

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday March 11th 2020 | 10:15 AM – 2:30 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

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1.	December 11 th 2019 meeting summary for approval	10:20

Council Meeting
December 11th 2019 | 10:15 AM – 2:45 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

Draft record of Decisions and Action Items
This summary is subject to approval at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive operations and financial update from Program Managers
2. Receive year-end update from Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
3. Provide direction to CSRD re: continuation of SWC beyond 2020 for purposes of planning for assent process
4. Have roundtable discussions on next steps for SWC's Water Protection Initiative

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 (*to 1:45 pm via 'Zoom meeting'*)
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Tim Lavery – City of Salmon Arm
Steven Teed – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F (*to 12:30 pm*)
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (*from 12:30 pm, via Zoom meeting*)
Laura Code – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Lorne Hunter – Community Representative
Sharon Bennett – Community Representative (*from 10:00 – 10:45 am via Zoom meeting; from 1:00 pm in person*)
Natalya Melnychuk – Community Representative (*via 'Zoom meeting'*)

Robyn Hooper and Sue Davies – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (*from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm*)

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

None

Regrets

Colleen Anderson
Dave Nordquist
Randy Wood
Rick Fairbairn

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Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Chair Paul Demenok

Welcoming comments A round of introductions took place around the room.

Laura Code announced that she has a new position with the BC Ministry of Agriculture and there will likely be a new representative on the SWC from the Ministry going forward.

Adoption of agenda and meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Councillor Lavery that:

The agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Moved/seconded by Lorne Hunter/Director Simpson that:

The summary of the September 11th 2019 meeting of the SWC be adopted.

CARRIED

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Mayor Crowe that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meeting held on November 13th 2019 be received for information.

Discussion:

Councillor Lavery inquired if the SWC has received water quality data from Secwepemc First Nations. Erin Vieira replied that First Nations Health Authority is requesting permission from the bands to share the data; permission is required and would be given by each individual band.

CARRIED

Report from Chair No report

New business **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Mayor Crowe that:

The proposed Shuswap Watershed Council meeting scheduled be approved with one revision. The 2020 meeting schedule will be as follows:

March 11th
June 17th
September 9th
December 9th

CARRIED

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Report from Program Managers

Staff presented several updates on program operations since the SWC's last meeting in September:

Erin Vieira reported that water quality monitoring for the season is wrapping up. The Water Monitoring Group met in mid-November to review water quality monitoring activities conducted in 2019 and to review the 2018 Shuswap Water Quality Summary.

Mike Simpson provided an update on the Water Protection Initiative. Nutrient research led by UBC-Okanagan is nearing completion; water quality data collection from Shuswap River and Salmon River concluded in June 2019, and analysis and reporting is currently being completed. The results to-date indicate that the highest proportion of nutrients (i.e., kg/hectare) to the Salmon River and Shuswap River comes from agricultural lands in 'incremental flow sub-watersheds'. He further explained that phase two of the research, involving the collection and analysis of a sediment sample from the bottom of Mara Lake, is underway. The project is facing some delays due to quality issues with the sample requiring that a second sample be collected. The new sample is now being dated and will subsequently be analysed for historical levels of nutrients. The research team at UBC-Okanagan has proposed that it provide one summary report for both phases of the nutrient research, aiming for completion in February 2020.

Erin reported that she attended and presented at the International Conference on Aquatic Invasive Species in October, and at the BC Freshwater Fishing Tourism Symposium in November; both presentations were about preventing the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels (ZQM) to BC. She also reported that she is working with staff at Okanagan Basin Water Board on a joint letter to the new Minister of Fisheries and Oceans to request new federal resources for preventing the spread of ZQM.

Erin reported that the Safe Recreation Program has wound down for the season. Staff have applied to Transport Canada's *Boating Safety Contribution Program* for funding to support the Council's Safe Recreation program in 2020; she expects to hear the results of the application in April.

Mike presented a financial report to the end of the second quarter, April 1st – September 30th 2019:

	Annual budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)
Water Monitoring Initiative	51,150	11,930
Water Protection Initiative	79,500	22,051
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	30,825	21,781
Safe Recreation Program	26,050	20,104
Communications	42,200	16,301
Management and Administration	43,150	14,966

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Operating Reserve	188,459	0
Total expenses to September 30th 2019	461,334	107,133

Discussion:

Councillor Lavery inquired if the second core completion is being done within the current budget; Mike Simpson replied that he doesn't expect to pay additional costs.

Mayor Christian suggested that the float plane base at the Kamloops airport would be an educational opportunity for pilots about risks of Zebra and Quagga mussels. Chair Demenok suggested that existing communications methods could also be used, such as notices to airmen (NOTAM).

Director Martin requested that the correspondence to Minister Jordan be copied to MP Mel Arnold, the Shadow Minister for Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

**Roundtable
discussion:
explore
continuation of
the SWC beyond
March 31st 2021**

Chair Demenok explained that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's service bylaw that enables the SWC will come to an end on December 31st 2020. Therefore, the CSRD needs direction from the Council about moving ahead beyond the end of 2020. Voter assent will be required, and must be concluded by September 2020 for service taxation beginning in 2021.

The Chair proposed that the Council endeavor to have all the local governments in the watershed participate as a funder. He suggested that this would require providing communications packages to those partners.

Denise Delisle explained that Areas D, E, and F, and part of C within the Regional District of North Okanagan are in the Shuswap watershed. Other parts of RDNO are in the Okanagan watershed. The RDNO has contributed to works on Gardom Creek, as well as funding the Shuswap River Ambassadors safety and stewardship program. RDNO is also invested in developing vessel operating restrictions on the Shuswap River.

Vice Chair Simpson echoed the Chair's sentiments that it would be ideal to have all financial partners committed prior to going into a voter assent process.

Councillor Steven Teed announced that a canoe journey is taking place in the Shuswap next summer; this could be a good opportunity to highlight water quality, safety, invasive species, and the work of the SWC.

Councillor Lavery re-iterated that communications should include a summary of what the Council has done, and an outline of the Council's plan for the future. He acknowledged a tight timeline.

Chair Demenok also suggested that the SWC would need to provide the public and partners with a plan and budget for the next five years.

Lynda Shykora, Deputy Corporate Officer for the CSRD, clarified that the CSRD Board

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needs direction from the Council by their April Board meeting so that the CSRD can prepare for a voter assent process.

Mayor Ken Christian expressed his support for the continuation of the Council, particularly from the viewpoint of downstream residents in Kamloops as the Shuswap is a source of drinking water and a recreation destination.

