

Update from Program Managers

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

- The **2019-2020 Annual Highlights Summary** has been published. It covers the SWC's activities and achievements for water quality monitoring, water quality research and reporting, Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention, and safe boating campaigns. Operational expenses were \$219,339 to year-end on March 31st 2020; there was an operational surplus of \$53,536 which carried forward to the current year. The report can be viewed online at www.shuswapwater.ca.
- Staff have received **final research reports from Dr. Jeff Curtis** and his associates at UBC-Okanagan. The reports can be viewed online.
- The **Water Protection Advisory Committee has met twice** this spring to (1) develop the committee's procedures to review water quality grant applications, and (2) review applications and recommend projects for funding to the SWC.
- **Zebra and Quagga Mussel early detection monitoring** is underway in the Shuswap at 13 sites; prevention measures including Clean-Drain-Dry practices and watercraft inspection are being promoted.
- Staff received notice of a **successful grant application to Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program**; the SWC is receiving a grant in the amount of \$20,550 to support the Safe Recreation Program.

Guest presentation from Nick Hebda, UBC-Okanagan

Nick Hebda presented the results of the **Mara Lake Paleolimnology Research Project**, which was commissioned by the SWC as a second phase of nutrient research in the Shuswap watershed. A core sample of sediment was collected from the Mara Lake bottom in 2019, and subsequently analysed for its date range and abundance of different species of diatoms, a type of algae. He explained that diatoms are sensitive aquatic organisms that respond to changes in environmental conditions, and are therefore useful to infer past lake conditions such as nutrient levels. The results of his study indicate that total phosphorus levels in Mara Lake at the onset of major land use changes in the 20th century were very likely lower than they are today, and that TP levels have increased since the 1980s.

Water Quality Grants awarded

The **SWC selected five water quality grant applications to receive funding** for water quality improvement projects. A total of \$60,470 will be awarded for projects that reduce nutrient-loading from land to surface water.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Paul Demenok – Chair
CSR D Area 'C'

Tim Lavery – Vice Chair
City of Salmon Arm

Rene Talbot
CSR D Area 'D'

Rhona Martin
CSR D Area 'E'

Jay Simpson
CSR D Area 'F'

Rod Crowe
TNRD, Village of Chase

Ken Christian
TNRD, City of Kamloops

Colleen Anderson
District of Sicamous

Dave Nordquist
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Steven Teed
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Rick Fairbairn
RDNO Area 'D'

Denis Delisle
RDNO Area 'F'

Dennis Einarson
BC Ministry of Environment
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Chris Zabek
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Lorne Hunter
Community Representative

Randy Wood
Community representative

Sharon Bennett
Community Representative

Natalya Melnychuk
Community Representative