's Water Security Strategy Discussion Paper (link to the Paper [is here](#); feedback is due to the Province March 18th). Rob F further commented that post-wildfire effects to human health need to be considered.

Action items:

- Sue and Patrick to follow up re: Clean-Drain-Dry signage;
- Erin will include a proposed \$15,000 contribution to CSISS for early detection ZQM monitoring in the 2022/23 SWC workplan and budget (for approval by the SWC on March 9th);
- Erin will send the updated Water Monitoring spreadsheet to Monitoring Group members.

3. 2020 Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report

Erin explained that the SWC will be producing a 2021 Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report later this spring. She inquired if any Monitoring Group members have ideas for narrative, data, or other content for the report. Several suggestions were provided:

- Carmen offered to work with Erin to prepare a short article about the fisheries assessment work that LSLB does on Scotch Creek
- Priscilla suggested an article on septic maintenance and home-owner stewardship, to help protect the lakes' water quality
- Kym suggested that the summary again include information about how to access the Provincial Algae Watch website, and the Provincial Surface Water Monitoring website
- Christina suggested that the new IH Public Beaches website also be profiled in the Summary Report.
- Rob suggested that the Summary Report include an article about the City of Salmon Arm Source Water Protection Plan.

4. Roundtable updates

Robyn commented that Splat's is hosting a Water Forum on the Shuswap River in August. Anyone interested may attend. Robyn can send the invitation to Erin when it's ready, for distribution to the entire Monitoring Group.

Rob N said that the City is working with Neskonlith to provide potable water and connect to sewer. Additionally, the Waste Water Treatment Plant pilot project completed in the Fall, the City is now moving forward to the design stage. Rob also remarked that the City is updating its Source Water Protection Plan.

Kym commented that the Province is re-structuring, and there could be some changes to the BC Ministry of Environment and/or a new Ministry created.

Carmen commented that 2022 is a dominant salmon return year in the Shuswap and that there are plans underway for a Salute to the Sockeye event and a Salmon Symposium (September - October).

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3-i.	Old business: draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting	9:10

5. Next Meeting

The next Monitoring Group meeting will take place in November 2022. Erin will seek a date a few weeks in advance.

Erin also reminded Monitoring Group members that they are invited to attend a webinar hosted by the SWC, with Dr. Francois Robinne on March 9th in the afternoon.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3-ii.	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting	9:10

**Water Protection Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday February 16, 2022 • 1:00PM – 3:00PM
Online Meeting**

Draft meeting summary as at February 22, 2022

Meeting objectives

1. Review applications from the Water Quality Grant Program and make recommendations to the SWC for funding
2. Share information

Attendance (committee members)

Lindsay Benbow, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries
Carolyn Farris, Horse Council BC
Ian Higgins, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Kym Keogh, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Dennis Lapierre, Agriculture – other
Robyn Laubman, Splatsin
Lorne Hunter, Agriculture – dairy/retired and SWC community representative

Staff

Mike Simpson, Shuswap Watershed Council c/o Fraser Basin Council

Meeting Outcomes

1. Consensus was reached on which applications to recommend for funding
2. Ideas for future changes to the Water Quality Grant Program were identified

Summary of discussions, decisions and action items

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their time. Secwepemc territory (or the territory where participants are located) was acknowledged. The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.

2. Previous Meeting Summary

The WPAC meeting summary from November 4, 2021 was approved. All action items were completed.

3. Application Evaluations

Before commencing the review of the applications, a few comments were made, highlighting the changes to the evaluation procedures based on the changes to the program made in November 2021:

- Mike reminded committee members that applicants had the choice to remain anonymous or not. Of the four applications received, only one (named application D) chose to be anonymous.
- Mike explained that staff did a preliminary screen of the applications to ensure that they met the criteria outlined in the program guide
- Mike reminded committee members that if they have a conflict of interest with an application, to “leave the room” when it is being discussed

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3-ii.	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting	9:10

It was agreed to qualitatively discuss the applications, share perspectives and experiences based on whether the applications meet the stated criteria, and reach consensus on whether to recommend them for funding. Scores were filled in after the meeting to have a quantitative ranking.

