

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday September 10th 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:15 PM
Chase Community Hall
547 Shuswap Avenue, Chase BC

Option to join meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81117134506?pwd=e4dDHhQkTh7zYuSOlaQ2IHCB19eKbo.1>

Meeting ID: 875 2149 2044 • Passcode: 245175

Contents

1. Meeting summary: June 4 th 2025 Shuswap Watershed Council draft meeting summary for approval	p. 2
2. Correspondence:	
i. Shuswap Watershed Council submission to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (BC Budget Consultation). Submitted on June 18 th via online portal.	p. 11
ii. Letter from SWC Chair Rhona Martin and SWC member Tk'wemi'ple7 (Councillor) Cliff Arnouse to Ministers Tamara Davidson and Ravi Parmar regarding the need for accelerated re-forestation in wildfire-impacted areas of the Shuswap watershed. Letter sent on July 22 nd , 2025.	p. 12
3. Old business:	
Results of June 5 th 2025 email vote re: SWC budget and work plan for 2025-26	p. 15
4. Report from Program Managers	
i. Financial report for Q1, April 1 st – June 30 th 2025	p. 16
ii. Program operations update	p. 18
iii. Updated work plan and budget for 2025-26 – <i>one new line item for approval</i>	p. 19
5. New business: Strategic Plan review and brainstorming	p. 21

Council Meeting
June 4th 2025 • 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM
City Hall – Room 100
500 2nd Avenue NE, Salmon Arm BC

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items as at June 5th, 2025

Present

Rhona Martin, Chair – Community representative
Stephen Karpuk, Vice Chair – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Cliff Arnouse – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Diane Sutherland – BC Ministry of Environment & Parks (*by Zoom*)
Emma Holmes – BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Erik Kok – Community representative
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Phil Owen – Agriculture sector representative
Megan Ludwig – science and research advisor (*by Zoom*)
Daniel Selbie – science and research advisor (*by Zoom, to 1:00 pm*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Ian Rogalski

Regrets

Brian Schreiner
Robyn Laubman
Jeff Nitychoruk
Pam Beech

Call to Order Chair Rhona Martin called the meeting to order at 10:45 AM and acknowledged the meeting taking place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Secwepemc Peoples.

Release of in camera meeting motion The following motion was carried in an *in camera* meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council on June 4th, 2025, 10:30 – 10:45 am:

Moved/seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

Emma Holmes be appointed to the SWC as the representative from the BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food for a term ending March 31st 2028.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting agenda **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Phil Owen that:

The June 4th 2025 SWC meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The March 5th 2025 SWC draft meeting summary be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Erik Kok/Stephen Karpuk that:

The correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Discussion:

Vice Chair Karpuk commented that he met with Nathan Cullen at the Union of BC Municipalities Convention last year about invasive mussels and other watershed issues, comments and concerns were well received.

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Phil Owen/Emma Holmes that:

The draft summary for the Water Monitoring Group meeting held on March 13th 2025 be received for information.

CARRIED

Report from Chair Chair Martin reported that she and Program Manager Erin Vieira met with MLA Peter Milobar and MLA Ward Stamer to discuss the Shuswap Watershed Council's work. Both MLAs are already well aware of the Council, and

appreciative of the work. The Chair remarked she would like to meet with the Vernon and Shuswap MLAs.

**Report from
Program Managers:
year-end financial
report**

Program Manager Erin Vieira provided a year-end financial report for the year, April 1st 2024 – March 31st 2025

REVENUE

Source	Amount (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus (from March 31 st , 2024)	25,113
2023-24 funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	59,961 ¹
<i>Contribution Agreement partners</i>	
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	0
City of Salmon Arm	0
<i>Grant funding</i>	
Canada Water Agency	153,765
<i>Reserve funds</i>	
SWC Operating Reserve balance from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total Revenue	468,726

EXPENSES

Program	Budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program	111,784	109,753	2031
Water Quality Protection Program	205,634	143,856	61,777 ²
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	34,857	35,349	-492
Safe Recreation Program	13,193	12,039	1154
Communications & Advocacy	19,488	23,351	-3863
Administration	64,631	60,319	4312
Surplus	19,140	0	19,140
Total Expenses	468,726	384,667	84,058

Notes:

¹. The Water Quality Protection Program usually ends the year with a surplus due to funds that have been approved for spending but not carried out until the following year. \$59,961 were carried forward from March 31st 2024, dedicated to projects that were completed in 2024-25. See also note #2.

². Of the \$61,777 surplus in the Water Quality Protection Program as of March 31st 2025, \$34,646 is allocated to projects that will be completed in 2025-26.

**Report from
Program Managers:**

Program Manager Erin Vieira (Fraser Basin Council, 'FBC') provided an update on work completed since the last Council meeting:

operations update

- The financial year-end was March 31st. Staff have ensured all invoices are paid and have reconciled year-end financial reports with the FBC finance department.
- Staff have submitted a report to Canada Water Agency (CWA) for the grant funds received in 2024-25. Eligible project expenses came to \$153,765 and went toward many projects and programs including water monitoring, wetland strategy phase 3, a water budget for the Salmon River completed in partnership with Splatstine Secwepemc and the Province of BC, and administration. The SWC is very grateful to the CWA for this critical support of its work in 2024-25.
- The 2024 Water Quality Grant Program provided funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed. All projects are complete, project reports have been submitted by proponents, and all grants are paid out.
- The 2025 Water Quality Grant Program is underway. \$34,646 is being awarded to four Shuswap-area farms and one non-profit stewardship organization. Staff did site visits in April to meet the proponents and have signed Contribution Agreements with each of them.
- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group met on March 13th, facilitated by staff. It was well attended by staff from many organizations involved in water quality monitoring in the Shuswap watershed. The main purpose of the meeting was to review all organizations' water monitoring plans for 2025.
- Program Manager Erin Vieira and SWC Chair Rhona Martin met with MLA Peter Milobar (Kamloops – Centre) and MLA Ward Stamer (Kamloops – North Thompson) on March 20th to provide an overview of the SWC's work and discuss pressing watershed issues
- Staff delivered educational campaigns about aquatic invasive species throughout the month of May, which is designated as Invasive Species Action Month in Canada
- Staff distributed two media releases this spring: one to announce Invasive Species Action Month, and the other to announce the water quality grant program funding
- Staff sent an informative 'spring newsletter' out to approximately 250 subscribers as a new way to expand the reach of SWC communiques
- Staff are working on the 2024-25 Annual Highlights Report; it will be ready in early June
- Staff delivered no-cost educational campaigns (via social media) during Safe Boating Awareness Week, a national campaign in mid-May to promote water safety
- Staff recently received notice from the BC Watershed Security Fund (WSF) – to whom the FBC submitted a funding application, on behalf of the SWC, last winter for \$400,000 over two years – was, unfortunately, unsuccessful. The WSF administrators said the fund was extremely over-allocated; while \$7M is available, it received funding requests from across BC in the amount of \$41M
- Staff submitted a new funding application to the Canada Water Agency

- for 2025-26; it's not yet known when an announcement will be made
- As a result of funding announcements, staff have revised the budget and work plan for 2025-26
- Staff have continued to recruit new members to the SWC membership, as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Discussion:

Vice Chair Karpuk commented on the use of the SWC's operating reserve last year to fund program operations, and asked if there is a plan to start saving again. Program Manager Erin Vieira answered that yes, in the current year work plan and budget there is a planned \$15,000 surplus.

There was a question about inviting the City of Salmon Arm to re-join the SWC membership and provide a financial contribution. It was suggested that staff request to attend a City Council meeting as a delegation. Vice Chair Karpuk is willing to participate with staff in this. It was also suggested that staff seek participation from a representative of the Salmon Arm Agricultural Advisory Committee to participate in the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee in order to provide input on the SWC Water Quality Grant Program. Chair Martin suggested a delegation also go to the District of Sicamous with a request for funding.

Erik Kok asked if staff have tracked the amount of fencing that the SWC Water Quality Grant Program has funded. He also asked if water quality grant recipients are required to put up a sign on their property announcing funding from the Shuswap Watershed Council. Program Manager Erin Vieira said that no, signs aren't a requirement for grant recipients. Phil Owen remarked that as a grant recipient this year, he would be willing to put up a sign and asked for a template.

Megan Ludwig commented that the Provincial Farmland Advantage Program, funded by the Investment Agriculture Foundation, provides funding for riparian and livestock exclusion fencing.

There was a discussion on the impact of large wildfires on watersheds, and that re-forestation in burned areas, especially riparian areas, needs to be accelerated and not just left to natural re-establishment of plants. There were a few action items and next steps suggested, including sending a letter to government specifically about Tsutswew Park, asking about Provincial policies and plans for re-forestation, and inviting representatives from Provincial and Federal governments (DFO) to a discussion at a future SWC meeting.

Action items:

- Staff to send delegation requests to City of Salmon Arm and District of Sicamous.
- Staff to invite a representative from the Salmon Arm Agricultural

Advisory Committee to participate in the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee.

- Staff to tally amount of fencing paid for by the SWC Water Quality Grant Program, to-date.
- Staff to develop Water Quality Grant signage template for grant recipients, and send to Phil Owen for installation on his farm.
- Megan Ludwig to provide a contact at Farmland Advantage for staff to follow up with and learn more about their program.
- Staff to draft a letter to BC Parks, Provincial government ministries, and DFO about re-forestation post-wildfire and invite them to a roundtable discussion at a future meeting of the SWC; Erik Kok has photos he can share; Tk'wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse is willing to co-sign the letter on behalf of Adams Lake Indian Band.

**Guest presentation:
Margot Webster,
Royal Roads
University**

Erin Vieira introduced Margot Webster, a Master's candidate from Royal Roads University who received a financial contribution (\$5509) from the SWC for her research on floating treatment wetlands on the Salmon River. Ms. Webster thanked the SWC for contributing and making the research possible. She remarked that her research got lots of interest from residents and the media. She explained that natural wetlands act as 'filters' in the ecosystem as they cycle nutrients, add biodiversity, store water, and provide many more ecosystem benefits. The purpose of her research was to use the nutrient-rich waters of the Salmon River as an experimental site for measuring the impact of 'floating treatment wetlands' (FTWs) on water quality. FTWs are constructed to mimic a natural wetland. Their efficacy isn't well understood in natural ecosystems. She built and deployed several FTWs in the Salmon River in June 2024, populated with small wetland plants; by the end of the summer the plants and their roots had grown significantly.

Ms. Webster's research involved analyzing water samples and plant tissue samples. Her results showed that the FTWs were taking nutrients (ammonia, orthophosphate, nitrate) out of the water. The results were strongest in July. Her results also showed that cattail was the most effective plant in the FTWs. She explained that July may show the strongest uptake in nutrients due to the water conditions at the time (more nutrients available) and the higher growth rates by plants at that time. Her data have been uploaded into the Provincial EMS database which is publicly accessible.

Ms. Webster concluded with some recommendations for future research on floating treatment wetlands and there was a brief Q&A session.

Chair Martin thanked Ms. Webster for the research and her presentation, and requested that her full Masters Thesis, when complete, be shared with the SWC for information.

**New business:
Updated work plan
and budget for**

Staff introduced the work plan and budget for 2025-26, explaining that this year the SWC faces an unprecedented challenge of low levels of confirmed funding. Staff are awaiting an announcement from Canada Water Agency about a grant

2025/26

application for this year. Staff presented the work plan and budget for the year, recommending that the following items be prioritized for funding: Water Quality Grant Program; two SWC committees (2 mtgs per year); aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention; communications, outreach and advocacy; administration and Council meetings; fund development.

Discussion:

Erik Kok commented that it's a great work plan and suggested maintaining four SWC meetings per year (not three). He supports eliminating the Water Quality Report from the work plan for this year to cut costs and would support reducing the Safe Recreation program.

Vice Chair Karpuk also suggested maintaining four SWC meetings per year. He suggested staff prioritize making presentations to funders, such as the TNRD and others. He would be happy to support these presentations/delegations.

Kimm Magill-Hofmann asked about the possibility to expand the SWC mandate to water quantity as a way to access more funds. Program Manager Erin Vieira suggested that it would be an excellent conversation to have during strategic planning, which is something the SWC needs to start later this year. Program Manager Alex de Chantal suggested the SWC balance its objectives to meet its own needs while also meeting criteria for funding.

Tk'wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse said he is willing to have conversations with the Shuswap Nation Tribal Council and Assembly of First Nations. Erik further suggested that correspondence and advocacy from First Nations to potential new funders for the SWC highlighting the importance of water and the need for funding would be an impactful measure.

Chair Martin further commented that grant-in-aid applications to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District should be prioritized. Funding from CSRD could be toward Zebra/Quagga Mussel prevention, water monitoring, program operations and more.

Moved/seconded by Phil Owen/Erik Kok that:

The work plan and budget be approved as presented, subject to staff confirming the administration line item.

CARRIED

Action item:

- Staff to submit a delegation request to the TNRD.

**New business:
Strategic Planning**

Staff explained that the SWC's current Strategic Plan is in effect for April 1st 2021 – March 31st 2026. It was written in 2020 by staff and adopted by the SWC. A

Process for 2026

new strategic planning process should begin soon, ideally to have a completed plan by April 2026. Staff had the following questions for SWC to consider how to begin a new strategic planning process:

Who should lead the development of a new strategic plan?

- In-house with SWC members supported by staff, or
- In-house by a committee of SWC members supported by staff, or
- Hire a consultant to provide some guidance to the SWC or a committee. If so, the SWC will need to allocate some budget to this.

How and when should the planning process unfold?

- As part of the agendas for the next 2-3 SWC meetings, or
- Schedule extra meeting(s) for strategic planning.

Discussion:

Erik Kok suggested that staff can lead the development of the plan with SWC members, without hiring a consultant, and that an extra meeting will be needed.

Vice Chair Karpuk agreed, and urged SWC members to prepare by reading the current Strategic Plan and giving thought to what new opportunities or changes should be reflected in the new plan. He stressed that the SWC needs to be able to measure its outcomes.

Kimm Magill-Hofmann suggested that the entire SWC participate in the process.

Chair Martin agreed that all SWC members should participate if they are able to, and that she is open to hiring a consultant to provide some guidance and keep the process on track. Program Manager Erin Vieira clarified that a small contract with a consultant to provide support in a meeting or two would be valuable. Chair Martin further commented that SWC members could review the strategic plans of other similar organizations, such as the Nechako Watershed Roundtable, for inspiration.

Phil Owen remarked that funding is available for non-profit strategic planning. Chair Martin clarified that staff should look into ETSI-BC.

Vice Chair Karpuk suggested that staff let the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the City of Salmon Arm know that the SWC is embarking on strategic planning, and invite them to part of the process.

Program Manager Alex de Chantal summarized next steps: Staff will schedule a Strategic Plan review and brainstorming session as part of the next SWC agenda and invite someone from the CSRD and City of Salmon Arm to participate, and prepare for a strategic planning workshop to be facilitated by a consultant, as an extra meeting, later in the fall.

Action item:

- Staff to look into the Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) as a potential funder for non-profit strategic planning.
- Staff will add Strategic Plan review and brainstorming session to the next SWC agenda and ensure that the CSRD and the City of Salmon Arm are invited to participate
- Staff to begin seeking a date for a strategic planning workshop in the fall with a consultant (October/November).

**Roundtable
Updates**

None

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Phil Owen/Erik Kok that:

The June 4th 2025 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

The following was submitted to the Province of BC via online portal on June 18th as part of the Budget 2026 consultation:

Budget 2026 Consultation: Written Submission

Please provide any general background information relevant to your submission (e.g., the word of your organization or relevant personal experience). If you are submitting this form on behalf of an organization, please ensure you have filled out the organization field in your profile. Maximum 650 words.

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership of several organizations with an interest or responsibility for protecting water quality. There are up to 19 members that represent local governments, the Secwepemc Nation, Provincial government agencies, science and academia, and youth. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group that focuses on strategic initiatives to protect, maintain and enhance water quality in the Shuswap. The Fraser Basin Council, a BC non-profit non-government organization established in 1997, provides staff services to the Shuswap Watershed Council.

Recommendation (max 300 words)

The Shuswap Watershed Council is calling for greater resourcing of the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP) such that every highway entry-point into BC from Alberta and the USA has a watercraft inspection and decontamination station open 24 hours/day.

Explanation (max 2000 characters)

Invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussels (ZQM) pose a tremendous threat to BC watersheds. The Zebra mussel, especially, is one of the most destructive aquatic invasive species ever to have invaded North America (source: Report on Aquatic Invasive Species, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Parliament of Canada, 2019.) If ZQM were to invade BC there would be devastating impacts to water quality, beaches, and fisheries including Pacific salmon. As a result, tourism will drop, property values will decrease, and water infrastructure will be damaged; the cost of water treatment, hydro-electricity, and irrigation will all increase costing BC property owners, tax-payers and consumers up to \$129 million per year (source: [Potential Economic Impact of ZQM in BC. May 2023](#). Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship).

The primary vector for ZQM spreading from one watershed to another is watercraft and water gear. Watercraft inspection is a critical component of the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP), and it is the first line of defence against ZQM. There are currently just six watercraft inspection stations established around BC operated by the BC Conservation Officer Service, plus two roving stations. In 2018 and 2019 there were 12 inspection stations. The IMDP has been underfunded and understaffed for years, despite being critical to protecting BC's freshwater ecosystems and economy.

Expansion of the IMDP, coupled with proposed amendments to the *Wildlife Act*, would provide greater defence against ZQM and other aquatic invasive species such as whirling disease which is now present in Kootenay Lake and golden mussels which have recently been detected in California. This should happen immediately – before it's too late, before ZQM invade BC from other watersheds, while there is still a chance to work on prevention. The cost of prevention is a fraction of the projected cost to respond, contain, and manage infestations of ZQM in BC.



c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A – 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7
250.314.9660
www.shuswapwater.ca
f i s x y in

Hon. Tamara Davidson
BC Minister of Environment & Parks
Sent by e-mail to ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Hon. Ravi Parmar
BC Minister of Forests
Sent by e-mail to FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca

22 July 2025

Re: Urgent need for accelerated re-forestation in wildfire-impacted areas of the Shuswap watershed

Dear Ministers,

We are writing on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) to express urgent concern regarding the devastating impacts of the 2023 Bush Creek East and Adams East wildfires, and to call for accelerated reforestation and ecological restoration in Tsútswechew Provincial Park and the surrounding Adams River watershed.

The environmental impacts of these wildfires are well documented. They include the loss of forest canopy and organic ground cover, the development of hydrophobic soils, increased erosion and sedimentation, elevated risk of landslides and debris flows, degradation of aquatic habitat, and long-term consequences for water quality and drinking water sources. Reforestation and ecological restoration play a vital role in stabilizing disturbed ecosystems. They help regulate the water cycle, improve soil retention, reduce sediment runoff into rivers and lakes, and promote the return of biodiversity.

For Secwépemc communities, the damage caused by wildfire is not merely ecological. It directly affects cultural lifeways, traditional food systems, and stewardship practices grounded in Secwépemc law. Medicinal plant harvesting, ceremonial access, and culturally significant species such as salmon are all under threat. For Secwépemc people, restoration is not only an environmental necessity, but a cultural and spiritual imperative. The land is alive with stories, teachings, and ancestral presence. The forests and rivers of the Adams River corridor are part of sacred geography, with deep connections to identity, ceremony, and law. The responsibility to care for these places flows from traditional governance systems and is carried forward across generations.

We emphasize that reforestation in this region must be Indigenous-led, with Secwépemc communities and law at the center of planning and implementation. This aligns with the Province's commitments under the *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act* (DRIPA) and its obligations to uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). In particular, we highlight:



- Article 25: the right of Indigenous Peoples to maintain and strengthen their spiritual relationship with traditionally owned or otherwise occupied lands and waters;
- Article 29(1): the right to conservation and protection of the environment and productive capacity of Indigenous lands;
- Article 32(1-2): the right of Indigenous Peoples to determine and develop priorities for use of their lands and to be consulted through their own institutions in good faith to obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) before undertaking restoration activities that affect them.

We invite you to attend an upcoming meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council to discuss how the Province intends to prioritize wildfire restoration in the Adams River corridor and Tsútswecw Provincial Park. Our next scheduled meetings are on **September 10th** and **December 10th**. We also welcome the opportunity to explore:

- Provincial funding commitments for Indigenous-led reforestation;
- Pilot projects or restoration contracts delivered by Secwepemc communities;
- Opportunities to coordinate across agencies in support of a watershed-level recovery strategy.

We look forward to a meaningful dialogue and to seeing swift action that reflects the urgency and significance of this issue.

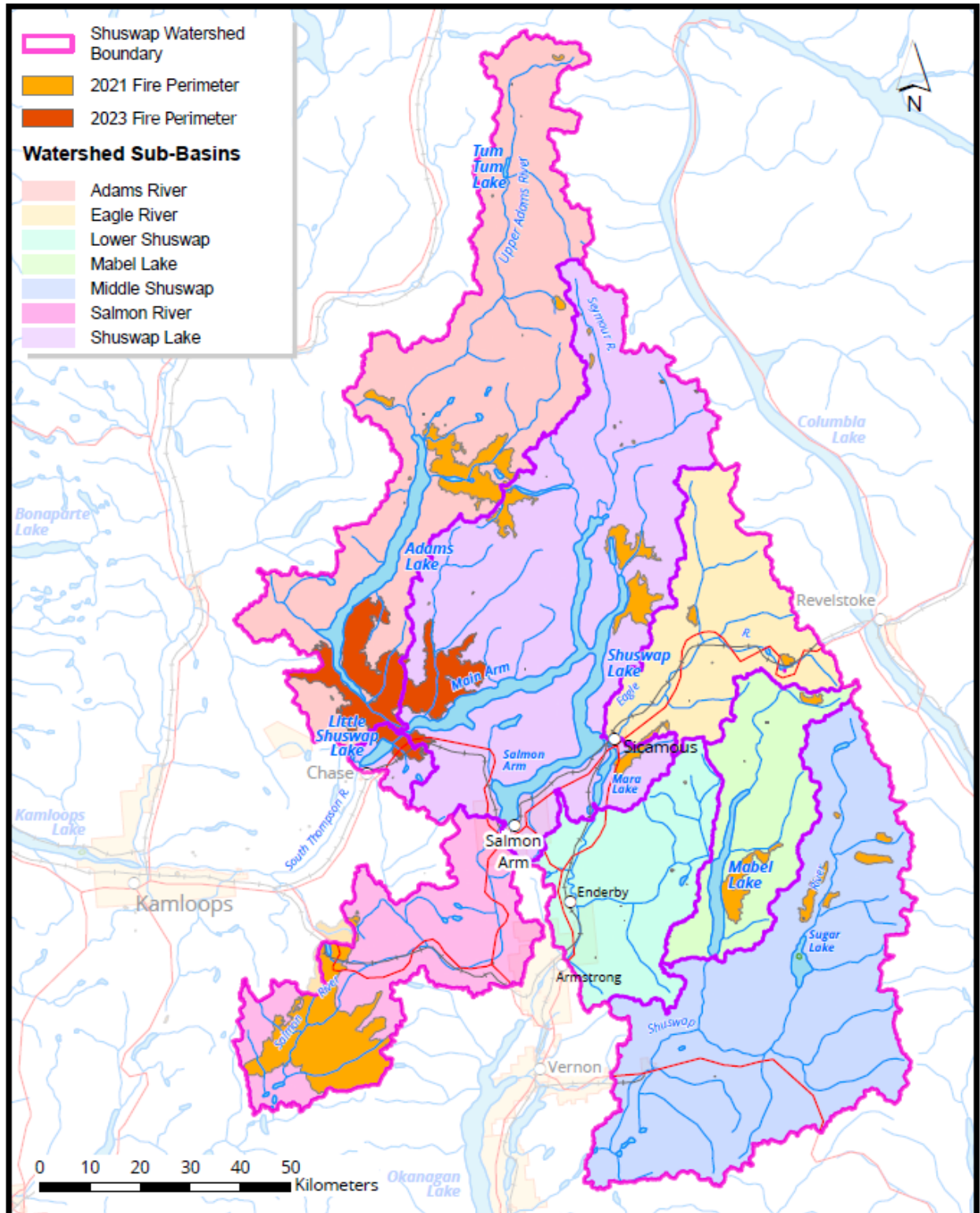
A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Rhona Martin".

