

Report from Chair

Chair Jay Simpson reported that the CSRD referendum regarding taxation to support the Shuswap Watershed Council was held on February 3rd and was defeated. Chair Simpson acknowledged the importance of the SWC and remarked that securing new funding to support the SWC will be a priority in 2024.

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting:

- Staff facilitated a bi-annual meeting of the **Shuswap Water Monitoring Group** in February to review and discuss the upcoming season of water quality monitoring across the watershed by various organizations
- The **Water Quality Grant Program** was open for applications from December 1st 2023 – January 31st 2024; staff received eight applications. The **Water Protection Advisory Committee** met in February to review the applications and recommended six of them for funding.
- Phase 2 of the **Wetland Strategy** is progressing and is supported by a \$40,000 grant from Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Staff participated in the inaugural 'Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group' meeting facilitated by the Okanagan Basin Water Board in early March
- Staff worked with the Chair to write a letter to four Federal Ministers regarding urgently needed long-term funding to the Province of BC for preventing the spread of invasive mussels.

Expenses to the end of the third quarter (April 1st - December 31st 2023) total **\$218,871** against the annual operating budget of **\$354,964**.

Water quality grants awarded

Four water quality grant applications were approved for funding. The total grant funding awarded is \$33,610 to two farms and a winery for improving agricultural/viticultural practices that will protect water quality.

Budget and work plan for 2024-25 approved

Staff presented the draft work plan and budget for 2024-25. The operational expenses total \$323,170 which will be partially funded by the SWC's Operating Reserve. The budget and work plan were approved, and come into effect April 1st 2024.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024

Rhona Martin, CSRD Director for Area 'E' (Rural Sicamous and Malakwa) was acclaimed as Chair of the SWC for 2024 and Natalya Melnychuk, CSRD Director for Area 'G' (Blind Bay, Sorrento, Notch Hill) was acclaimed as Vice Chair.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Jay Simpson – Chair

CSRD Area 'F'

Natalya Melnychuk – Vice Chair

CSRD Area 'G'

Marty Gibbons

CSRD Area 'C'

Dean Trumbley

CSRD Area 'D'

Rhona Martin

CSRD Area 'E'

David Lepsoe

TNRD, Village of Chase

Reid Hamer-Jackson

TNRD, City of Kamloops

Debbie Cannon

City of Salmon Arm

Pam Beech

District of Sicamous

Howard Nordquist

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