

Council Meeting
June 9th 2021 | 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting summary
Approved September 8th 2021

Meeting objectives

1. Receive Annual Highlights Report from program managers
2. Receive update from program managers
3. Receive recommendations for Water Quality Grants; approve applications for funding

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 (*from 9:45 - 10:45*)
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Steven Teed – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (*from 9:15 - 11:00*)
Lindsay Benbow – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Sharon Bennett – Community representative (*to 10:05*)
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative (*from 9:05 - 10:50*)

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Kym Keogh, John Irvine

Regrets

Colleen Anderson
Dave Nordquist
Lorne Hunter
Randy Wood

Call to order and introductory comments

Chair Paul Demenok called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and acknowledged the meeting taking place on Secwepemc Territory. The Chair called for a moment of silence in respect of the recent tragic discovery at the Kamloops residential school.

Chair Demenok invited Councillor Steven Teed and Mayor Ken Christian to share their thoughts and perspective on the discovery.

Natalya Melnychuk entered the meeting at 9:05 AM

Adoption of meeting agenda and draft meeting summary

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Delisle that:

The agenda for the June 9th 2021 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be approved.

APPROVED

Moved/seconded by Director Delisle/Mayor Christian that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council, held March 10th 2021, be approved.

Discussion:

Councillor Cannon commented that her name was not included in the meeting summary.

APPROVED

Action item:

Staff will amend the draft meeting summary before finalizing it.

Correspondence

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Simpson/Director Talbot that:

The correspondence be received for information.

Discussion:

Director Fairbairn commented that four out of the five members of the RDNO Electoral Area Committee are within the Shuswap watershed. He anticipates that there will be further discussion at the committee about potentially participating in the SWC.

Chair Demenok remarked that the reply correspondence from Minister Heyman's office included an offer to have a webinar regarding the results of invasive freshwater clam survey results. Staff have been requested to respond to this.

APPROVED

Action item:

Staff will follow up with The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change staff about participating in a webinar as described above.

Old business

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Simpson/Director Delisle that:

The draft meeting summary of the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting for May 27th 2021.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok invited staff to remark on the meeting summary. Mike Simpson commented that there is some constructive feedback from the Water Protection Advisory Committee about how to improve the water quality grant program such that it garners more attention and more applications in the future.

APPROVED

Chair Demenok invited staff to provide a verbal update about the SWC Terms of Reference Committee. Erin Vieira remarked that the purpose of the committee is to review and ratify the SWC Terms of Reference with a particular focus on the SWC's membership. The committee met in April, and will have at least one more meeting to discuss and make recommendations to the whole SWC about enhancing membership and participation.

Dennis Einarson entered the meeting at 9:15 AM

Councillor Teed remarked that Dave Nordquist has approached Pespesewllkwe (an organization of some Secwepemc First Nations) about making an appointment to the SWC on behalf of Secwepemc First Nations. He also commented that Adams Lake Band will continue to retain a seat at the SWC.

Mike Simpson further remarked that Syilx Nation has had a seat at the SWC but an appointment has never been made. It's suggested that inviting Syilx to the technical tables of the SWC would be appropriate.

Report from Chair

None

Report from Program Managers:

Erin Vieira reviewed the 2020-21 SWC Annual Highlights Report. The report covers key activities and accomplishments for the period April 1st 2020 - March 31st 2021. The six-page highlights report is available online at www.shuswapwater.ca, and print copies have been sent to regional district, First Nations, and municipal offices for members of the public to pick up for reading. The highlights report is summarized here:

Annual Highlights Report for 2020-21

- Water quality monitoring was done by up to 13 organizations in the Shuswap in 2020
- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group committed to develop a regional algae response plan, in preparation for future blooms by Summer 2021

- The SWC inaugural Water Quality Grant Program was launched; five grants were awarded to farms and stewardship organizations worth \$65,470 in SWC funds and leveraged an additional \$71,000+ funds for water quality improvement
- Zebra and Quagga Mussel early detection monitoring was carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society at 13 sites on seven waterbodies repeatedly throughout the year. CSISS also surveyed regions of Shuswap Lake for invasive freshwater clams.
- The Safe Recreation Program delivered 97 safety campaigns throughout Summer 2020 through a variety of media, and had up to 1.15 million impressions
- A social media campaign to increase understanding of the Shuswap watershed and of the SWC was delivered through Summer and Fall 2020
- The SWC created an informative video about the Water Quality Grant Program and launched a YouTube channel

Director Martin entered the meeting at 9:45 AM

A financial summary for the year was presented (for the period April 1st 2020 - March 31st 2021):

REVENUE - Source April 1 st 2020 - March 31 st 2021	Amount received (\$)
Surplus SWC funds (from March 31 st 2020)	241,995
CSRD (C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
RDNO (Area F)	5000
Grant Funding: Transport Canada, Boating Safety Contribution Program	20,550
Total	522,445

(Expenses for 2020-21 are summarized on the next page)

EXPENSES - Program April 1 st 2020 - March 31 st 2021	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Program: Monitoring Initiative	35,200	21,849	13,351
Water Quality Program: Protection Initiative	113,600	70,501	43,099
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,400	32,929	2471
Safe Recreation	27,400	24,335	3065
Communications & Community Engagement	68,700	62,453	6247
Administration and Governance	43,150	42,311	839
Sub-total Operational Program Expenses	323,450	254,378	69,072
Operating reserve	198,995	0	198,995
Total for 2020-21	522,445	254,378	268,067

Discussion:

Chair Demenok requested the assistance of SWC members in disseminating the Annual Highlights Report, through social media and sharing print copies.

Sharon Bennett left the meeting at 10:05 AM

Report from Program Managers:

Program Operations update since last Council meeting

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last Council meeting in March 2021:

- The SWC is facilitating the development of a Shuswap regional algae response plan with the participation of several water quality monitoring organizations. This is in recognition of the reality that algae response cannot be done by a single agency. The plan is nearly complete and ready for implementation.
- The Water Quality Grant Program was opened for a second round of applications from February 23rd - April 30th 2021. Staff received four applications. The Water Protection Advisory Committee met in May to review the applications and make recommendations for funding.
- An update on the status of Water Quality Grant (2020) projects was provided. Most projects are complete, with one still underway.
- Staff delivered several awareness campaigns for Zebra and Quagga Mussel (ZQM) prevention in the month of May for “Invasive Species Action Month”. Campaign messaging is focussed on ‘Clean-Drain-Dry’, watercraft inspection, and ‘Don’t Let It Loose’.
- The Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society is conducting early detection monitoring for ZQM in the Shuswap at 16 sites on nine waterbodies, with support from the SWC
- Safe boating and safe water-based recreation awareness campaigns are underway for the season. The SWC is once again partnering with the Royal

Canadian Marine Search & Rescue Station 106 Shuswap to promote the network of 'Kids Don't Float' lifejacket loaner kiosks and other safety messaging.

- The 2020 Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report is underway
- SWC's application to the federal Eco-Action Program for grant funding was turned down. The \$95K application would have leveraged the Water Quality Grant Program. Additionally, the SWC's application to the Habitat Stewardship Program for grant funding has been wait-listed; staff don't expect it will be accepted. The \$25K application would have supported the development of a wetland strategy for the Shuswap. The SWC budget for 2021-22 has been adjusted accordingly.

No financial report for the current fiscal year was available; the first quarterly financial summary will be presented at the September Council meeting.

Discussion:

Sharon Bennett inquired if the 'Report Invasives' app is staffed; Erin Vieira replied that it is a provincial app, and submissions through the app get triaged by the BC Ministry of Environment / BC Conservation Officer Service.

Councillor Cannon inquired if the SWC is presenting educational material about invasive species to schoolchildren. Erin replied that the SWC does not engage with schools; she remarked that other groups are doing this (e.g., Invasive Species Council of BC, WildSafe BC) and working with schools' environmental educators to develop a suite of environmental curriculum.

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Martin that:

SWC staff approach WildSafe BC and the ISCBC to confirm if invasive species are being presented in schools, and if not to provide School District #83 and #73 with some material about aquatic invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussels, and invasive freshwater clams.

Sharon Bennett remarked that SD #83 children visit Kingfisher Interpretive Centre for environmental educational field days.

APPROVED

Action item:

Staff will get in touch with the above-mentioned organizations to find out if school children are learning about aquatic invasive species.

**New business:
Revised budget
for 2021-22**

Erin Vieira presented a revised budget for 2021-22 (highlighting denotes changes):

**New business,
 cont'd: Revised
 budget for 2021-
 22**

Projected revenue April 1 st 2021 - March 31 st 2022	Budget presented on March 10th 2021 (\$)	Revised (\$)
2020-21 Surplus	45,000	69,072
Operating reserve	198,995	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:¹</i>		
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F, and District of Sicamous)	97,200	97,200
TNRD	32,590	32,590
City of Salmon Arm	24,320	24,320
Adams Lake Indian Band	790	790
<i>Grant funding applied for (not confirmed):</i>		
Environment Canada Eco-Action Program	95,000	0
Department of Fisheries and Oceans Habitat Stewardship Program	0	0
<i>Contribution from partner:</i>		
Shuswap Lifeboat Society		3200
Total revenue	493,895	426,167

(Work plan and expenses for 2021-22 are on the next page)

¹ In 2021-22, the SWC is requisitioning \$100,00 less funds from each of its funders, proportionately, to draw down the reserve.

**New business,
 cont'd: Revised
 budget for 2021-
 22**

Work plan and expenses April 1 st 2021 - March 31 st 2022		Workplan presented on March 10th 2021 (\$)	Revised workplan (\$)
Water Quality Program			
	Water Monitoring Initiative		
	Facilitate the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	7750	7750
	Implement the watershed water quality monitoring plan	20,200	25,200
	<i>Sub-total Water Monitoring Initiative</i>	27,950	32,950
	Water Protection Initiative		
	Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee	7600	7600
	Develop phosphorus action plan	8850	8850
	Water Quality Grant Program	190,200	95,200
	<i>Sub-total Water Protection Initiative</i>	206,650	111,650
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program			
	Education, outreach and advocacy	34,500	37,750
Recreation Safety Program			
	Implement safety campaigns	17,650	17,650
	Provide safety equipment	3900	3900
	<i>Sub-total Recreation Safety Program</i>	21,550	21,550
Communications			
	Collateral	11,700	11,700
	Public engagement	19,500	19,500
	Annual water quality summary	16,900	16,900
	<i>Sub-total Communications</i>	48,100	48,100
Administration			
	Council administration	25,500	25,500
	Financial management and fund development	16,000	16,000
	<i>Sub-total Administration</i>	41,500	41,500
Sub-total operational expenses		375,850	293,500
	Operating Reserve (includes \$20K Contingency Fund)	118,045	132,667
Total Expenses		493,895	426,167

Discussion:

Director Simpson inquired about increasing the ZQM budget further, and specifically suggested that more funding be allocated to education and outreach done on-the-ground through the partnership with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). Mayor Crowe made a motion to increase the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program by \$5000. Director Martin commented she would prefer to see staff inquire about CSISS' capacity to do more work with

additional funding, before deciding on increasing the budget. Councillor Cannon agreed with Director Martin's comments. Mayor Crowe rescinded the motion.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Vice Chair Simpson that:

The revised budget for 2021-22, as presented, be approved.

APPROVED

Moved/seconded by Director Simpson/Director Martin that:

Staff be directed to contact the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) about enhancing the ZQM budget to allow for more prevention work to be done in the Shuswap watershed.

APPROVED

Action item:

Staff will contact CSISS as described above.

**New business:
Water Quality
Grant Program**

Mike Simpson briefly reviewed Water Quality Grant Program. The purpose of the grant program is improve water quality in the Shuswap by supporting landowners or agri-businesses to mitigate or minimize nutrient-loading from land to surface water. The grant program was open for applications from February 23rd - April 30th 2021; it was promoted extensively throughout the Shuswap region. Staff received four grant applications by the deadline. Staff performed an initial screen of the applications to ensure the proposals met the eligibility criteria, and anonymized the proposals; then the proposals were reviewed in detail by the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee (WPAC) in late May.

The Water Protection Advisory Committee makes the following recommendations:

Application	Project	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC
A	Riparian planting	\$6320	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant.
B	Field drainage	\$18,840	Recommended for funding with changes; follow up with applicant, seek changes to project, may require more funding than asked for
C	Livestock grazing amendments	\$7913	Recommend for funding (noting one dissenting opinion within WPAC)
D	Bridge, riparian planting, fencing	\$20,000	Not recommended for funding; follow up with applicant and invite an application next year
Total		\$53,072	

**New business,
cont'd: Water
Quality Grant
Program**

Discussion:

SWC members discussed the proposals. Some SWC members expressed their disappointment that the grant program only received four applications. There were some questions about the proposals, which staff answered on behalf of the Water Protection Advisory Committee.

Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Vice Chair Simpson that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council accept the recommendations of the Water Protection Advisory Committee with respect to the water quality grant applications for funding, and award funding as recommended.

Action item:

Staff will bring a revised budget for the Water Quality Program, if needed (re: Project B) to the September SWC meeting.

APPROVED

Roundtable discussion: how to improve the Water Quality Grant Program

Chair Demenok expressed his disappointment about only receiving four applications for grant funding. He invited SWC members suggestions on how to improve the grant program such that it garners more applications that meet the goals of the program.

Director Martin left the meeting at 10:45 AM

Mayor Christian remarked that the WPAC's for improving the grant program are reasonable. Mike Simpson clarified that the WPAC recommends doing a second, Fall intake for proposals this year. Councillor Cannon inquired about doing a second intake sooner, such as later this summer. Natalya Melnychuk inquired about keeping the grant program continuously open for applications. Mayor Christian replied that it appears the will to apply isn't there; it isn't so much a matter of convenient timing; he further commented on the amount of staff capacity it would require to administer such a program. Director Simpson agreed that a rolling application window would not increase the success of the program.

Natalya Melnychuk left the meeting at 10:50 AM

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Vice Chair Simpson that:

Staff be directed to explore suitable timing to invite a second round of applications to the Water Quality Grant Program this year

APPROVED

**Closing
comments**

Dennis Einarson announced that he is retiring from the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and today's meeting would be his last meeting as the MOECC representative.

Several SWC members and staff had parting comments for Dennis, and thanked him for his years of service at MOECC and for his participation on the Shuswap Watershed Council.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Mayor Crowe/Director Christian that:

The June 9th meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

APPROVED

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 AM

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair