

Reports from Program Managers

Erin Vieira provided a report summarizing the year, April 1st 2024 – March 31st 2025:

- The Water Quality Grant Program awarded six grants to five Shuswap-area farms in 2024 worth \$55,203 which leveraged an additional \$60,984 for a total investment of \$116,187 in water quality protection and improvement
- Development of the Shuswap Wetland Strategy progressed, with the completion of a third phase involving field work and wetland assessments
- 97 water samples were collected from 12 sites on six water bodies in the Shuswap watershed and tested for the presence of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels – all test results were positive, meaning that ZQM were not found in any samples
- The SWC's educational campaigns about aquatic invasive species had approximately 4.4 million impressions on residents and travellers
- Funding from the SWC assisted two graduate students in their watershed research, located in the Shuswap
- The SWC received a \$153,765 grant from the Canada Water Agency in 2024-25 for priority projects and administration costs
- Total expenses for the year were \$384,667
- A full Annual Highlights Report for 2024-25 is coming soon and will be posted online at www.shuswapwater.ca.

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

- The Water Quality Grant Program for 2025 is operational, a total of \$34,656 grant funding is being awarded to four Shuswap-area farms and one non-profit stewardship organization for water quality protection and improvement
- Educational campaigns for the prevention of aquatic invasive species are underway for the spring and summer months, watercraft users are reminded to practice 'Clean-Drain-Dry' and stop for watercraft inspection
- Staff have submitted a new grant application to the Canada Water Agency to support 2025-26 programs.

Budget for 2025-26 passed

Staff presented an updated budget and work plan for 2025-26, and SWC members had a roundtable discussion. Priority items include the Water Quality Grant Program; aquatic invasive species prevention; communications, outreach and advocacy; support for administration and Council meetings; and fund development.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Rhona Martin – Chair
Community representative

Stephen Karpuk – Vice Chair
TNRD, City of Kamloops

David Lepsoe
TNRD, Village of Chase

Pam Beech
District of Sicamous

Cliff Arnouse
Adams Lake Indian Band

Robyn Laubman
Splatsin te Secwepemc

Brian Schreiner
RDNO, City of Enderby

Diane Sutherland
BC Ministry of Environment & Parks

Jeff Nitychoruk
BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship

Emma Holmes
BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food

Erik Kok
Community representative

Kimm Magill-Hofmann
Community representative

Phil Owen
Agriculture representative

Megan Ludwig
Science and research advisor

Daniel Selbie
Science and research advisor