

Report from Chair

Chair Jay Simpson reported that he has made a few presentations about the Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) recently, including to the Water Supply Association of BC and to the Fraser Basin Council Board of Directors. Additionally, the Chair hosted a Town Hall meeting in Celista in April that included a presentation and Q&A about the SWC. Chair Simpson also reported that he met with Interior Health, local government partners, and SWC staff in May to discuss algal bloom monitoring and public communications.

Report from Program Managers

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

- Staff completed site visits with water quality grant recipients for 2023; Contribution Agreements with grant recipients were drafted and signed
- The SWC Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program launched in May, educational campaigns promoting watercraft inspection and 'Clean-Drain-Dry' practices will be delivered throughout summer and early fall
- Early detection monitoring. For ZQM is underway at 13 sites in the Shuswap watershed; this is a partnership with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
- Staff announced that the SWC's application to Transport Canada for \$24,025 federal grant funding was successful; the funding supports the SWC's Safe Recreation Program
- The Safe Recreation Program launched in May; campaigns promoting water safety through a variety of media will continue through summer and fall
- The SWC Annual Report for 2022-23 was published in mid-May, it is available online and print copies can be picked up from local government and First Nations offices.

Ms. Vieira reported that last fiscal year expenses (for the period April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023) were \$249,445 against an operational budget of \$350,105; of the \$100,660 surplus, \$53,004 is allocated and carried forward to projects that will be completed in 2023-24.

Upcoming CSRD referendum

Chair Jay Simpson relayed that the Columbia Shuswap Regional District is proceeding with a referendum in Areas C, D, E, F and G and the District of Sicamous to determine if there is support to continue the service and taxation that supports the Shuswap Watershed Council. The referendum is tentatively scheduled for late summer (to be confirmed). The CSRD has been contributing funds to the SWC since 2016, but it expires in December 2023. The CSRD's contribution to the SWC is in addition to funds from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Salmon Arm, and Adams Lake Indian Band whose contributions do not expire.

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

Jim Johnson

RDNO Area 'E'

Allysa Hopkins

RDNO Area 'F'

Kym Keogh

BC Ministry of Environment
& Climate Change Strategy

Lindsay Benbow

BC Ministry of Agriculture

Kelly Chiatto

BC Ministry of Forests

Erik Kok

Community Representative

Kimm Magill-Hofmann

Community Representative

Phil Owen

Community Representative

Dennis Einarson

Senior Scientific Advisor



Council meeting highlights
JUNE 14TH 2023

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.