

Update from Program Managers

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last meeting:

- The SWC's Water Protection Advisory Committee and Water Monitoring Group held meetings in November
- The **Water Quality Grant Program** is open for applications. A program guide and application template is posted online, www.shuswapwater.ca. The grant program provides funds to farmers and landowners for projects that improve nutrient management on the landscape, thereby protecting water quality. The application period closes on January 31st 2022.
- Development a **Phosphorus Action Plan** to help protect water quality in the Shuswap is underway. Staff are in the stages of collecting input from various orders of government and different agencies.
- Staff relayed that partner agency, the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, has concluded their monitoring season which is done with financial support from the SWC. All samples collected from lakes within the Shuswap watershed tested negative for ZQM, meaning **the Shuswap remains mussel-free**.
- Staff submitted an **application for funding** to Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program. If successful, the funds will reduce the SWC's expenses on its Safe Recreation Program by about 75%.

Expenses to the end of the second first quarter (September 30th 2021) total **\$133,909** against the annual operating budget of **\$298,500**.

Letter to new federal Fisheries Minister

SWC Chair Paul Demenok jointly signed and sent a letter to newly appointed federal Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Hon. Joyce Murray, outlining concerns related to a potential invasion of Zebra & Quagga Mussels and calling for more resources and leadership from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans on the matter. The letter was co-signed by the Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association and the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society. The letter is posted on the SWC website.

Terms of Reference revised

Updates and revisions were made to the Terms of Reference, which sets the governance framework for the SWC. The SWC's membership has been revised to include one representative from each of the four Shuswap-area Secwepemc First Nations (Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Lake Band, Splatsin, and Neskonlith), as well as a representative from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and a Senior Scientific Advisor.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Paul Demenok – Chair
CSRD Area 'C'

Jay Simpson – Vice Chair
CSRD Area 'F'

Rene Talbot
CSRD Area 'D'

Rhona Martin
CSRD Area 'E'

Rod Crowe
TNRD, Village of Chase

Ken Christian
TNRD, City of Kamloops

Debbie Cannon
City of Salmon Arm

Colleen Anderson
District of Sicamous

Dave Nordquist
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Howard Nordquist
Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Rick Fairbairn
RDNO Area 'D'

Denis Delisle
RDNO Area 'F'

Kym Keogh
BC Ministry of Environment
& Climate Change Strategy

Lindsay Benbow
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food
& Fisheries

Lorne Hunter
Community Representative

Sharon Bennett
Community Representative

Natalya Melnychuk
Community Representative