Rhona Martin
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council

A handwritten signature in purple ink, reading "Cliff Arhouse".

Cliff Arhouse
Tk'wemi'ple7 (Councillor), Adams Lake Indian Band

Attachment: 2023 Shuswap watershed fire perimeter map.



June 5th vote on budget and work plan for 2025-26

At the June 4th 2025 SWC meeting, Program Manager Erin Vieira presented an updated budget and work plan for 2025-26. Revisions to the work plan were needed to align with the secured funding to-date, which unfortunately does not include any funding from the Watershed Security Fund.

The meeting attendance did not meet quorum. Staff were directed to seek budget approval via email. Staff sent the revised budget to the SWC members by email along with the motion:

Moved/seconded by Brian Schreiner/Erik Kok that:

The updated work plan and budget with a total of \$197,444 in expenses as revised on June 5th be approved.

CARRIED (eight in favour, none opposed).

Report from Program Managers

Program Managers' report: Financial update for the first quarter, April 1st – June 30th 2025

Revenue

Source	Amount (\$)
2024-5 operational surplus (from March 31 st , 2025)	49,412
2024-25 funds carried forward to 2025-26 projects (grant program)	34,646
<i>Contribution Agreement partners</i>	
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding</i>	
Canada Water Agency	0
Watershed Security Fund	0
CSRD grant-in-aid – not confirmed	
Total Revenue	138,958

Expenses on next page ...

Expenses

Program		Annual budget (\$)			Q1 actual expenses (\$)		
		Program mgmt..	Expenses	Sub-total	Program mgmt..	Expenses	Sub-total
Monitoring & Report							
	Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	6300.00	0	6300.00	225.00	0	225.00
	Water monitoring expenses	0	0	0	-	-	-
	Annual Water Quality Report	0	0	0	-	-	-
Protection & Improvement							
	Water Protection Advisory Committee	4850.00	400.00	5250.00	0	0	0
	Water Quality Grant Program	5125.00	35,146.00	40,271.00	4558.33	18,867.38	23,425.71
	Wetland Strategy	0	0	0	-	-	-
Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention							
	Education and outreach campaigns	6750.00	3735.00	10,485	3105.00	3198.71	6303.71
Safe Recreation							
	Safety campaigns	2025.00	1500.00	3525.00	405.00	51.06	456.06
Communications & Advocacy							
	Communications collateral	4150.00	2100.00	6250.00	3645.00	1657.80	5302.80
	Public engagement and media	11,262.50	2500.00	13,762.50	2321.67	0	2321.67
	Advocacy	2700.00	0	2700.00	990.00	0	990.00
Administration							
	Council meetings	13,825.00	2350.00	16,175.00	3921.67	486.48	4408.15
	Administration & governance	4925.00	0	4925.00	2385.00	0	2385.00
	Financial administration & fund development	17,800	0	17,800	4383.33	0	4383.33
Sub-total expenses		79,712.50	47,731.00	127,443.50	25,940.00	24,261.43	50,201.43
Surplus				11,514.50			
Total budget for 2024-25				138,958.00			

Program operations update – September 10th, 2025

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal provide the following update on work completed since the last Council meeting in June:

- The Annual Report for 2024-25 was published in June. SWC members received a copy by email. The report can be read online here: [SWC Annual Report 2024-25 WEB.pdf](#).
- Staff have received notice that, unfortunately, the grant application to Canada Water Agency for \$140,000 funding for 2025-26 and 2026-27 was turned down
- Staff submitted an application for a grant-in-aid to the Columbia Shuswap Regional District; staff received notification in late August that the SWC is receiving a \$15,000 grant from Areas E, F, and G. Staff have updated the budget and work plan accordingly (see p. 19 of this agenda package).
- The 2025 Water Quality Grant Program is underway. \$34,646 is being awarded to four Shuswap area farms and one non-profit stewardship organization for a project at a community park. Of the five projects, two are already complete and paid out; the project proponents have until March 2026 to complete the work.
- Staff supported Chair Rhona Martin and SWC member Tk'wemi'ple7 (Councillor) Cliff Arnouse to send a letter to Provincial Ministers Tamara Davidson and Ravi Parmar regarding re-forestation in wildfire-impacted areas of the Shuswap watershed (see p. 12 of this agenda package)
- Program Manager Erin Vieira and Chair Rhona Martin met with MLA David Williams on July 23rd to provide an overview of the SWC's work, discuss critical watershed issues and ask for support on aquatic invasive species
- Staff made a submission to the BC budget consultation in June; the submission calls for greater resourcing and investment by the Province into the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program (see p. 11 of this agenda package)
- Staff issued two media releases: one announcing the publication of the SWC Annual Report (June 17th) and another about water safety (June 19th)
- Staff have delivered educational campaigns throughout spring and summer about preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species. Campaigns target boaters and water users; campaign messaging focuses on promoting clean-drain-dry practices and urges travellers to stop for watercraft inspection
- Staff have delivered educational campaigns via social media promoting water safety. This has included promoting a network of kids' lifejacket loaner stations, provided by the Royal Canadian Marine Search & Rescue, Station 106. The network now has 21 loaner stations. The SWC maintains a [map](#) of the loaner stations for the RCMSAR.

Updated SWC work plan and budget as at September 10th 2025

Revenue

Source	Amount (\$)
2024-25 operational surplus (from March 31 st , 2025)	49,412
2024-25 funds carried forward to 2025-26 projects (grant program)	34,646
<i>Contribution Agreement partners</i>	
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding</i>	
Canada Water Agency	0
Watershed Security Fund	0
NEW: CSRD grant-in-aid – Areas E, F, G	15,000
Total Revenue	153,958

Workplan	EXPENSE		
	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring			
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	\$6300		\$6300
Watershed monitoring	0	0	0
Water Quality Report 2024-25	0	0	0
Water Protection and Improvement			
Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee	\$4850	\$400	\$5250
Water Quality Grant Program 2025-26	\$5125	\$35,146	\$40,271
Water Quality Grant Program 2026-27	\$3575	\$15,000	\$18,575
Wetland Strategy	0	0	0
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention			
Education and engagement	\$6750	3735	10,485
Safe Recreation			
Safety campaigns (multi media)	\$2025	\$1500	\$3525
Communications & Advocacy			
Communications collateral	\$4150	\$2100	\$6250
Public and media engagement	\$11,263	\$2500	\$13,763
Advocacy	\$2700		\$2700
Administration and governance			
Council meetings	\$13,825	\$2350	\$16,175
Administration and governance	\$4925	0	\$4925
Financial mgmt. and fund development	\$17,800	0	\$17,800
Sub-totals	\$83,288	\$62,731	\$146,019
Surplus			\$7939
TOTALS			\$153,958

FUNDING SOURCE		
SWC funds – confirmed	CWA – \$0	Local govt – \$15K confirmed
\$6300		
	\$10,000 0	TBD
\$5250		
\$40,271		
\$3575	\$41,500 0	15,000
\$10,485	\$13,500 0	TBD
\$3525		
\$6250		
\$13,763		
\$2700		
\$16,175	\$3250 0	
\$4925		
\$17,800	\$1000 0	
\$131,019	0	\$15,000

Strategic Plan review

The Shuswap Watershed Council Strategic Plan for 2021-26 was developed in 2020 to be the guiding strategic document for April 2021 – March 2026. The plan was created by staff, with input and approved by the SWC members. In preparation for the Strategic Plan review and brainstorming session, SWC members are encouraged to review the plan which can be read online here: [swc strategic plan 2021-26 web.pdf](#).

Discussion questions for September 10th:

- What are the strengths in the current Strategic Plan? What parts of the plan are still relevant to today's needs? What are we doing/have we done well?
- Are there any strategic priorities that are no longer relevant to today's needs?
- What new opportunities are there for the Shuswap Watershed Council?
- Are there any weak points that the Shuswap Watershed Council should be mindful of in the strategic planning process?

The goal for the discussion is to review the strategic plan's areas of success and new opportunities. We will not start drafting a new strategic plan in this meeting.

A special strategic planning workshop will be planned for the fall, with the assistance of contracted strategic planning facilitator, for any SWC members who would like to participate in planning. A draft strategic plan will be presented to the SWC at the next regular meeting in December.