The Chair summarized that everyone is in agreement that the Council should pursue RDNO as a funding partner. He further summarized that the residents of the CSRD would need to be provided with information about the SWC in advance of voter assent. He suggested that an additional Council meeting take place this winter to develop a strategic plan.

Mike Simpson remarked that staff will work with CSRD staff to provide the appropriate amount of communications material in advance of a voter assent process.

Jodi Pierce, the CSRD's Chief Financial Officer, clarified that the Council should first determine it's plan and budget for the future, and then the respective jurisdictions will determine how to contribute financially to it.

Moved/seconded by Councillor Lavery/Director Simpson that:

Another meeting be held to develop the Council's future five-year plan (i.e., 2021-2026), as well as the final work plan and budget for 2020/21.

CARRIED

Action item:

Staff will prepare for a strategic planning meeting, aiming for February 12th 2020.

Guest Presentation: Sue Davies and Robyn Hooper

Chair Demenok introduced Robyn Hooper and Sue Davies from the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.

Sue Davies explained that funding from the SWC has allowed CSISS to expand their monitoring and education/outreach for Zebra & Quagga Mussels in the Shuswap. Education and outreach has been delivered through traditional media, social media, and face-to-face with boaters and the general public at boat launches, marinas, campgrounds, and community events. CSISS sampled Shuswap Lake, Mara Lake, Gardom Lake, Mara Lake, Little Shuswap Lake, and Adams Lake for veligers (larvae) and/or adult mussels; a total of 95 plankton samples from 18 sites were collected and analysed and 10 locations in five lakes were monitored for adult mussels. No invasive mussels were found at any of the monitoring sites. Robyn Hooper explained that CSISS is supported by funding from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, Shuswap Watershed Council, and others.

Lunch break

The SWC took a break for lunch from 12:15 – 1 pm.

Sharon Bennett entered the meeting at 1:00 pm

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**Presentation
from Sharon
Bennett re: MOE
public outreach**

Sharon Bennett introduced herself as being a Community Representative on the Council, but clarified that she is employed with the BC Ministry of Environment in the compliance promotion section. She explained that there are dedicated staff within the Ministry who are promoting awareness of the new *Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management*. They have been doing outreach across the province and with all sectors of agriculture, delivering specific messaging to different sectors in different regions. An online presence is also being developed, including the use of social media. Key messages from MOE to agriculturalists have included:

- Announcement of the *Code*, which replaces the former *Agricultural Waste Control Regulation*
- Prompting producers to know if their farm is in a high-risk area, as specified in the *Code*
- Explaining soil testing requirements, and subsequent potential requirements for nutrient management planning.

The Ministry is not providing incentives for compliance. BC Ministry of Agriculture provides support to producers, as does the Environmental Farm Plan Program (EFP) delivered by ARDCorp.

Chair Demenok inquired about the number of farms and Environmental Farm Plans in BC. Sharon replied that there are approximately 20,000 farms in BC; Laura Code replied that EFPs are done confidentially by an ARDCorp planner and a farmer; there is no data within the Ministry of Agriculture or Environment about EFPs.

Sharon further explained that compliance inspections on farms are done on the basis of complaints; farms are not routinely inspected by MOE compliance officers.

**Roundtable
discussion: next
steps for the
SWC on the
Water
Protection
Initiative**

The Chair explained that the Water Protection Initiative has completed the data collection phase (i.e., nutrient research on the Shuswap River and Salmon River) and must now contemplate its next steps in terms of mitigating nutrient losses to surface waters.

Mike Simpson explained that the Water Protection Initiative was designed to react to the results of water quality monitoring: if excessive amounts of nutrients were found to be entering the Shuswap River and Salmon River, then the Council would consider ways to reduce that. Mike re-iterated the results of the nutrient research by stating that the highest proportions of nutrients come from agricultural lands in incremental flow sub-watersheds in the valley bottoms, and that mitigative works would best be directed at these geographic areas.

Mike further outlined that the Council's objectives for nutrient management or mitigative projects are as follows:

- Effective methods (i.e., not experimental) to reduce nutrient losses from land to surface water based on results of the nutrient research study
- Project(s) should leverage SWC funds (up to \$45,000/year)
- Support and agreement by all parties on projects, including by landowners and producers.

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Mike acknowledged that although the nutrient research reports are delayed, the expected conclusions will not be different from what we have already learned from Dr. Curtis' research. He reviewed some potential next steps for the Council:

- Host a workshop with producers and landowners on nutrient research results and look for willing partners in new nutrient management practices and/or mitigative projects
- Develop a granting program to partner with and support producers/landowners on new nutrient management practices to reduce nutrient losses from land to surface water
- Produce detailed maps of the Shuswap River and Salmon River valley bottom, illustrating incremental flow sub-watershed areas and overlaying other information such as property boundaries and low-lying lands.
- Conduct modeling to identify effective nutrient mitigation projects

A roundtable discussion took place with several Council members providing their thoughts on best next steps.

Director Martin commented that she is in supportive of taking more time to ensure all partners are on board with the direction the Council takes on nutrient management.

Director Martin left the meeting at 1:45 pm

Laura Code remarked that some landowners and producers would be hesitant to work with the Council, while others would be open to possibilities. She further explained the Environmental Farm Plan provides up to 60% funding for beneficial management practices to be implemented on farms. Chair Demenok inquired why all farms wouldn't access EFP funding; Lorne Hunter replied that producers are concerned about confidentiality and potential compulsory fall-outs. Laura added that the EFP is popular and is over-subscribed. Lorne also commented that funding can be accessed through the Investment Agriculture Foundation.

Lorne Hunter commented that he would encourage the Council to focus on implementing projects that address dissolved phosphorus from the low-lands, as well as nutrients and turbidity coming from the forested uplands.

Councillor Tim Lavery commented on the effectiveness of having community champions.

Mayor Ken Christian commented that the Council should not get into compliance or enforcement activities; he also remarked on the opportunity to work with researchers at Thompson Rivers University. He also suggested there could be an opportunity to look at options to utilize excess nutrients from different land uses in addition to processing biomass.

Chair Demenok commented on the opportunity to pursue modeling to identify most effective nutrient management activities. It would provide good information to provide to the electorate. The uncertainty is in choosing a model and the input to the

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model. Erin Vieira expressed that model results may not be consistent with the locations of a willing landowner/producer partner, and she suggested that seeking willing partners be prioritized over modeling.

Lorne Hunter commented that the Council would find willing partners within the Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association. Both Lorne and Laura Code also suggested that North Okanagan Livestock Association also be approached for potential partnerships with landowners/producers.

The Chair re-iterated the program managers' list of possible next steps in 2020 to seek the support of the Council members. Council members indicated their support for staff hosting a workshop or giving presentations to agriculture producers. Secondly, Council members support the idea of staff developing a granting program to support new nutrient management practices on farms, ideally within the incremental flow sub-watersheds identified through the nutrient research. It was suggested that the Water Protection Advisory Committee could be involved in developing the program. Thirdly, Council members were in support of doing a mapping exercise to map the incremental flow sub-watersheds in the Salmon River and Shuswap River valleys; Chair Demenok suggested this be done by CSRD staff.

There was no support for the idea of conducting modeling.

Action items:

Staff will try to attend and present at the January 15th meeting of the North Okanagan Livestock Association and the February 27th workshop of the Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association.

Staff will look into other potential funding partners, such as Ducks Unlimited, ALUS, Investment Agriculture Foundation, and the Weston Foundation.

Staff will discuss the mapping exercise with CSRD staff.

**Roundtable
discussion: Safe
and respectful
boating**

Vice Chair Simpson commented that he has heard from property owners about their concerns for the speed, noise, and wake of some large powerful boats on Shuswap Lake.

Laura Code commented that Lake Kalamalka is facing similar issues, and that boating has compromised water quality at their intake.

Erin Vieira indicated that the Council does circulate safe boating information through rack cards, posters and social media, including promoting some federal requirements under the *Small Vessel Regulations* such as for speed near shorelines and boat mufflers. Chair Demenok remarked that it's a difficult social behavior challenge. There was no interest expressed by Council members regarding recreation management or regulations, other than providing education material.

Vice Chair Simpson will connect further with staff on this.

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**Roundtable
updates**

None were provided

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

DRAFT

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2	February 12 th 2020 workshop summary for approval	10:20

Council Workshop
February 12th 2020 | 12:00 – 4:00 pm
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items
Subject to correction at the next SWC meeting

Meeting objectives

5. To review main accomplishments, achievements since 2016
6. To draft a strategic plan framework for 2021-2026, and to seek input and endorsement from all parties to enable equitable support of the SWC
7. To provide input and approve the Water Quality Grant Program, as part of the work plan and budget for 2020-2021
8. To provide direction to the CSRD regarding a voter assent process for the Shuswap Watershed Council Service

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Tim Lavery, Vice Chair – City of Salmon Arm
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops (*to 3:30 pm*)
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Colleen Anderson – District of Sicamous
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F (*from 1:10 pm*)
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Lorne Hunter – Community representative
Sharon Bennett – Community representative
Randy Wood – Community representative
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative (*from 12:50 pm*)
Jeff Tarry – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F, Alternate (*from 3:20 to 3:35 pm*)

Charles Hamilton – Columbia Shuswap Regional District (*from 12:30 to 1:10 pm*)
Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Lily Kotzeva, Jennifer Sham

Regrets

Jay Simpson, Steven Teed, Dave Nordquist, Rick Fairbairn, Laura Code

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Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by Mike Simpson. Mike acknowledged Secwepemc territory, upon which the SWC meets.

Elections

ELECTION of Chair of the Shuswap Watershed Council for 2020 is Paul Demenok, by acclamation.

ELECTION of Vice Chair of the Shuswap Watershed Council for 2020 is Tim Lavery, by acclamation.

Report from Chair

Chair Paul Demenok thanked SWC members for the opportunity to Chair the Council for another year.

He directed everyone's attention to the work recently completed by UBC-Okanagan, including maps of the Shuswap River and Salmon River watersheds illustrating nutrient loading.

A round of introductions took place.

Review of CSRD Bylaws 5705 and 5710, and Policy A-60

Erin Vieira reviewed three policies of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) pertaining to the Shuswap Watershed Council:

CSRD Bylaw 5705, *A bylaw to establish the Shuswap Watershed Council Service*;

CSRD Bylaw 5710, *A bylaw to authorize the preparation and imposition of a parcel tax for the property owners in the Shuswap Watershed Council Service Area*;

CSRD Policy A-60, *Regional Service Checklist*.

Charles Hamilton, Chief Administrative Officer of the CSRD explained that Bylaw 5705 has a sunset clause, and renewing the Service requires voter assent. A voter assent process needs to be complete by October. In the short-term, Charles recommended that the SWC send a resolution to the CSRD Board expressing desire to renew the service, and that the CSRD Board reach out to the relevant first nations, TNRD, and RDNO to determine their participation in the service. He also recommended that the boundaries of the service not change [except to include Salmon Arm]; an extra-territorial service is not recommended because of the delay it would impose to the Service. He clarified that the voter assent process would need to be complete by October. Charles also commented that he recommends the service be a permanent service with a requirement for a review after five years.

Natalya Melnychuk entered the meeting at 12:50 pm

Councillor Lavery commented that the City of Salmon Arm is currently developing its stance on joining the Service as a participant.

Charles clarified that the CSRD Board can receive resolutions from the District of Sicamous and the City of Salmon Arm by late March or early April, and it wouldn't compromise the CSRD's timeline to conduct a voter assent process.

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Moved/seconded by Chair Demenok/Director Talbot that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council recommend to the CSRD board to proceed with a voter assent process for the continuation of the Shuswap Watershed Council Service Bylaw with participating members consisting of CSRD Areas C, D, E, F and the District of Sicamous, beyond December 31st 2020, as a permanent service with provisions for a service review after five years.

CARRIED

Charles suggested that the SWC recommend that the CSRD Board ask the City of Salmon Arm for clarification as to how they wish to participate in the Service going forward.

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Lavery/Director Martin that:

Upon review and approval of the SWC 2021-2026 strategic plan at the next regular SWC meeting on March 11th, the SWC will recommend to the CSRD Board that clarification be sought from the City of Salmon Arm regarding their participation in the Shuswap Watershed Council Service.

CARRIED

Staff presentation of Discussion Paper

Erin Vieira reviewed the SWC's major accomplishments, achievements and challenges since the inception of the SWC's program operations in 2016. All aspects of the SWC's work were reviewed:

- Governance and representation
- Financial partners and contributors
- Water quality monitoring
- Water quality reporting
- Water quality research
- Water quality improvement projects
- Safe recreation
- Zebra and quagga mussel prevention
- Communications
- Advocacy
- Interim Program Review

She presented several staff recommendations for the continuation of the SWC's programs:

1. Review SWC Terms of Reference in 2020 and make any modifications, as appropriate, as a good 'housekeeping' practice.
2. Seek the inclusion of the City of Salmon Arm in the renewal of CSRD Bylaw 5705
3. Seek support from all municipalities and electoral areas within the Shuswap watershed portion of the Regional District of North Okanagan, to enable equitable support of the SWC from all local governments within the watershed

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4. Maximize opportunities to leverage funding from other organizations
5. Continue with on-going activities in the Water Quality Monitoring Program
6. Continue with on-going activities in the Water Quality Reporting Program
7. Continue with on-going activities in the Water Quality Research Program and fulfill contractual obligations with research partners
8. The SWC have a full discussion and consider the costs, benefits, challenges and opportunities of the Water Quality Improvement Projects, and the appropriate role and jurisdiction of the SWC in undertaking this work
9. Continue with on-going activities in the Safe Recreation Program
10. Continue with on-going activities in the Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program, with a slightly increased budget to enable more media outreach
11. Continue with on-going activities of the Communications Program
12. Continue with on-going activities of the Advocacy Program

**Roundtable discussion:
Activities,
accomplishments since
2016**

SWC members discussed the recommendations as presented by staff. Several suggestions were offered, including the utility of the SWC's achievements and accomplishments being presented to constituents leading up to a voter assent process within the CSRD; the expansion of the SWC membership to include Secwepemc Lakes Division bands, and other local governments situated within the Shuswap watershed; the addition of new content in the SWC Terms of Reference pertaining to the SWC's roles on invasive species, advocacy, and safe recreation; the opportunity to seek funding from granting organizations; more communications and advocacy on the prevention of zebra and quagga mussels; and the possibility of reducing annual program operations reporting and/or water quality reporting.

Some Council members commented on the delayed and overdue final report from researchers at UBC-Okanagan on the nutrient research.

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

Staff contact the Principal of UBC-Okanagan if the final report is not received by June 30th 2020.

CARRIED

Staff asked for input in communicating the SWC's recent achievements and accomplishments in 2020. Several Council members offered suggestions. Chair Demenok commented on the importance of the SWC serving a unique role as a convenor and coordinator of water quality monitoring and reporting in the watershed. He further commented on the importance of water quality protection in a region with a significant lakes-based tourism economy.

**Roundtable discussion:
Strategic Plan
framework for 2021-
2026**

Chair Demenok posed the questions: Where would the SWC like to be in five years, and what would we like to achieve by 2026?

Lorne Hunter commented that the SWC should continue to work with and support partnerships with the agriculture sector, particularly in supporting the

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quality of stewardship within that community.

Chair Demenok suggested that the SWC develop an action-oriented water protection plan that could include a component of public education on wetlands, and the development or restoration of wetlands within the Shuswap watershed. He remarked that it is desirable to improve water quality and reduce the flow of phosphorus-rich waters to the lakes, but even with improved land management practices there may not be measurable or demonstrable results for several years due to 'legacy Phosphorus'. The development of wetlands would produce benefits and be a measurable objective for the SWC.

Sharon Bennett commented on the opportunity for the SWC to improve watershed literacy among the residents. She also remarked on the urgency of climate change. She suggested that an action plan be broad enough to include items for watershed resiliency such as climate change, nutrients, and flood resiliency.

Randy Wood inquired about the focus on phosphorus, as an indicator of water quality. Dennis Einarson replied that it's because phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in the Shuswap (meaning that algae growth is a factor of phosphorus concentrations, as opposed to other nutrients).

Vice Chair Lavery commented on the importance of having community champions to help raise awareness for the water quality program.

Mayor Christian suggested that water quality issues related to forestry, turbidity, and *E. coli* have an equal place at this table. In terms of where to be in five years, he remarked that the SWC should continue to be a 'clearing house' for water quality data, and seek to include water quality data from other sources (monitoring agencies).

Dennis Einarson suggested that a number of wetland restorations could be an objective for the SWC. He further commented that restoring old or damaged wetlands would be more effective, and cost-effective, than building new wetlands.

Chair Demenok remarked that the SWC could revive a 'SepticSmart' type of education program. Councillor Anderson and Director Martin supported this idea. Sharon Bennett commented that the Western Canada Onsite Wastewater Management Association of BC is exploring opportunities to intervene with homeowners at real estate transactions, or property tax notices.

Lorne Hunter remarked that it would be nice to see municipalities manage storm water better.

Director Delisle suggested that the SWC set a goal for cleaner water.

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Natalya Melnychuk inquired if the strategic plan should have quantifiable objectives. Chair Demenok replied that yes, ideally it would.

Next, Chair Demenok posed the question: Should the SWC's previously established goals and strategies change? If so, what should change?

Mayor Christian responded that the SWC should keep doing what they've been doing, and leverage expertise from Thompson Rivers University and the Kamloops Centre for Water Quality.

Next, Chair Demenok posed the question: Are there new opportunities for the SWC for the future?

Director Martin and Sharon Bennett suggested more outreach to youth and schoolchildren.

Natalya Melnychuk asked if the SWC wants to broaden their scope and go after 'low hanging fruit' such as education and septic systems; or, should it keep focused on the science of phosphorus, and the Salmon River and Shuswap River? Chair Demenok replied that it's really difficult to get public support for something intangible like phosphorus.

Dennis Einarson remarked that a goal for the SWC should be to strive toward better environmental health, using tools that help mitigate phosphorus but also have collateral benefits. He reiterated wetlands as a method to do this.

Mayor Christian cautioned against getting involved in land use decisions; that should remain the responsibility of local governments.

Next, Chair Demenok reviewed the objectives and strategies in the SWC's current five-year plan. A few SWC members offered comments, including the importance of continuing with the Safe Recreation program and partnership with Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue; educating residents and visitors about water quality and serving as a 'clearing house' for water quality data; and continuing to convene water quality monitors for information-sharing and planning, and avoiding duplication.

It was suggested that staff build a new five-year plan with an annual budget of approximately \$250,000.

Action item:

Staff will prepare an updated five-year plan for further discussion at the next regular Council meeting on March 11th.

**Roundtable discussion:
Work plan and budget
for 2020-2021**

Jeff Tarry entered the meeting at 3:20 pm

Mike Simpson introduced the Water Quality Grant Program, and explained that the grant program was developed with several considerations including the

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2	February 12 th 2020 workshop summary for approval	10:20

input of the Water Protection Advisory Committee over the past several meetings; the science from UBC-Okanagan; as well as staff's own experience with granting programs in the past.

Mike reviewed several aspects of the grant program, including the amount available in 2020/21, eligibility criteria, and evaluation criteria. He proposed an evaluation process consisting of initial staff review and screening; review by the Water Protection Advisory Committee to produce recommendations; and final decision by the SWC which would take place in June.

Erin explained the outreach methods for the new grant program will include media release, advertising, social media promotions, and reaching out directly to several potential partner organizations. Mike commented that he is scheduled to present at upcoming meetings of the Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association and the North Okanagan Livestock Association.

Councillor Lavery inquired if there ought to be a disclaimer in the grant program about the possibility that the SWC may not exist in 2021 as a result of voter assent process. Chair Demenok replied that FBC would still be holding residual funds at that time, and would be able to pay any contractual obligations.

Director Martin inquired about noting regulatory requirements, in the grant application, that proponents may need to undertake as part of their projects for which SWC provides funds. Mike Simpson suggested that the responsibility for permits be completely upon the proponent, and that the SWC not handle any regulatory aspects of water quality improvement projects.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Director Talbot that:

The Water Quality Grant Program be approved.

CARRIED

Action item:

Staff will launch the Water Quality Grant Program and promote it through the various media discussed.

Mayor Christian left the meeting at 3:30 pm

Jeff Tarry left the meeting at 3:35 pm

Erin Vieira inquired about the role for SWC staff in the CSRD's voter assent process.

Chair Demenok remarked that staff support on communications will be very important.

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Director Martin suggested that priorities for SWC staff should be to communicate costs and benefits of the programs, and to make information about the SWC easily accessible for residents. She suggested that staff support the directors in community meetings. CSRD's role in communications will be to advertise the voter assent process.

Mayor Crowe recommended that the SWC clearly communicate its role in zebra and quagga mussel prevention.

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Lavery/Mayor Crowe that:

Staff are directed to complete the work plan and budget for 2020-2021 for approval at the next regular SWC meeting on March 11th, with a sufficient budget for communications to support the voter assent process.

CARRIED

Action item:

Staff will complete a work plan and budget for 2020-2021 and bring it to the next SWC meeting on March 11th for approval.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.a.	Correspondence: Letter of support from MP Tracy Gray	10:30



Tracy Gray
Member of Parliament
Kelowna-Lake Country

Shadow Minister for
Interprovincial Trade

Constituency

1420 St. Paul Street
Suite 102
Kelowna, BC, V1Y 2E6
Tel: 250-470-5075
Fax: 250-470-5077

Ottawa

House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-992-7006
Fax: 613-992-7636



December 23, 2019

Paul Demenok
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council
c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A -1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7

Dear Mr. Demenok,

Thank you for copying me on the letter you sent to Hon. Bernadette Jordan, Ministry of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard on December 17th.

I appreciate the efforts of Shuswap Watershed Council and Okanagan Basin Water Board for your continued efforts to protect our watersheds from an invasive mussel infestation. In the first week we were sitting in the House of Commons, I already spoke about how important this issue is to me personally and our constituents. Here is an excerpt of my speech;

"Mr. Speaker, something that is important to my constituents in Kelowna-Lake Country, is to protect our watershed from invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels.

There is nothing in the Throne Speech about protecting water sources.

When these invasive mussels get into the lake, they change the ecology, basically taking over making beaches unwalkable with bare feet and attaching to any infrastructure in the water. Many people get their drinking water from our lakes.

A study showed it would cost 40 million dollars, per year in the Okanagan alone in economic losses and direct costs to manage if they get into our lakes.

I had the honour of Chairing the Okanagan Water Basin Board which is the organization spearheading this in British Columbia.

We met with the Fisheries and oceans Minister here in Ottawa to elevate the issue, when the invasive mussels presented themselves just south of the border in the United States and moved west into Manitoba. The allocation of resources was nominal and does nothing to protect the Okanagan Basin, or Western Canada from these invasive mussels."

Rest assured, I will continue to advocate for this important issue to the government.

In your service,

Tracy Gray
Member of Parliament
Kelowna – Lake Country

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.b.	Correspondence: Letter of support from Mayor Christine Fraser	10:30



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 6th, 2020

Sent by email to Bernadette.Jordan@parl.gc.ca

Hon. Bernadette Jordan
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister Jordan:

Re: Preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Mussels to British Columbia

At the Municipal Council meeting held on Monday, February 3rd, 2020, the following resolution was passed:

"....that the Township of Spallumcheen Council direct staff to send a letter of support to the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard with regards to Preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasive Mussels to British Columbia."

We attach a copy of the December 17th, 2019 letter from the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Shuswap Watershed Council and agree wholeheartedly with their concerns of an invasion of Zebra and Quagga mussels into our lakes. Any action that can be taken to avoid this situation would be most desirable.

Respectfully,

Christine Fraser
Mayor

/jh

Attach: Letter from Shuswap Watershed Council dated December 17th, 2019

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.c.	Correspondence: Update on the Feasibility Study for a Regional Training Centre for Safety and Marine Excellence from Bruce Weicker, Shuswap Lifeboat Society	10:30



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE**
Saving Lives on the Water

Shuswap Lifeboat Society
Operating RCMSAR Station 106 (Shuswap)
PO Box 661
Sicamous, BC V0E 2V0
www.rcmsar106.ca

2020-01-08

Paul Demenok, Chair,
Shuswap Watershed Council
c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A – 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, B.C.
V2C 6K7

Dear Paul,

Update re: Feasibility Study regarding a Regional Training Centre for Marine Safety and Excellence

The Shuswap Lifeboat Society (SLS) recently concluded the Feasibility Study we commenced to determine the viability of a regional training facility for vessel operation, boating safety, and water quality education.

Foremost, we wish to extend our appreciation to the Shuswap Watershed Council for the funding support, that was provided to our Society, which enabled us to proceed with this survey and subsequent analysis.

David Witt Educational & Administrative Consulting Services was commissioned to undertake this work and presented a concluding report to the SLS Board on November 06th, 2019, a copy of which is attached.

Our Board, after due consideration, endorsed a Synopsis Statement on December 04th, 2019, to establish a path forward for SLS and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Station 106 (Shuswap), a copy of which is attached, listing the five most significant findings of the analysis in a succinct fashion.

In short, *at this point in time*, there was insufficient requests or demand for such advanced training to justify a standalone regional facility; however, there were indications demand *may escalate in the future*.

The Shuswap Lifeboat Society Board resolved to include suitable training room space within the footprint of a boathouse, currently being designed for RCMSAR 106 (Shuswap) to protect our vessels and assets and will remain committed to boating safety and water quality awareness through our existing programs.

We will endeavour to work with existing training providers to bring such training into the Shuswap region.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. And again, thanks for your funding assistance.

Yours truly,

Bruce Weicker, President
Shuswap Lifeboat Society

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.c.	Correspondence: Update on the Feasibility Study for a Regional Training Centre for Safety and Marine Excellence from Bruce Weicker, Shuswap Lifeboat Society	10:30



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE
SEARCH & RESCUE**
www.rcmsar106.ca

Shuswap Lifeboat Society
Operating RCMSAR Station 106 (Shuswap)

Synopsis of the Feasibility Study pertaining to a

Regional Training Centre for Marine Safety and Excellence

The Shuswap Lifeboat Society conducted a Feasibility Study courtesy of funding jointly provided by the BC Rural Dividend Fund and Shuswap Watershed Council. The Directors have given this undertaking, completed by Dave Witt Education & Administrative Consulting Services, its due consideration, based on findings outlined within the Report submitted on November 6, 2019. Firstly, the Board recognizes the comprehensive and thorough report from Mr. Witt and wishes to congratulate him on his outstanding efforts and offers this synopsis.

The Board, has noted these specific observations in the report:

- While there is interest, the demand is low for training needs related to commercial enterprises and emergency services.
- The requirements for a certified Transport Canada Training Centre are stringent, though not insurmountable.
- Given the prospect that Transport Canada will reclassify RCMSAR vessels as Commercial Craft, adds to the need for more augmented training.
- Given current training requirements for other search and rescue groups are minimal and buoyed by survey respondents indicating a desire for higher levels of training and certification, the demand for advanced level training could increase in the future.
- Should demand for such training escalate in the future, a further assessment could be made at that time as to viability and the Society should consider a separate society for the governance of such training, so as not to conflict with the rescue boat mandate.

As an outcome, the Board recognizes there is not sufficient demand at this point in time, to sustain a discrete and accredited training facility, but will continue to promote the educational aspect of boating and water safety through its community awareness and school programs.

The Board does recommend proceeding with the inclusion of an indoor training classroom in the design of the boathouse for the following prioritized reasons:

- The provision of an accessible and convenient on water training space for RCMSAR Station #106 which will enhance the achievement of its mission and objectives;
- Support of a partnership with certified contractors to deliver marine training at the facility to meet the expressed demand from organizations deploying marine vessels.

The Board further supports the facility be available for general community use as need arises.

We are excited to include this classroom space as we move forward with facility design of a boathouse to provide protection and security for our rescue vessels and related equipment.

Synopsis Endorsed, by Resolution, on December 4th, 2019, by Shuswap Lifeboat Society Board

"SAVING LIVES ON THE WATER"

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 26 th 2020	10:40

Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group
February 26, 2020 | 10:00 AM – 2:45 PM
Salmon Arm City Hall
500 Second Ave NE, Salmon Arm, BC

Draft meeting summary as at March 2, 2020

This summary is subject to correction at the next Monitoring Group meeting

Attendance

Trever Andrew – Adams Lake Indian Band
Priscilla Chung – First Nations Health Authority
Sue Davies – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (to 2:15PM)
Connie Hewitt – Regional District of North Okanagan
Robyn Hooper – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
Rob Hutton – Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band
Robyn Laubman – Yucwmenlúcwu (Caretakers of the Land), Splatstin Development Corporation
Joe McCulloch – District of Sicamous (to 12:00PM)
Rob Niewenhuizen – City of Salmon Arm
Gerry Rasmussen – City of Salmon Arm
Diana Tesic-Nagalingam – Interior Health Authority
Ben van Nostrand – Columbia Shuswap Regional District

Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council (SWC program manager)

Summary of discussions and action items

Mike welcomed all present and acknowledged Secwepemc Territory, introductions took place.

The draft summary of the last meeting (November 13th 2019) was approved with two minor corrections to be made: add Lily's last name Kotzeva (p.1), and change portable to potable (p.2).

1. Shuswap Watershed Council Strategic Plan for 2021-26

The CSRD service (Electoral Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous) that funds over 50% of the SWC ends on December 31, 2020. A voter assent process will be undertaken in 2020 by CSRD. The draft goals, objectives and strategies generated by the council members on February 12 were reviewed on screen, and the following was captured as feedback to build in:

- Add source water protection to goal 1
- Expand watershed protection
- Add CSRD milfoil program as information about invasive species and safety
- Revise wording – Shuswap is not free of aquatic invasive species
- Indigenous knowledge
- Regarding turbidity, expand to include sediment transport, erosion control
- Septic system education

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 26 th 2020	10:40

2. 2020 Water Quality Monitoring Plans

The spreadsheet of water monitoring activities was reviewed on screen, and input captured. Several actions were noted for participants to follow up:

- Dennis E – will confirm if SWC funding needed for monitoring in 20/21
- Dennis E – will provide details for impact assessment parameters and frequency for Crystal Sands, Bell Pole (Gorman Bros), and Lumby sewage treatment plant
- Diana – will gather information to create a row for small water systems, just to have some information captured about how many small water systems exist
- Connie – will confirm whether tributary monitoring will proceed in 20/21 in RDNO
- Rob Hutton noted that LSLIB has applied for funding to undertake stewardship planning in Lee Creek and Scotch Creek; coordinate with them if working in that area
- CSISS – request for \$15 000 for zebra and quagga mussel sampling is included.

In terms of gaps or other water quality monitoring needs and the possibility of seeking SWC funds, the following were noted:

- Priscilla noted that FNHA wants to support ALIB monitoring at Indian Point, on Adams Lake opposite the Interfor sawmill, and they need equipment and training support. Rather than request SWC funds, Dennis will follow up with Priscilla and Trever for support.
- Asian clams – Robyn H and Sue advised those present that dead Asian clams were found in Shuswap Lake last fall. They, and Erin Vieira, are working closely with Martina Beck of MOECCS about their plans to monitor for Asian clams. It was agreed to not add this in as a funding request for monitoring for now, until MOECCS confirms their approach.

3. Nutrient Research Summary and Water Quality Grant Program

Mike provided copies of the recently released report *Understanding Nutrients and Water Quality in the Shuswap River and Salmon River* and reviewed the key messages on screen. The grant program has up to \$100 000 in total available to landowners and agriculturalists to undertake nutrient management projects in the lower Shuswap and Salmon River valleys.

The grant application process is open until April 30, 2020. The report and the water quality grant program information is available at www.shuswapwater.ca

4. 2019 Water Quality Summary Report

The following were suggested as ideas for the 2019 Water Quality Summary Report:

- Trever noted that permission is granted to share ALIB beach data and he will work with Erin on what happened, the changes in management and funds for new infrastructure at Sandy Point (2020) and Pierre's Point (2021)
- Asian clams – some basic educational information
- Attainment monitoring on Salmon River (DE won't start compiling data until April)
- Milfoil control program by CSRD, as an education piece and for recreation safety
- Salmon Arm – educate people about waste water treatment plant location change (not an engagement piece, just to provide info as the engagement will be complete by summer)
- Mara Lake core sample results
- A success story from a restoration project – since SWC didn't fund a project in 2019, it was suggested to lean on Robyn L for a Shuswap watershed project

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 26 th 2020	10:40

- Something with Dave Ramsay (SD83 teacher) and students
- Return of otters to the area
- Water temperature data and its relevance
- Note that the 2019 will have 10 months of data (salmon return year), not just spring and fall for deep stations

5. SWC Contingency Fund

The purpose and use of the contingency fund was reviewed verbally. It was noted that in retrospect that it could have possibly been utilized for sampling at Sandy Point and Pierre's Point in 2019.

6. Sewilkwe Water Quality App

Trever demonstrated on screen and on his phone an app and online program that he developed for water utility operators. Priscilla noted that it's very valuable for summarizing data for FNHA.

7. Roundtable Updates

The following were noted as updates:

- Robyn Laubman – Splatsin is in the early stages of a watershed health assessment for Hullcar, including indicators and values. This is taking on an ELOHA approach (Ecological Limits of Hydrological Alteration), and engaging a practitioner from Eastern Canada.
- Rob Hutton – Little Shuswap Lake Indian Band is developing a water stewardship plan for Lee and Scotch Creeks to create resiliency over time
- Robyn Hooper, Sue Davies – CSISS is hosting a land manager meeting the afternoon of March 4 in Revelstoke. Sue noted that outreach continues with the Clean, Drain Dry approach, contact her if any educational resources are required.
- Rob Niewenhuizen – City of Salmon Arm is seeking input on site selection for relocation of the wastewater treatment plant.
- Ben van Nostrand – CSRD are developing plans to review their four liquid waste management plans
- Diana Tesic-Nagalingam – IHA is working with water suppliers on source water protection plans.
- Priscilla Chung – FNHA will continue to support beach sampling, and will be hiring students to support communities this summer.
- Trever Andrew – Adams Lake Indian Band will be managing Pierre's Point and Sandy Point campgrounds going forward, and funds have been secured to upgrade infrastructure.
- Mike Simpson – FBC is coordinating flood mapping throughout the Thompson River Watershed, and part of that was to acquire detailed topographical data using LiDAR technology in 5000km² of valley bottoms in the watershed. The LiDAR data will be made available to all orders of governments. See www.thompsonflood.ca

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place in November 2020, Erin will seek a date a few weeks in advance. The tentative agenda will include: 2020 watershed water quality monitoring results; review of the 2019 Water Quality Summary report. The meeting will likely be held in Kamloops.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5	Report from Program Managers	11:00

Program Managers' Report

Financial summary to the end of the third quarter (April 1st – December 31st 2019)

INCOME (same as previously reported)

Source	Amount received (\$)
Surplus SWC funds (from March 31 st 2019)	186,896
TNRD	53,600
CSRD (C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	160,000
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1,300
Grant funding: <i>Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program</i>	19,538
Total	461,334

EXPENSES

Activity (per 2019-20 work plan)	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$) Apr 1 st – Dec 31 st
Water Quality Program: Water Monitoring Initiative	51,150	18,029
Water Quality Program: Water Protection Initiative	79,500	25,802
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	30,825	26,881
Safe Recreation Program	26,050	21,424
Communications	42,200	26,252
Administration	43,150	23,188
Sub-total (Operating Expenses)	272,875	141,576
Operating Reserve	188,459	0
Total for 2019-20	461,334	141,576

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.a.	New business: Workplan and budget for 2020-21	11:15

Proposed work plan and budget for April 1st 2020 – March 31st 2021

Revenue	\$
<i>2019-20 surplus (carry forward from March 31st 2020)</i>	
Projected operational surplus	40,000
Operating Reserve (including \$20K Contingency Fund)	188,459
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous	160,000
(deduct cost of CSRD voter assent process)	-25,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>External grant applications:</i>	
Boating Safety Contribution Program (not confirmed)	20,550
Total Revenue	478,909

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.a.	New business: Workplan and budget for 2020-21	11:15

Work plan and expenses		\$
Water Quality Program		
	Water Monitoring Initiative	
	Facilitate the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	7850
	Implement the watershed water quality monitoring plan	27,350
	<i>Sub-total Water Monitoring Initiative</i>	35,200
	Water Protection Initiative	
	Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee	7600
	Water quality improvement projects	106,000
	<i>Sub-total Water Protection Initiative</i>	113,600
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program		
	Education, outreach and advocacy	35,400
Recreation Safety Program		
	Safety campaigns	24,000
	Safety equipment	3400
	<i>Sub-total Recreation Safety Program</i>	27,400
Communications		
	Collateral	10,200
	Public engagement	21,300
	Annual water quality summary	17,200
	<i>Sub-total Communications</i>	48,700
Administration		
	Council administration	27,350
	Financial management and fund development	15,800
	<i>Sub-total Administration</i>	43,150
Sub-total operational expenses		303,450
Operating Reserve (includes \$20K Contingency Fund)		175,459
Total Expenses		478,909

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.b.	New business: Memo from Water Monitoring Group	11:15

MEMORANDUM

To: Shuswap Watershed Council

From: Erin Vieira, SWC Program Manager, on behalf of the Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group

Date: for March 11th 2020 SWC meeting

RE: Request for funding to support water quality monitoring in 2020

Background

The Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group consists of representatives from various organizations that monitor water quality in the Shuswap watershed. The primary roles of the Monitoring Group are to discuss and share information about their respective water quality monitoring activities, and consider the coverage of monitoring activities at the watershed scale.

Request for funding

The Monitoring Group met on February 26th 2020 and shared their organizations' water quality monitoring plans for 2020. Two requests for funding from the SWC to support water quality monitoring were brought forward:

1. \$9200 for laboratory analysis of samples collected on Shuswap and Mara Lakes

The BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (MOE) routinely monitors water quality at up to 10 long-term stations on Shuswap, Mara and Mabel Lakes on a bi-annual basis. At the time of the Monitoring Group meeting in late February, MOE had not confirmed a full budget to complete this monitoring program in the Shuswap. Therefore, it was requested that the SWC provide up to \$9200 to pay for laboratory analysis of water quality samples collected from these stations.

2. \$15,000 for Zebra and Quagga Mussel early detection monitoring in the Shuswap watershed

This work would be carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). Funding from the SWC will leverage other grants and in-kind contributions from CSISS, and enable CSISS to conduct more thorough early detection monitoring for invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels and Asian Clams at 14 sites on seven lakes within the Shuswap watershed. The contribution from SWC would cover CSISS expenses including staff time, equipment and supplies, travel, and administration.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7	New business: Strategic plan and budget for 2021-26	12:45

Draft Strategic Plan and budget for 2021-26

Who We are

About the Shuswap Watershed Council

The SWC was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap. There are 18 members that represent three regional districts, two municipalities, the Secwepemc Nation, two provincial government agencies, and Shuswap communities. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group. It works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complementing their work and carefully avoiding duplication.

Our Vision

Enhanced water quality that supports human and ecosystem health and the local economy in the Shuswap watershed.

Staff

The Fraser Basin Council, a provincial non-government organization, provides contract staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council.

What We Do

Our Objectives

The SWC's objectives are to maintain and enhance water quality in the Shuswap watershed through collaboration with water quality monitors; to coordinate and report on water quality in the Shuswap; to inform residents and visitors about water quality in the Shuswap, and advocate for good practices to prevent water quality degradation, and to encourage safe behaviour by recreationists on and near the water.

The Work

The SWC's work on water quality and safe water-based recreation is guided by its five-year plan for 2016-2021. A new five-year strategic plan is currently being developed for 2021-2026.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7	New business: Strategic plan and budget for 2021-26	12:45

Draft Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2026

Goal 1 – Water quality is maintained and improved in the Shuswap for the benefits of a healthy ecosystem, a thriving tourism economy and a desirable lifestyle for residents.

Obj. 1.1 – Ensure water quality is monitored at various locations and times of the year across the watershed

Strategies

- Convene water quality monitors on a regular basis for planning and dialogue
- Coordinate water quality monitors' activities
- Collate water quality data
- Provide financial support and coordination for additional water quality monitoring, as necessary or desired

Obj. 1.2 – Protect water quality through on-the-ground projects and action

Strategies

- Fund water quality improvement projects focused on nutrient management
- Develop a phosphorus action plan
- Encourage other actions to protect water quality, such as septic system maintenance, storm water management, source water protection plans

Obj. 1.3 – Support in principle the protection and restoration of wetlands

Obj. 1.4 – Consider climate change impacts on water quality from flooding, drought and other climate factors

Strategies

- Assess risks and what other governments and organizations are doing for drinking water source protection, sediment transport, erosion control, algae, bacteria and other factors

Obj. 1.5 – The Shuswap remains free of invasive zebra and quagga mussels

Strategies

- Promote Clean-Drain-Dry practices and watercraft inspection
- Provide support for early detection monitoring
- Advocate for resources and action from provincial and federal governments

Goal 2 – SWC is the trusted, go-to source for water quality information in the Shuswap

Obj. 2.1 – Communicate with people in the Shuswap about water quality and watersheds

Strategies

- Make water quality information available through various media such as websites, print, and social media

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7	New business: Strategic plan and budget for 2021-26	12:45

Obj 2.2 – Report publically on water quality

Strategies

- Prepare annual water quality summary reports
- Prepare special articles on water quality issues or projects

Obj 2.3 – Enable public access to water quality data.

Strategies

- Promote existing provincial and regional databases

Goal 3 – People in the Shuswap practice safe water-based recreation

Obj 3.1 – Residents and visitors are informed about safety risks

Strategies

- Communicate about safety hazards and best practices through various media

Obj 3.2 – Essential safety equipment is readily available to recreationists

Strategies

- Partner with RCM-SAR to equip and promote children’s lifejacket loaner kiosks

Goal 4 – The SWC is a well-governed, transparent, collaborative organization

Obj 4.1 – Abide by a governing terms of reference and statement of principles

Strategies

- Have an inclusive council membership
- Be transparent about SWC operations, decisions and expenditures
- Facilitate two supporting technical committees

Obj 4.2 – Complement government agencies and regulators, and avoid duplication

Strategies

- Communicate with other government agencies and organizations when new initiatives are considered

Obj 4.3 – Collaborate with other organizations with similar goals, interests and operations pertaining to water governance, water quality and water safety

Strategies

- Maintain regular two-way communications with watershed organizations, academia, industry and governments
- Incorporate Indigenous knowledge into SWC programs

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7	New business: Strategic plan and budget for 2021-26	12:45

- Encourage, and support in principle, research on local crop production and nutrient usage with BC Ministry of Agriculture, Kamloops Okanagan Dairy Association and others
- Liaise with BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development about upper watershed sediment transport, erosion control issues and concerns

Obj 4.4 – Advocate to federal and provincial agencies

Strategies

- Elevate concerns and requests for resources and action to senior orders of government on pertinent issues
- Receive presentations and updates from federal or provincial government representatives

Obj 4.5 – Partner with funders and leverage funds

Strategies

- Leverage SWC funds to the greatest extent possible
- Partner with organizations with similar goals and objectives

Proposed Programs (work plan) and Budget for 2021-2026

Program	Key actions	Annual budget
Water Monitoring	Convene the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group 2x/year for dialogue and planning	\$10,000
	Implement watershed monitoring plan (SWC funds pay for special projects over and above those carried out by regulators and others)	\$20,000
Water Protection	Convene the Water Protection Advisory Committee 2x/year for dialogue, proposal review	\$7000
	Water Quality Grant Program (Receive, approve applications on an annual basis)	\$60,000
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention	Education and outreach campaigns	\$35,000
Safe Recreation	Education and outreach campaigns	\$25,000
	Safety equipment	\$5000
Communications and Advocacy	Communications collateral (e.g., Annual Reports, other documents for print and online)	\$6000
	Public engagement (website, social media, media releases, presentations)	\$20,000
	Annual Water Quality Report	\$18,000
	Correspondence with other organizations, regulators, and orders of government on key issues of concern	\$8000
Administration	SWC meetings (4x/year), correspondence, budgeting and work planning	\$30,000
	Financial management and fund development	\$16,000
Totals		\$260,000

