

Council Meeting
December 9th 2020 | 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Virtual meeting via 'Zoom'

Record of decisions and action items
Approved March 10th 2021

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Receive updates on invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels and invasive freshwater clams
3. Review and discuss updates to Terms of Reference
4. Discuss priorities for 2021 from new Strategic Plan for 2021-26
5. Approve Water Quality Grant Program budget for 2021

Present (all participants via 'Zoom')

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
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Steven Teed - Adams Lake Indian Band, Secwepemc Nation
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Dennis Einarson - BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Lindsay Benbow - BC Ministry of Agriculture
Lorne Hunter - Community representative (*from 10:05 AM*)
Natalya Melnychuk - Community representative
Sharon Bennett - Community representative (*from 10:25 AM*)

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Guests and Observers

Robyn Hooper	Clyde Mitchell	Mel Arnold, MP
Sue Davies	Kym Keogh	Theresa Durning
Martina Beck	Hamish Kassa	Bob Misseghers
Aaron Canuel	John Irvine	Lisa Scott
Louise Wallace Richmond	Barbra Fairclough	Sierra Collins
	Paul Bennett	

Regrets

Collen Anderson
Dave Nordquist
Rick Fairbairn
Randy Wood

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Paul Demenok.

The agenda was approved.

Adoption of meeting summary The draft summary of the September 9th 2020 meeting of the SWC was approved.

Correspondence None

Old business The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, held November 26th 2020, was received for information.

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

The recommendations from the Water Protection Advisory Committee regarding the 2021 Water Quality Grant Program, as laid out in the November 26th meeting summary including the proposed budget for grant program in 2021, be accepted.

[Financial vote]
CARRIED

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

The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group meeting, held December 1st 2020, be received for information.

CARRIED

Report from Chair Chair Demenok reported that the SWC is doing community engagement and outreach this Fall through a series of community group meetings. He has participated in many of these meetings to date and has heard good questions and feedback from community groups.

The Chair also reported that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District sent a letter to Minister Heyman in September to express concern about the 2020 algal bloom, and ask for support from the BC Ministry of Environment for some of the SWC's initiatives to protect water quality, including a water quality grant program and the development of a comprehensive phosphorus management plan for the watershed. The CSRD has not yet received a response from the Minister.

The Chair reported that he would like to provide an update on the SWC to the Thompson-Nicola Board of Directors, however the TNRD board meetings are scheduled at the same time as CSRD board meetings.

Action item: staff will contact TNRD staff to request a delegation to the TNRD board in 2021.

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

- An update on the status of each of the five water quality grant recipients' projects was reviewed. Three are complete, one is underway, and one is not yet started.
- Staff worked with Salmon Arm-based videographer, Single Shot Productions, to produce a 5-minute video describing the purpose of the SWC's Water Quality Grant Program, and introducing the 2020 grant recipients and their work on nutrient management and water quality protection. The video was debuted at the Council meeting, and will be promoted in the very near future.
- Staff reviewed the highlights of the recent Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting and the Water Monitoring Group meeting
- Staff briefly summarized the reach of the SWC's Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention campaigns. The campaign had a reach of up to 2.5 million impressions through social media, news, signage, and in travel literature.
- Staff reported that education and outreach for safe recreation completed around Thanksgiving. This fall, the SWC provided funding to equip a 'Kids Don't Float' lifejacket kiosk at the new CSRD boat launch at Bristow Road in the North Shuswap. The kiosks are an initiative of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue; the SWC has been supporting this work since 2017. There are now 15 kids' lifejacket kiosks in the Shuswap.
- Staff have given seven virtual presentations to Shuswap-area community groups, with a few more scheduled later this winter
- A Contribution Agreement with the four SWC funders is in place for 2021-2023
- Staff are preparing an application for funding to the federal Habitat Stewardship Program. If successful, funding will go toward some new initiatives outlined in the SWC Strategic Plan such as the development of a wetland strategy and a phosphorus management plan.
- A financial report to the end of the second quarter (April 1st - September 30th 2020) was provided:

Revenue for 2020-21	(\$)
Surplus (from March 31 st , 2020)	241,995
CSRD (C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Grant funding: Transport Canada <i>Boating Safety Contribution Program</i>	20,550
Total revenue	517,445

Expenses for 2020-21 (April 1 st - September 30 th 2020)	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	35,200	13,698
Water Quality Protection	113,600	51,515
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,400	23,474
Safe Recreation	27,400	18,484
Communications & Advocacy	68,700	35,653
Management & Administration	43,150	20,538
Sub-total Operational Program Expenses	323,450	163,361
Operating Reserve	193,995	0
Total expenses	517,445	163,361

Discussion:

Director Martin inquired if the water quality grant program is made available to agriculture sectors other than dairy. Staff replied that it is, and the opportunity for grant funding this year was advertised broadly.

Natalya Melnychuk suggested several other agriculture groups for staff to notify of the funding opportunity in 2021.

Chair Demenok relayed that he has heard concern over the possibility of SWC water quality grant funds being spent in the RDNO area of the watershed. Director Martin and Vice Lavery expressed their viewpoint that as long as spending is within the Shuswap watershed, they are not concerned. Director Delisle expressed a desire to support the SWC from Area F of the RDNO.

Chair Demenok asked all present what they think about the SWC potentially taking a lead role in public communications in a future algal bloom event. Director Martin remarked that the SWC should be a partner in communicating about algal blooms, but not the lead agency. Mayor Christian commented that there is some liability associated with communicating health risks in an algal bloom, and he does not think the SWC should take the lead on this. Director Simpson agreed with Director Martin's and Mayor Christian's comments.

Report from contractor: 2020 Communications Strategy and Social Media Campaign

Louise Wallace Richmond provided an overview of the 14-week social media campaign she conducted to increase Shuswap-area residents' understanding and appreciation of the watershed, and of the Shuswap Watershed Council's work. She reported that during the campaign period, the following increased on all platforms, by as much as 37% (Facebook). She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to do this work with the SWC.

Guest presentation: Columbia Shuswap

Sue Davies reported on behalf of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS) that funding from the SWC enabled CSISS to monitor for Zebra and Quagga mussels (ZQM); conduct outreach to prevent the spread of ZQM, and

Invasive Species Society

conduct surveys to assess the extent of invasive freshwater clams in Shuswap Lake.

In total, seven water bodies and 13 sites within the watershed were monitored for ZQM throughout spring/summer/early fall, and no ZQM were detected in any samples. Ms. Davies also reported that invasive freshwater clams were found at Sunnybrae, Sandy Point, and Canoe via surveys done this Fall when the lake water levels were low. She mentioned that CSISS is planning to hold a follow-up meeting about clams in January.

Guest presentation: BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and BC Conservation Officer Service

Martina Beck, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, provided an overview of the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program. The program consists of three initiatives:

- Watercraft inspection, which has been done since 2015
- Early detection monitoring on several BC lakes has been done since 2011. This year, 89 lakes were monitored and zero ZQM were detected. She also mentioned that water samples are screened for other aquatic invasive species, such as invasive freshwater clams.
- Education and outreach, which is done through various partnerships

Aaron Canuel, BC Conservation Officer Service, provided more information on this season's watercraft inspection program. He reported that the program had nine stations set up around the province, two of which were roving stations. They operated from May 15 - October 25th; either dawn to dusk, or for 10-hour days. The statistics from the program are as follows:

- 29,900 watercraft inspection
- 55,900 people interacted with
- 160 high-risk watercraft
- 16 mussel-fouled watercraft

The number of watercraft inspected was much lower than in previous years, likely due to fewer travelers due to Covid-19.

Ms. Beck also provided a species overview of invasive freshwater clams, also known as Asian Clam. They are a species of concern due to the potential for them to clog pipes and infrastructure, and outcompete native species. She also commented that clams aren't known to be transported attached to watercraft in the same way that Zebra and Quagga Mussels are. How well they will thrive in the Shuswap depends on habitat suitability; this is not yet well understood. She reported that next steps for the Province regarding the clams is to continue extent surveys in 2021, as well as assess potential control methods. She remarked that there is no known chemical treatment for Asian Clams.

New business: SWC Terms of Reference

This item was deferred to the March 2021 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting.

Erin Vieira recommended that SWC members consider the Council membership (Section 4 of the Terms of Reference) and decision-making (Section 5) in preparation for the next Council meeting.

**New business:
Strategic Plan
2021-26
prioritization
exercise**

Chair Demenok introduced this item by explaining that staff are seeking direction from SWC members as to which new items within the 2021-26 Strategic Plan to focus on in the 2021-22 work plan and budget.

The Chair commented that he suggests new priorities for 2021 include:

- Beginning to develop a wetland strategy for the Shuswap, by conducting a review of other organizations' wetland strategies (such as the Okanagan Basin Water Board) and identifying potential partners to create and support the strategy
- Including a survey of public opinion about the SWC in the Communications Plan for 2021

**New business:
Water Quality
Grant Program
budget for 2021-22**

This item was approved in Old Business.

**New business: SWC
meeting schedule
for 2021**

The SWC's meeting schedule in 2021 will be as follows:

March 10th

June 9th

September 8th

December 8th

Meeting times will be approximately 10 AM - 2:30 PM, dependent on the agenda and amount of material.

Action item:

Staff will send calendar invites to SWC members.

**Roundtable
updates**

None

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Talbot that:

The December 9th 2020 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair