

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

Record of Decisions and Action Items
Approved March 11th 2020

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

Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Chair Paul Demenok
Welcoming comments	<p>A round of introductions took place around the room.</p> <p>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.</p>
Adoption of agenda and meeting summary	<p>Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Councillor Lavery that:</p> <p>The agenda be adopted.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>Moved/seconded by Lorne Hunter/Director Simpson that:</p> <p>The summary of the September 11th 2019 meeting of the SWC be adopted.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
Old business	<p>Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Mayor Crowe that:</p> <p>The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meeting held on November 13th 2019 be received for information.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>CARRIED</p>
Report from Chair	No report
New business	<p>Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Mayor Crowe that:</p> <p>The proposed Shuswap Watershed Council meeting scheduled be approved with one revision. The 2020 meeting schedule will be as follows:</p> <p>March 11th June 17th September 9th December 9th</p> <p>CARRIED</p>

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
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 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 its 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

Presentation from Sharon Bennett re: MOE

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

public outreach

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.

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 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 interested expressed by Council members regarding recreation management or regulations, other than providing education material.

Vice Chair Simpson will connect further with staff on this.

**Roundtable
updates**

None were provided

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair