

Council Meeting
March 10th 2021 | 9:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting summary
Approved June 9th 2021

Meeting objectives

1. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2021
2. Receive update from program managers
3. Approve 2021-22 workplan and budget
4. Discuss updates to SWC Terms of Reference
5. Receive guest presentation on Upper Adams River salmon restoration project

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E (*from 9:20 am*)
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Colleen Anderson – District of Sicamous
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Steven Teed – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Dave Nordquist – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D (*from 9:10 am*)
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Lindsay Benbow – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Lorne Hunter – Community representative (*to 11:20 am*)
Sharon Bennett – Community representative
Randy Wood – Community representative
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative (*from 9:00 to 10:30 am; from 11:35 am to 12:15 pm*)

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Guests and observers

Don Holmes
John Irvine, Clyde Mitchell, Barbra Fairclough, Kimm Magill-Hoffmann

Regrets

None

Call to Order

Mike Simpson opened the meeting at 9:00 AM

Elections

Mike Simpson presided over the election

Mayor Christian nominated Director Demenok for Chair; accepted

ELECTION of Chair for 2021 is Paul Demenok, by acclamation.

Director Demenok nominated Director Simpson for Vice Chair; accepted

ELECTION of Vice Chair for 2021 is Jay Simpson, by acclamation.

**Adoption of
meeting
summaries**

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Talbot that:

The agenda for the March 10th 2021 meetings of the Shuswap Watershed Council be approved.

APPROVED

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

The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council meeting, held December 9th 2020, be approved.

APPROVED

Correspondence

Councillor Anderson introduced four new items from the District of Sicamous, regarding District resolutions and memos to the Southern Interior Local Government Association, for the SWC's information and consideration.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Talbot that:

The correspondence be received for information.

Discussion

Chair Demenok thanked Director Delisle for the financial contribution from RDNO Area 'F' discretionary funds to the SWC for 2020/21.

APPROVED

Moved/seconded by Chair Demenok/Vice Chair Simpson that:

The SWC send a response letter to RDNO thanking them for their participation.

APPROVED

Action item: Staff will send a response letter to RDNO as described in the motion above.

Director Fairbairn entered the meeting at 9:10 am

Moved/seconded by Councillor Anderson/Councillor Cannon that:

The SWC send a letter to Minister for Environment George Heyman regarding aquatic invasive species, specifically requesting stronger measures to protect British Columbia from Zebra and Quagga Mussels and also specifically requesting new legislation to list invasive freshwater clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) as prohibited under the Controlled Alien Species Regulation.

Discussion

Colleen Anderson asked for support from the SWC regarding a stronger federal mandate on Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention, specifically on Clean-Drain-Dry practices and watercraft inspection/decontamination. She expressed that the current prevention system isn't strong enough and there are gaps. The recent entry of zebra mussels into BC via the aquaria industry (i.e., [news bulletin here](#)) is yet another example of an insufficient prevention system. Councillor Anderson suggests greater enforcement and greater fines for non-compliance are needed. Natalya Melnychuk also suggested that homeowners be more engaged as an infestation would directly impact them (i.e., water intake, etc.)

APPROVED

Action item: Staff will send a letter to Minister Heyman as described in the motion above.

Director Martin entered the meeting at 9:15 am

Old business

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Mayor Christian that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meeting, held March 2nd 2021, be received for information. t

Discussion

Chair Demenok re-iterated from the meeting summary that no single agency has the capacity and mandate to frequently monitor the Shuswap watershed during an algal bloom. He proposed that a role for the SWC is to coordinate monitoring and communications with as many partners as possible. Director Simpson commented that it is the responsibility of the Province, in one department or another, to respond to an algal bloom but he also agreed that if that isn't possible, it is a good role for the SWC to help lead a response. Chair Demenok added that collecting algal samples could also be supported by residents around the lake, should the need arise. Sharon Bennett remarked that it's important the content of communications come from the subject matter experts, i.e., biologists or scientists at IHA. Councillor Cannon commented that communications must be led by IHA and she agreed that the SWC can help coordinate algal sampling.

APPROVED

Action item: Staff will develop a ‘local algal response plan’ that describes various organizations role in responding to future algal blooms with monitoring and communications; on the latter, acknowledging that Public Service Announcements will come from Interior Health Authority

Report from Chair Chair Demenok thanked the SWC members for their ongoing support for him in the role as Chair.

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

- An update on the status of each of the five 2020 water quality grant recipients’ projects was reviewed. Three are complete, one is underway, and one is not yet started.
- The 2021 Water Quality Grant Program was launched on February 23rd. The grant program is being advertised across the region. The application period closes on April 30th; proponents can find information about eligibility and an application package online at www.shuswapwater.ca.
- The highlights of the March 2nd Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meeting were reviewed; notably, that several organizations have volunteered to collaborate in response to future algal blooms
- Staff are preparing media campaigns for Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention for 2021; campaign messaging focuses on ‘Clean-Drain-Dry’ and watercraft inspection
- Staff are continuing to stay engaged regarding the discovery of invasive freshwater clams in Shuswap Lake and are developing education/outreach measures in partnership with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Staff reviewed the results of a series of presentations that were given to community groups through late Fall and Winter 2020. There were constructive conversations and lots of good questions put to the SWC in these presentations.
- Staff reported that social media platforms continue to show growth; the SWC has a new [YouTube channel](#)
- Staff have submitted two grant applications for funding to support the SWC’s work: one application to Eco-Action (federal program) in the amount of \$95K, another application to Habitat Stewardship Program (federal program) in the amount of \$25K. If successful, these funds will go toward the Water Quality Grant Program and developing a wetland strategy, respectively.
- A financial report to the end of the third quarter (April 1st 2020 - December 30th 2020) was provided:
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Revenue for 2020-21	(\$)
Surplus (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
NEW: Regional District of North Okanagan (Area F)	5000
Grant funding: Transport Canada <i>Boating Safety Contribution Program</i>	20,550
Total revenue	522,445

Expenses for 2020-21 (April 1 st - December 31 st 2020)	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	35,200	19,715
Water Quality Protection	113,600	63,738
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,400	28,414
Safe Recreation	27,400	20,552
Communications & Advocacy	68,700	54,139
Management & Administration	43,150	29,245
Sub-total Operational Program Expenses	323,450	215,802
Operating Reserve	198,995	0
Total expenses	522,445	215,802

**New business:
Workplan and
budget for 2021-
22**

Erin Vieira presented the proposed budget for 2021-22 and key workplan items. She clarified that two of the items in the budget may change, depending on the success or not of two grant applications to federal funding programs.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Martin that:

The budget and workplan for 2021-22 be approved.

Discussion:

Director Simpson remarked on the disparity between the budgets for the Water Quality Grant Program, and Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention. He suggested the SWC take on more work related to ZQM prevention. Councillor Anderson expressed her agreement with Director Simpson. Erin Vieira clarified that this could be done, and that the SWC should continue to focus on education, outreach, and advocacy - not items related to enforcement or watercraft inspection which is the role of the Province.

Chair Demenok suggested that a public opinion survey be added to the 2021-22 communications plan. He remarked that it would be helpful to understand public support for the SWC, in advance of a voter assent process. He clarified that a survey should be limited to the assent process service area (i.e., CSRD Areas C, D, E, F and Sicamous). Mayor Christian remarked that it could be perceived to be interfering with the assent process. He expressed his preference to focus on the

current workplan thereby proving the worth of the SWC. Director Martin expressed her agreement with Mayor Christian.

Natalya Melnychuk left the meeting at 10:30 am

Chair Demenok inquired if the SWC should produce a 2020 Water Quality Summary Report, as mentioned in the proposed workplan. Erin Vieira suggested that although the data will be fewer (due to Covid preventing some aspects of the monitoring program in 2020), she said there is still plenty of information to share with residents and visitors via the Summary Report. Dennis Einarson remarked that the BC Ministry of Environment is in the process of completing some reports, and would like to share some of that information via the SWC's Summary Report.

APPROVED

The budget and workplan for 2021-22 is summarized:

Revenue for 2021-22	(\$)
Projected year-end surplus (March 31 st 2021)	45,000
Operating reserve	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement (2021-23)*</i>	
CSRD (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>Grant applications:</i>	
Eco-Action (Environment and Climate Change Canada - not confirmed yet)	95,000
Habitat Stewardship Program (Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada - not confirmed yet)	0
Total revenue	493,895

* Contributions in 2021-22 are reduced, relative to previous years, to draw down the Operating Reserve by approximately \$100K. This is described in the Contribution Agreement.

Workplan and expenses for 2021-22	(\$)
Water Quality Program:	
Water Monitoring Initiative	27,950
Water Protection Initiative	206,650*
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	34,500
Safe Recreation Program	21,550
Communications Program	48,100
Administration	41,500
Sub-total operational expenses	380,250
Operating Reserve (includes \$20K contingency fund)	113,645
Total revenue	493,895

* Assumed \$95K contribution (grant funds) from Eco-Action

Action item: Staff will boost the Zebra and Quagga Mussel Program, and bring a revised budget to the June SWC meeting. It's anticipated staff will also be able to

report on the outcomes of two grant applications submitted to federal funding programs.

**New business:
SWC Terms of
Reference**

Erin Vieira presented some recommended updates to the Terms of Reference, and walked through several discussion questions for the SWC to consider related to membership and decision-making. Mike Simpson pointed out that staff have been corresponding with representatives of Okanagan Indian Band and Syilx Nation, and are expecting a letter of recommendation for a new member of the SWC, representing Syilx Nation.

Director Martin commented that indigenous representation on the SWC needs careful consideration.

Director Fairbairn suggested inviting additional representation from the North Okanagan; in particular, RDNO Area C which is partly in the Shuswap watershed.

Councillor Teed noted that Adams Lake Band wants to continue to be part of the SWC.

Sharon Bennett remarked that it is good to be inclusive. She suggested that potential new communities or governments be asked how they would like to participate: as a member of the SWC, as part of a technical committee, or to simply be kept 'in the loop' about SWC business.

Lorne Hunter left the meeting at 11:20 am

Chair Demenok suggested that creating a spot for a representative of the Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association could create a mutually beneficial linkage.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The SWC approve staff's minor updates to the Terms of Reference.

APPROVED

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Director Talbot that:

A committee be established to develop recommendations for amending the Terms of Reference further regarding membership and decision-making, using staff's discussion questions as a basis for consideration. The committee will bring forth the recommended amendments to the Terms of Reference at a future SWC meeting.

APPROVED

Director Martin, Director Talbot, Councillor Teed, and Chair Demenok volunteered to form the committee noted above, with staff support from Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson.

Guest presentation: Upper Adams River salmon restoration and Adams Lake fertilization project

Don Holmes, R.P. Bio, introduced himself as the program coordinator working on behalf of Adams Lake Indian Band for the Upper Adams River salmon restoration project. He explained that the historic Upper Adams River sockeye salmon run was nearly decimated in the early 1900s by a splash dam constructed at the outlet of Adams Lake (i.e., thereby creating a barrier to upstream salmon passage) and the Hell's Gate slide which impacted many salmon runs.

Natalya Melnychuk returned to the meeting at 11:35 am

The restoration program will fertilize a portion of Adams Lake for three years to increase the plankton communities which will in turn improve the growth and survival of juvenile salmon. The long-term goal of the program is to re-establish a natural cycle of salmon returning to the Upper Adams River and supplying important marine-derived nutrients that improve habitat for juvenile salmon.

Mr. Holmes explained several factors of the program, including detailed monitoring of water quality, phyto- and zooplankton, invasive species, and juvenile salmon. Monitoring will ensure the right results are being produced, and will allow for course corrections if needed. He also explained that lake fertilization has been done in 24 other lakes in BC for approximately 30 years, and the success of this type of restoration has been demonstrated through that work.

There was a Question & Answer Period, with some SWC members asking for more specific information related to type of fertilizer, and the potential deleterious effects of the lake fertilization program, and the source for Upper Adams River sockeye broodstock.

Roundtable updates

Sharon Bennett reported that the Salmon Arm Food Hub initiative may be an opportunity to link up with regarding local agriculture and water quality. She also commented on an organization called Waterlution as a group to look into regarding telling indigenous water stories with a focus on youth engagement.

Councillor Anderson encouraged SWC members to send letters from their organizations to senior government regarding invasive freshwater clams and zebra and quagga mussels.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Martin that:

The March 10th 2021 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

APPROVED

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair