

## Update from Program Managers

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last meeting:

- Staff facilitated the development of a **Shuswap regional algal bloom response plan** with input from many of the Water Monitoring Group members. The plan did not need to be enacted in 2021 as there were no significant blooms. The plan will be reviewed annually.
- Invasive **Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention** measures were promoted throughout the region all summer, with messages about clean-drain-dry and watercraft inspection
- The SWC is supporting the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society as they **monitor the Shuswap** watershed for early signs of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels, and invasive freshwater clams
- **Safe boating and water-based recreation campaigns** were delivered throughout the region all summer through rack cards, posters, newspapers and radio, and social media
- Staff completed the fifth annual **Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report** in July and distributed print copies to several locations across the region. The report is also available on the SWC website.

Expenses to the end of the first quarter (June 30<sup>th</sup> 2021)  
total **\$84,737** against the annual operating budget of **\$298,500**.

## Phosphorus Action Plan

Staff have begun the development of a Phosphorus Action Plan for the Shuswap watershed. The Plan is identified in the SWC's Strategic Plan as a strategy to help maintain and improve water quality. The effects of excessive phosphorus (P) on water quality are well documented in other regions of Canada and the world. Prevention of P-related water quality issues is better than reacting to and correcting them. The P Action Plan will collate existing, disparate P regulations that apply in the Shuswap watershed and it will also summarize new, innovative, non-regulatory opportunities to capture or mitigate P thereby protecting water quality. Staff presented a draft plan structure. Next steps will include seeking input from various orders of government, the agriculture sector, and others.

## Water Quality Grant Program renewal approved

Staff reported that the 2021 Water Quality Grant Program has allocated \$26,753 in funding against a budget of \$85,000. Staff recommended that the grant program be opened again in November for a second round of applications this year, with a budget of approximately \$60,000. The SWC approved the recommendation. The grant program will be advertised across the region. Prospective applicants can contact staff for more information.

## SWC MEMBERS:

**Paul Demenok – Chair**  
CSRSD Area 'C'

**Jay Simpson – Vice Chair**  
CSRSD Area 'F'

**Rene Talbot**  
CSRSD Area 'D'

**Rhona Martin**  
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**Rod Crowe**  
TNRD, Village of Chase

**Ken Christian**  
TNRD, City of Kamloops

**Debbie Cannon**  
City of Salmon Arm

**Colleen Anderson**  
District of Sicamous

**Dave Nordquist**  
Secwepemc Nation,  
Adams Lake Indian Band

**Howard Nordquist**  
Secwepemc Nation,  
Adams Lake Indian Band

**Rick Fairbairn**  
RDNO Area 'D'

**Denis Delisle**  
RDNO Area 'F'

**Kym Keogh**  
BC Ministry of Environment  
& Climate Change Strategy

**Lindsay Benbow**  
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food  
& Fisheries

**Lorne Hunter**  
Community Representative

**Sharon Bennett**  
Community Representative

**Natalya Melnychuk**  
Community Representative

### Guest presentation on aquatic invasive species

Martina Beck, Cassandra Silverio, and Dave Webster presented on behalf of the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy and the BC Conservation Officer Service. Ms. Silverio described shoreline surveys and dive surveys that have taken place in Shuswap Lake recently to understand the distribution of invasive freshwater clams. Surveys were done in several locations, but the clams have only been confirmed in the Salmon Arm reach of Shuswap Lake. Ms. Beck and Mr. Webster presented an overview of the Province's Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) which includes watercraft inspection, early detection monitoring for invasive mussels, and education and outreach. This year, the IMDP includes 9 watercraft inspections located around the province. As of August 31<sup>st</sup> 2021, the stations have completed 28,800 inspections and intercepted 16 mussel-fouled watercraft from Manitoba, Ontario, and some states. Additionally, 519 water samples have been collected from across BC and tested for Zebra and Quagga Mussel larvae, all of which have been negative (mussels not found).

*A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.*