

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting:

- The Water Quality Grant Program is providing funding to six projects on five farms to protect water quality in the Shuswap; work will be completed by proponents by March 31st, 2025
- The 2023-24 Shuswap Water Quality Report was published in July, it is available online (www.shuswapwater.ca) and from local library branches
- Phase 2 of the Wetland Strategy is complete; it includes a literature review, priority ratings for wetlands in the Salmon Arm Bay catchment, and it identified areas for wetland restoration, conservation and re-construction
- Research partnership with Royal Roads University graduate student Margot Webster is underway; Ms. Webster installed three ‘floating treatment wetlands’ in the Salmon River and is monitoring water quality to determine what improvement the FTWs have on river water quality
- Education/awareness campaigns to prevent the spread of invasive mussels were delivered throughout spring and summer
- 12 sites on six waterbodies in the Shuswap are being monitored for invasive mussels in 2024 by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society with funding from the SWC
- Education/awareness campaigns for safe boating and recreation were delivered throughout spring and summer
- The SWC Annual Report for 2023-24 was published at the end of June, it is available online (www.shuswapwater.ca)
- Staff submitted a grant funding application to Environment & Climate Change Canada to begin Phase 3 of the Wetland Strategy.

Roundtable discussion: future of the SWC

Chair Martin facilitated a roundtable discussion on the future of the Shuswap Watershed Council. There were many comments about the importance of water, and unanimous support from all present to continue the work of the SWC. Some SWC members volunteered to join an *ad hoc* committee to work with staff to develop recommendations on the future membership and funding opportunities for the SWC.

Invasive mussels and the UBCM convention

SWC members discussed the importance of preventing the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels to BC, and some members from local government organizations agreed to discuss and advocate for the issue with Provincial ministers and staff at the upcoming annual Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) convention in mid-September.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Rhona Martin – Chair

CSRD Area ‘E’

Natalya Melnychuk – Vice Chair

CSRD Area ‘G’

Marty Gibbons

CSRD Area ‘G’

Dean Trumbley

CSRD Area ‘D’

Jay Simpson

CSRD Area ‘F’

David Lepsoe

TNRD, Village of Chase

Stephen Karpuk

TNRD, City of Kamloops

Debbie Cannon

City of Salmon Arm

Pam Beech

District of Sicamous

Cliff Arnouse

Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Robyn Laubman

Splatsin te Secwepemc

Rick Fairbairn

RDNO Area ‘F’

Brian Schreiner

RDNO, City of Enderby

Kym Keogh

BC Ministry of Environment
& Climate Change Strategy

Lindsay Benbow

BC Ministry of Agriculture &
Food

Kelly Chiatto

BC Ministry of Forests

Erik Kok

Community Representative

Kimm Magill-Hofmann

Community Representative

Phil Owen

Community Representative

Dennis Einarson

Senior Scientific Advisor