

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

Record of Decisions and Action Items  
Approved March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

**Meeting objectives**

1. To review main accomplishments, achievements since 2016
2. 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
3. To provide input and approve the Water Quality Grant Program, as part of the work plan and budget for 2020-2021
4. 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

**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.

**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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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

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 30<sup>th</sup> 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

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.

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 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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

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.

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 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> for approval.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair