

Shuswap Watershed Council

Council Meeting
November 25th 2015 | 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive, Salmon Arm

Record of Decisions and Action Items at 29 November 2015 Approved 10 February 2016

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update regarding outcome of CSRD Alternate Approval Process for proposed Bylaw 5705
2. Roundtable discussions for next steps of the Shuswap Watershed Council
3. Receive update from BC Ministry of Environment representative
4. Council members to sign Principles document

Council members present

Paul Demenok, Chair – CSRD Area 'C'
Larry Morgan, Vice Chair – CSRD Area 'F'
Rhona Martin – CSRD Area 'E'
Rene Talbot – CSRD Area 'D'
Nancy Cooper – City of Salmon Arm
Greg Witzky – Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Adams Lake Indian Band
Rick Berrigan – TNRD, Village of Chase
Herman Halvorson – RDNO Area 'F'
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment
Anne Skinner (alternate) – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Ray Nadeau – Public Advisory Committees
Peter Milobar – TNRD, City of Kamloops (from 10:15)
Greg McCune – RDNO, City of Enderby (from 11:35)

Regrets

Ursula Lussin – Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society
Dave Nordquist – Shuswap Nation Tribal Council, Adams Lake Indian Band
Todd Kylo – District of Sicamous

Staff

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Bonnie Baker, Jay Simpson

Meeting outcomes

1. CSRD Alternate Approval Process outcomes were presented
2. Next steps for the Shuswap Watershed Council discussed, with direction given to program managers
3. Water quality monitoring and objectives were presented
4. Principles document was signed by Council members

Record of decisions and action items, and summary of discussions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. Secwepemc Territory was acknowledged. Introductions took place around the room.

The meeting agenda was approved by consensus.

MOTION to approve the meeting summary from May 6th 2015.

Moved by Director Morgan, seconded by Director Talbot.

CARRIED

The Chair gave a report:

- In late Spring, the Chair and program manager appeared as a delegation to Salmon Arm city council; the Chair also presented to District of Sicamous Council
- The CSRD conducted an Alternate Approval Process to create Bylaws 5705 and 5710 for the establishment of the Shuswap Watershed Council Service
- The Chair received a proposal from John Todd Ecological Design (JTED) regarding a feasibility study for an ecological treatment process as a means of capturing phosphorus in tributaries before entering the lakes. The Chair explained that he had reached out to the company after hearing positive feedback about a system that's been implemented by the company at the Christina Lake wastewater treatment system.
Copies of correspondence were provided at the meeting

A roundtable discussion took place regarding the feasibility study proposal.

DECISION: No immediate action regarding JTED's feasibility study proposal will be taken except that program managers will share the proposal with the Water Quality Monitoring Team for their assessment.

The program managers gave a report:

- Erin discussed activities undertaken since the May meeting, which included refinement of the five-year program; communication with water quality monitors, researchers at UBC-O, the media, and the general public; and submission of a letter to the BC Ministry of Environment in response to a call for input regarding proposed changes to the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation. It was noted that the program managers did not undertake any activities relating to the Alternate Approval Process.
- Mike presented a financial update. Expenses for the period April 1 2015 to September 30 2015 total \$19,431 with some significant costs to be paid out in December. A surplus of approximately \$50K is anticipated for this fiscal year.

The Vice Chair and Chair presented the results of CSRD's Alternate Approval Process:

- The Vice Chair stated that 645 elector response forms were received in opposition to the CSRD's proposed Bylaw 5705 for the creation of the Shuswap Watershed Council Service; 1534 forms were required to defeat the AAP. At their Board meeting on November 19th, the CSRD Board approved Bylaws 5705 and 5710 for the service and a parcel tax.
- The Chair explained the rationale for the AAP as being less expensive and time consuming than a full referendum.

A roundtable discussion took place regarding the importance of communication and advertisement, and concerns expressed by some residents during the AAP.

ACTION ITEM: Program managers will prepare a press release about the Shuswap Watershed Council, in advance of other communications materials to be done during program implementation beginning in 2016.

The Chair proposed modifying the Council membership by introducing three new public representatives. This would eliminate the need for a Public Advisory Committee to be struck for the Council; the three positions would replace those currently held by the Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society and former SLIPP Public Advisory Committees. A roundtable discussion took place, and the Council reached consensus for engaging three representatives of the public-at-large as non-voting members within the membership of the Shuswap Watershed Council.

ACTION ITEM: Program managers will work with the Chair and Vice Chair to solicit applications for three positions on the Council representing the public-at-large. A recommendation for those positions will be brought forward to the next Council meeting.

An in-camera discussion took place regarding the roles and responsibilities of program managers.

DECISION: The Fraser Basin Council will be retained to serve as program managers for the Shuswap Watershed Council for 2016 – 2018, at which time an evaluation is built into the program.

Erin Vieira presented a summary of the five-year program, of which implementation will begin in January 2016.

ACTION ITEM: Program managers will update dates in the five-year program and proceed with work planning and budgeting for 2016, and bring detailed plans to the next Council meeting.

Mike Simpson requested permission from the Council to develop a Contribution Agreement with the three program funders (CSRD, TNRD, City of Salmon Arm) for 2016 – 2020. A brief roundtable discussion took place. The Council reached consensus that a Contribution Agreement should be developed, but will require approval from the funders' respective Boards and Councils.

ACTION ITEM: Program managers will work with funders' administrators to draft a Contribution Agreement for 2016 – 2020.

The Chair remarked that the Shuswap Watershed Council should publicize its meetings as a means of becoming more open and transparent, and raising public awareness of the Council's activities. Mike Simpson suggested that meeting summaries and financial information be posted online.

DECISION: Future meetings of the Shuswap Watershed Council will be posted in newspapers, online, and via social media. Meeting summaries and financial information dating back to March 31, 2014 will be posted online at www.shuswapwater.ca.

Dennis Einarson presented a short summary of the BC Ministry of Environment's water quality monitoring in 2015 and the development of Water Quality Objectives for Shuswap Lake:

- BC MOE is very supportive of the watershed perspective provided by the Shuswap Watershed Council
- 2015 water quality monitoring included an expanded full-lake survey to measure the impacts of the 2014 salmon return
- A few 'micro-blooms' [algae] took place on the lake in 2015. These were not the blue-green algae that were observed in 2008 and 2010; the 2015 blooms were small pockets of *Ochromonas* algae.
- The BC MOE recently began the development of Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for Shuswap Lake; until recently, there wasn't enough water quality data to feed into this process. The objectives are a science-based tool that create 'goal posts' for management. WQOs can be cited in legal documents (i.e., discharge permits, under the jurisdiction of BC MOE). The WQOs are an initiative of the BC MOE.

The Chair circulated the Principles document for signatures.

Next steps were discussed. Further to Action Items noted above:

- Terms of Reference document for the SWC will be modified to reflect the start of program implementation
- 'Key Messages' from the SWC Communications Plan will be sent to all Council members
- Program managers will invite Dr. Jeff Curtis (UBC-O) to attend a future meeting of the Council and present an 'interest piece' regarding the Water Protection Initiative
- Program managers will develop draft meeting schedule for 2016; next meeting of the SWC will be in February, exact date to be confirmed

Meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.