

**Council Meeting**  
**September 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 | 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**

VIRTUAL MEETING via 'Zoom'

Draft record of decisions and action items

This record is subject to correction at the next council meeting

**Meeting objectives**

1. Discuss 2021-22 budget and requisitions
2. Receive update from program managers
3. Discuss algae bloom, opportunity for improving communications, and next steps for SWC

**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 (*from 10:10 am*)  
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F  
Colleen Anderson - District of Sicamous  
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops (*from 11 am*)  
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase  
Dave Nordquist - Adams Lake Indian Band, Secwepemc Nation (*from 10:05 am*)  
Rick Fairbairn - Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D  
Herman Halvorson (Alternate Director for D. 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  
Natalya Melnychuk - Community representative  
Sharon Bennett - Community representative  
Randy Wood - Community representative

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – staff, Fraser Basin Council

**Guests and Observers**

Christina Yamada	Barbra Fairclough, South Shuswap Scoop newspaper
Kym Keogh	Clyde Mitchell, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association
Lucie Thomson	Paul Bennett, Shuswap Waterfront Owners, Association
	Hamish Kassa, staff, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
	Diana Tesic-Nagalingam, staff, Interior Health Authority

**Regrets**

Steven Teed

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Demenok introduced Lindsay Benbow as the new SWC representative from the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Ms. Benbow explained that she is based in Vernon and works in the North Okanagan/Shuswap region. Her role is to support agriculture in the region and do extension.

**Adoption of meeting summary**

**Moved/seconded** by Vice Chair Lavery/Director Talbot that:

The summary of the June 17<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting of the SWC be adopted.

**CARRIED**

**Correspondence**

**Moved/seconded** by Vice Chair Lavery/Director Simpson that:

The correspondence be received for information.

Discussion:

Natalya Melnychuk inquired about a communications strategy to support a voter assent process in the future. The Chair suggested it be added to the agenda as a discussion point.

**CARRIED**

**Old business**

The Chair has directed staff to prepare a new Contribution Agreement for the funders, effective April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021, reflecting the reduced requisition amounts for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Action item

Staff will prepare and share a new Contribution Agreement for the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 - March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024 for the four SWC funding partners by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

**Report from Chair**

Chair Demenok reported that he, along with Vice Chair Lavery and Director Simpson and SWC staff Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson had a meeting with three representatives of the Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association in August. Important issues were brought forward for discussion.

The Chair also reported that he and the Vice Chair approved an increased grant amount to one water quality grant recipient. Mike Simpson explained that an additional \$5,000 was granted to Hillside Dreams Goat Dairy following a staff site to the farm to see and learn about the proponents' projects. The increase was in line with their original grant application.

The Chair also reported that he has presented to the CSRD and RDNO Boards on the SWC annual report and five-year report. He intends to share the same information with the TNRD Board.

The Chair also reported that he has been communicating with RDNO about a financial contribution to the SWC. The results of the recently completed nutrient research project by UBC-Okanagan, which show that a significant quantity of nutrient-loading, is coming from lands within the North Okanagan. The Chair suggested this is a compelling reason for RDNO to support the SWC's work.

**Report from  
Program Managers:**

Erin Vieira gave an overview of program operations since the last Council meeting in June:

- Staff did site visits to the water quality grant recipients, to see and learn about the work that will be done on-farm with SWC grant funding. Contribution agreements have been set up with each proponent.
- Invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussel prevention measures have been promoted throughout the Shuswap all summer, with a focus on watercraft inspection and clean-drain-dry. The interim results of the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program by the BC Ministry of Environment was also presented for information.
- Safe boating campaigns have been delivered throughout the Shuswap all summer, via newspapers, radio, and social media. Federal grant funding for this program enabled this outreach to have more impact than in previous years.
- A social media strategy for 2020 is underway and will wrap up in late October. The purpose of the new social media content is to increase the awareness, following, and understanding of the SWC and of the Shuswap watershed.
- Staff completed the fourth annual Shuswap Water Quality Summary Report in July and distributed print copies to several locations in August
- A summary of the algal bloom in Salmon Arm Bay and Tappen Bay was provided, including several photos and satellite images from mid-June when the bloom was first observed to early September when the bloom started to dissipate. Erin provided a review of all the SWC's communications and outreach about the bloom, including social media updates and media releases.

Erin presented a financial update, to the end of the first quarter (April 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020)

<b>Revenue for 2020-21</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
Surplus (from March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 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
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>517,445</b>

<b>Expenses to-date</b> (April 1 <sup>st</sup> - June 30 <sup>th</sup> 2020)	<b>Budget (\$)</b>	<b>Expenses (\$)</b>
Water Quality Monitoring	35,200	1120
Water Quality Protection	113,600	9662
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,400	21,736
Safe Recreation	27,400	7142
Communications & Advocacy	68,700	23,318
Management & Administration	43,150	12,045
<b>Sub-total Operational Program Expenses</b>	<b>323,450</b>	<b>75,033</b>
Operating Reserve	193,995	0
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>517,445</b>	<b>75,033</b>

**Guest presentations and Roundtable discussion on Shuswap Lake algae bloom**

Christina Yamada, Manager of Environmental Assessments, Interior Health Authority, briefly reviewed the [BC Ministry of Health decision protocol for cyanobacteria bloom response](#). The protocol includes decision trees for recreational-use water and for drinking water. It reflects maximum acceptable concentrations of microcystin (toxin that can be associated with blue-green algae blooms), as set by Health Canada. She reviewed the public notification responsibilities by local government, regional health authorities, and drinking water providers. Ms. Yamada explained that Interior Health messaging about algae blooms relies on sharing/promoting HealthLink files, including one specific to cyanobacteria. She stated that Interior Health is considering a seasonal algae Public Service Announcement for Shuswap Lake.

Lucie Thomson, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy explained that her division within MOE is responsible for monitoring Shuswap Lake at two long-term monitoring stations, twice per year. She mentioned that spring sampling didn't happen this year due to Covid-19.

Kym Keogh, Environmental Impact Assessment Biologist, BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, explained that her division is responsible for compliance and enforcement of the Environmental Management Act. She stated that the BC Ministry of Environment focusses their compliance efforts on permitted polluters such as wastewater treatment plants and mining operations. The Ministry is also responsible for implementing the provincial Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice through scheduled on-farm inspections and by responding to complaints.

Ms. Yamada further explained the algae bloom this year as being unprecedented in timing and duration. She explained that observations, collection of samples, and analysis of samples has been a collaborative effort by the City of Salmon Arm, CSRD, and Interior Health. She stated that Interior Health released a Public Service Announcement in August, and reflected that it should have happened sooner.

Ms. Yamada remarked on the importance of cyanobacteria preparation planning. She suggested that planning for roles in response and communications should be discussed.

#### Roundtable discussion

Hamish Kassa remarked that regular communications about the state of algae blooms in the Shuswap watershed is desirable; communications should give residents and visitors the confidence they need in and near the water.

Chair Demenok brought up the new provincial *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice*, the enforcement of which is the responsibility of MOE, as being a key part of source water protection. He also stated two strategies that the SWC would like to implement in the future, including a phosphorus mitigation plan and a wetland restoration strategy. He inquired as to whether the Province of BC would be able to assist with these items.

Chair Demenok summarized three opportunities for better collaboration: what do in the event of an extended bloom; what to do in the event of a toxic bloom; and what to do to prevent an extended algae bloom from re-occurring.

Director Martin remarked on the need for funding to take action. She suggested that a role for the SWC is to communicate findings and raise awareness, but the provincial and federal governments have the role of management and enforcement.

Mike Simpson summarized possible next steps for the SWC: develop a more robust communications strategy with other agencies through the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group and Water Protection Advisory Committee; continue with education and awareness through the SWC; and seek grant funding to support better nutrient management.

**Roundtable updates** Sharon Bennett asked if any SWC members would be willing to test a new website the BC MOE is developing. If anyone would like to volunteer to do so, they should get in touch with her.

**Adjourn** The September 9<sup>th</sup> 2020 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council adjourned at 12:35 PM.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Chair