

Update from Program Managers

The SWC received an update from program managers, which included a financial report stating that at the end of the second quarter \$102,065 has been spent against the \$216,300 annual budget.

Communications in 2017

Communications priorities in 2017 will be to continue reporting on the SWC's activities, decisions and achievements, and to maintain its online presence through its website and social media, and to educate residents and visitors to the Shuswap about water quality and safe recreation. The SWC's first water quality report will be released in May 2017. The SWC agreed that annual reports in-person (delegations) to the various partner organizations would be a worthwhile activity.

Guest presentations: invasive mussels

The SWC received a presentation from Martina Beck, Invasive Mussel Program Coordinator for the BC Ministry of Environment. Ms. Beck gave an overview of aquatic invasive mussels – i.e., zebra and quagga mussels. While not present in BC waters, they pose a huge threat to freshwater ecosystems and infrastructure because of their ability to reproduce prolifically, attach to all surfaces in water (pipes, propellers, ropes, wharfs, pilings, etc.), survive transportation for up to 30 days. Aquatic invasive mussels cause enormous ecological impacts by disrupting water quality, plankton communities, and fish communities. It's estimated that their economic impact in BC would be well over \$42M annually. The provincial Invasive Mussel Prevention Program does roadside watercraft inspections in partnership with other authorities at key entry points into BC; does education and outreach to the boating community; and does early detection monitoring for invasive mussels in BC lakes.

Robyn Hooper, Executive Director of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society also gave a presentation. Ms. Hooper explained the education and outreach done by CSISS, using the same messaging of "Clean Drain Dry" used by the BC MOE and various other organizations. CSISS also participates in early detection monitoring, in collaboration with BC MOE.

The SWC will prepare a letter of support for the province's Invasive Mussel Prevention Program.

Meeting schedule for 2017

The SWC set its meeting schedule for 2017: it will meet the second Wednesday of March, May, September, and December.

The next meeting of the SWC will be March 8th at the CSRD.

SWC Members:

Paul Demenok – Chair
CSRD Area 'C'

Larry Morgan – Vice Chair
CSRD Area 'F'

Rene Talbot
CSRD Area 'D'

Rhona Martin
CSRD Area 'E'

Nancy Cooper
City of Salmon Arm

Peter Milobar
TNRD, City of Kamloops

Rick Berrigan
TNRD, Village of Chase

Todd Kylo
CSRD, District of Sicamous

Greg Witzky
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Dave Nordquist
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Herman Halvorson
RDNO, Area 'F'

Tundra Baird
RDNO, City of Enderby

Dennis Einarson
BC Ministry of Environment

Laura Code
BC Ministry of Agriculture

Lorne Hunter
Community representative

Ray Nadeau
Community representative

Randy Wood
Community representative