The following table summarizes the applications, whether they are recommended for SWC funding, any qualifying conditions or comments, and any comments:

Application	Project	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max 100) Comments
Beatrix Farms	Manure Storage Leach-proofing and Expansion	\$21 602	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant and invite to apply next year.	75.33. Questions about whether this is something that needs to be done under AEMCOP*, whether it's wise use of SWC funds. Good concept in principle. Not clear if there will be professional oversight. Noted that it made the bare minimum of leveraging the funding. Would like to see long-term planning for what nutrients will be used for. Applicant listed everything as "in kind" although some of it (i.e., materials) could have been called "other cash."
Gardom Lake Stewardship Society	Wetland restoration Upper Gardom Creek – Phase 2	\$11 820	Recommended for funding contingent on the applicant securing a water license. Project would have limited value if no water diverted to it.	77.88. Good project with good visibility and demonstration but limited upstream nutrient capture. Will benefit water quality of Gardom Lake, but not significant enough to affect water quality in Shuswap River. Applicant applied for water license in May 2020.
Werner and Jody Stump	Eagle River Bank Stabilization & Riparian Habitat Restoration & Protection	\$40 190	Recommend for funding, contingent on confirming rock used is not acid-generating.	90.00. Support for all aspects of this project. Applicants are well-connected, leverage other funds. It has good demonstration potential, and applicants would likely support that. Good co-benefits for river health and fish habitat for coho and sockeye.
D (anon)	Expanding Existing Liquid Nutrients Storage (manure)	\$15 000	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant and invite an application next year.	55.47. Not much detail provided about extent to which storage capacity is being expanded. No commitment to use professionals or recognition that permits are needed. Unclear if this is AEMCOP requirement or "above and beyond"
Total		\$88 612		

*AEMCOP = [Code of Practice for Agricultural Environment Management](#)

All recommendations were by consensus. In summary, the committee recommends \$52 010 of SWC funding, which would deliver two projects worth a total value of \$176 915 (ratio of 3.4:1).

Robyn identified a conflict of interest with the Gardom Lake Stewardship Society application, since Splatsin are listed as a partner. She left the meeting when it was evaluated.

Considerations for future water quality grant programs were noted as follows:

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3-ii.	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting	9:10

- The committee is unclear about what is required of a farm operation under AEMCOP, and what would be considered best practices “above and beyond” regulatory requirements
- The committee is struggling with whether SWC funds should be available for farmers to meet regulatory requirements as required under AEMCOP
- Therefore, we need further clarity in the application around what is expected, what would be funded, and a question for applicants to explain why their project is “above and beyond” regulatory requirements
- Future application forms should include questions about the following:
 - If expanding or improving nutrient storage capacity (liquid or solid), quantify the amount of increase
 - Explain long term plans for use of those nutrients

4. Other Items, Next Steps

a) Update on Projects Funded

Project	Project type	SWC \$ funding	Status
FRISP/Splatsin Development Corporation (2020)	Fencing	\$18 200	\$8200 advanced. Delayed due to many factors. Extension being sought to December 2022.
Trinity Dairies (Van Dalfsen) (2021)	Field drainage	\$18 840	Agreement signed, 50% of funds advanced. Work initiated in fall 2021, not complete.

b) Information Sharing

The following was raised:

- Lorne noted that the **Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation** has a grant program supporting research, educational programs and on-farm improvements that support agriculture undertaken by farmers, students and post-secondary institutions. Grants range from \$5,000 for research undertaken in partnership with accredited posts-secondary institutions to \$2,000 for on-farm projects and \$1,000 for a scholarship. Among the eligible projects are those supporting a farm’s ecological or environmental sustainability, including water conservation, successful co-habitation with native plants and wildlife and the reduction of soil, water or air pollution. On-farm composting, repurposing or recycling projects are also eligible. There is an article in Country Life about the grant program [here](#).
- Mike reminded committee members that they are invited (would have received an email from Erin) to a webinar on **wildfires and water quality** at 1:00PM on Wednesday March 9 with Dr. Francois Robinne.

Next Meeting

TBD – mid to late November 2022. Main agenda items will be as follows:

- Updates to application and grant program guidelines
- Updates on existing funded projects
- Information sharing on anything water quality and nutrient related

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Report from Program Managers	9:20

**Program Managers' Report: Financial update to the end of the third quarter
(April 1st - December 31st 2021)**

REVENUE

Source¹	(\$)
Surplus (from March 31 st 2021)	69,072
Operating Reserve	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous	97,200
TNRD	32,590
City of Salmon Arm	24,320
Adams Lake Indian Band	790
<i>Contribution from partner:</i>	
Shuswap Lifeboat Society	3200
Total revenue	426,167

EXPENSES

Program (per 2021-22 work plan) (April 1st - December 31st 2021)	Budget (\$)	Expense (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	32,950	18,328
Water Quality Protection	111,650	41,004
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	42,750	38,564
Safe Recreation	21,550	22,905
Communications, Engagement, & Advocacy	48,100	30,815
Management & Administration	41,500	25,560
Sub-total Program Operations Expenses	298,500	177,176
Operating Reserve	127,667	0
Total expenses	426,167	177,176

¹ The \$5,000 contribution from the Regional District of North Okanagan, Area 'F' discretionary fund, as described in correspondence on page 10, was received in January 2022 and it will be reflected in the fourth quarter financial update.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-i.	New business: Water Quality Grant applications	9:45

Background

The purpose of the Water Quality Grant Program is to protect water quality in the Shuswap by minimizing nutrient loading from land to surface waters, with an emphasis on supporting projects in the valley bottoms of the Shuswap River and Salmon River, and to a lesser extent the Eagle River and other tributaries to the Shuswap Lakes.

The current intake of water quality grant applications is the third of its kind for the SWC. Up to \$60,000 is available in the Water Quality Grant Program budget (this in addition to \$26,753 grant funding for two projects, approved at the June 9th 2021 SWC meeting). Staff promoted the grant fund across the region through advertising, e-mails, and social media and invited applications by the deadline of January 31st 2022. A grant program guide, detailing eligibility criteria, an application template, and evaluation procedures, was provided to potential applicants.

Staff received applications from four proponents, with a total ask of \$88,612. Staff performed an initial screen of the applications to ensure they met the eligibility criteria. The applications were then reviewed by members of the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee.

Recommendations

The Water Protection Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations, with comments, for funding:

(table continues on next page)

Application	Project	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max 100) Comments
Beatrix Farms	Manure Storage Leach-proofing and Expansion	\$21 602	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant and invite to apply next year.	75.33. Questions about whether this is something that needs to be done under AEMCOP*, whether it's wise use of SWC funds. Good concept in principle. Not clear if there will be professional oversight. Noted that it made the bare minimum of leveraging the funding. Would like to see long-term planning for what nutrients will be used for. Applicant listed everything as "in kind" although some of it (i.e., materials) could have been called "other cash."
Gardom Lake Stewardship Society	Wetland restoration Upper Gardom Creek – Phase 2	\$11 820	Recommended for funding contingent on the applicant securing a water license. Project would have limited value if no water diverted to it.	77.88. Good project with good visibility and demonstration but limited upstream nutrient capture. Will benefit water quality of Gardom Lake, but not significant enough to affect water quality in Shuswap River. Applicant applied for water license in May 2020.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-i.	New business: Water Quality Grant applications	9:45

Werner and Jody Stump	Eagle River Bank Stabilization & Riparian Habitat Restoration & Protection	\$40 190	Recommended for funding, contingent on confirming rock used is not acid-generating.	90.00. Support for all aspects of this project. Applicants are well-connected, leverage other funds. It has good demonstration potential, and applicants would likely support that. Good co-benefits for river health and fish habitat for coho and sockeye.
“D” (anonymous)	Expanding Existing Liquid Nutrients Storage (manure)	\$15 000	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant and invite an application next year.	55.47. Not much detail provided about extent to which storage capacity is being expanded. No commitment to use professionals or recognition that permits are needed. Unclear if this is AEMCOP requirement or “above and beyond”
Total		\$88 612		

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-ii.	New business: Work plan and budget for 2022/23, for approval	9:45

2022/23 Proposed work plan and budget

Projected revenue	\$
2021-22 Surplus (projected)	0
Operating reserve carried forward from March 31 st 2022 (projected)	132,667
<u>Per Contribution Agreement:</u>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F, and District of Sicamous)	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<u>Grant funding applied for (not confirmed):</u>	
Environment Canada Eco-Action Program	0
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program	22,900
Total revenue	410,467





Expenses on next page

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-ii.	New business: Work plan and budget for 2022/23, for approval	9:45

Proposed work plan and expenses		\$	\$ sub-total
Water Quality Program			
	Water Monitoring Initiative		
	Facilitate the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	8050	
	Implement the watershed water quality monitoring plan	20,800	
	<i>Sub-total Water Monitoring Initiative</i>		28,850
	Water Protection Initiative		
	Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee	6700	
	Finalize Phosphorus Action Plan and begin developing Wetland Strategy	8000	
	Water Quality Grant Program	64,600	
	<i>Sub-total Water Protection Initiative</i>		79,300
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program			
	Education, outreach and advocacy	35,875	
	<i>Sub-total ZQM Prevention Program</i>		35,875
Safe Recreation Program			
	Implement safety campaigns	21,100	
	Provide safety equipment	6500	
	<i>Sub-total Safe Recreation Program</i>		27,600
Communications and Advocacy			
	Collateral	12,400	
	Public engagement	24,700	
	Annual water quality summary	12,400	
	Advocacy	5600	
	<i>Sub-total Communications and Advocacy</i>		55,100
Administration			
	Council administration	24,950	
	Financial management and fund development	18,800	
	<i>Sub-total Administration</i>		43,750
Sub-total operational expenses			270,475
Operating Reserve (includes \$20K Contingency Fund)			139,992
Total Expenses			410,467

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-iii.	New business: Draft submission to <i>Watershed Security and Strategy Fund Discussion Paper</i> , for roundtable discussion	10:30



c/o Fraser Basin Council
 200A – 1383 McGill Road
 Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7
 250.314.9660
www.shuswapwater.ca
   

Water Protection and Sustainability Branch
 BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
 Sent by email to livingwatersmart@gov.bc.ca

xx March 2022

Re: Written submission to *Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper*

To whom it may concern:

I am responding to the request for submissions to the *Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper* released on January 25th 2022, on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback on this important topic.

We agree with and support the Discussion Paper's definition of watershed security. It is well rounded and aligns with our Vision for the Shuswap watershed which identifies human health, ecosystem health, and the local economy as water-based values.

Broadly speaking, we support many of the proposed outcomes in the Discussion Paper. One that is not explicitly stated - but that was demonstrated in the November floods in the Southern Interior and Fraser Valley regions of BC - is the need for the Provincial government to re-instate its jurisdictional responsibility from local and regional governments for flood risk assessment, mapping, mitigation, and infrastructure. These are critical components of watershed security, and it is our understanding that the Provincial government is moving in a direction to re-instate those responsibilities. Local and regional governments have knowledge about these issues, but do not have the financial capacity for the necessary capital investments.

Additionally, we offer the following input on some of the proposed outcomes and opportunities, as described in the Discussion Paper:

Outcome 1. Support and enable watershed governance.

As the Watershed Security Strategy is developed, we ask that you consider our governance structure. We are a Council of representatives from three regional districts, Secwepemc First Nations, two municipalities, three provincial government agencies, and community members at-large. All our member organizations have a 'footprint' in the Shuswap watershed and have a mandate or interest in water quality. As a Council, we focus on strategic initiatives to maintain and enhance water quality in the Shuswap watershed.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-iii.	New business: Draft submission to <i>Watershed Security and Strategy Fund Discussion Paper</i> , for roundtable discussion	10:30



Outcome 2. Enhance our understanding of watersheds and the risks they face.

This is a high-priority outcome of the Watershed Security Strategy. Our understanding of the Shuswap watershed should be informed by the continuation of a long-term, robust monitoring program for ambient water quality at several monitoring sites across the Shuswap by the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. In addition, the Strategy should prioritize the implementation of new monitoring programs to measure, assess, and report on the impact of large-scale landscape events, such as forest fires, on water quality.

Monitoring and scientific activities by other parties need to be supported, coordinated and interpreted, in order to characterize the Shuswap watershed and understand risks. Access to a comprehensive, user-friendly provincial database with software tools and professional expertise is also essential to enhancing our understanding of watersheds. Cumulative effects assessment and modelling will further help to understand impacts to watersheds from various land use activities.

Outcome 4. Achieve healthy water for everyone.

The Watershed Security Strategy should prioritize protecting water quality in decision-making and planning processes, especially as they relate to forestry and agriculture which are principal land uses in the Shuswap. Additionally, planning must be followed by action and capital investment, including in natural assets such as the protection and restoration of wetlands.

The Watershed Security Strategy should also consider healthy water for purposes other than drinking – such as for recreation. In addition to providing water for domestic use for several communities, the Shuswap is very popular for boating and swimming and there is a significant regional tourism economy. Pristine water quality in the Shuswap is one of the primary features that attract residents and visitors alike. Water quality concerns and events, such as the unprecedented cyanobacteria algal bloom in Shuswap Lake in 2020, are a risk to human health and safety and to the local economy. We suggest that the Watershed Security Strategy include a component of monitoring during significant algal blooms on high-use lakes such as the Shuswap, followed by prompt public reporting of results and public risk. Currently, neither of these are being done adequately by authorities.

Furthermore, water bodies prone to re-occurring algal blooms should be assessed, and mitigative action plans be developed to protect water quality. The *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice*, implemented by the Ministry in February 2019, regulates the storage and use of manure, and other agricultural by-products and nutrients on agricultural operations. In spite of this, we remain concerned about the impacts of agriculturally-derived nutrients in the Shuswap watershed¹. We suggest the Watershed Security Strategy prioritize responding to and investigating significant algal blooms. Furthermore, the Strategy should identify new ways to support and ensure agricultural operations comply with the *Code of Practice*. Proper agricultural nutrient management is critical to protecting our water quality and preventing future algal blooms.

¹ See the summary report, [Nutrients and Water Quality in the Shuswap River and Salmon River](#) (Shuswap Watershed Council, January 2020).

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-iii.	New business: Draft submission to <i>Watershed Security and Strategy Fund Discussion Paper</i> , for roundtable discussion	10:30



Outcome 7. Improve habitats for aquatic ecosystems.

One of the most significant threats to aquatic ecosystems in BC is the potential invasion of Zebra and Quagga Mussels. We have written to the Minister about this on several occasions. The Shuswap, and BC, needs stronger protection measures against aquatic invasive species. These measures should include more watercraft inspection stations; more funding for education, awareness, and early detection monitoring; and an updated provincial rapid response plan and mock emergency exercise.

Watersheds in our province would also benefit from the development and implementation of action plans to deal with existing aquatic invasive species. In the Shuswap, we have a new infestation of invasive freshwater clams; surveys indicate that at the present time the clams occur in a few locations in low densities, however there are no mitigative actions planned by the Province. Action plans for aquatic invasive species should have provisions for new research and technology geared toward invasive species of significant concern.

Outcome 10. Create a Watershed Security Fund.

A Watershed Security Fund should focus on mitigating pollution, protecting drinking water, climate change adaptation, and disaster prevention and response such as for floods and droughts. Local and regional governments can be collaborators and participants but cannot fund these types of projects. With these as the priorities, there will be multiple wins.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide our feedback to the Discussion Paper. We look forward to seeing a draft strategy later this year and the development of a Watershed Security Fund.

Sincerely,

Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5-iii.	New business: Draft submission to <i>Watershed Security and Strategy Fund Discussion Paper</i> , for roundtable discussion	10:30



About 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 up to 22 SWC members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, three 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, complementing their work and carefully avoiding duplication. Its primary mandate is to enhance, protect, and advocate for water quality in the Shuswap watershed.

DRAFT