

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday March 13th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

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1.	March 8 th 2023 draft meeting summary for approval	9:35

Council Meeting
December 13th 2023 • 9:30 – 12:30 PM
Zoom meeting

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items
This record is subject to change at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Approve budget updates for 2023-24
3. Receive guest presentation from White Lake Residents' Association
4. Receive research proposal from Margot Webster, M.Sc. candidate

Present

Jay Simpson, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Natalya Melnychuk, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G
Marty Gibbons – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C (*from 10:45 am*)
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm (*to 11:35 am*)
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*to 10:25 am*)
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase (*to 11:45 am*)
Allysa Hopkins – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (*to 10:30 am*)
Lindsay Benbow – BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food (*to 11:35 am*)
Erik Kok – Community representative (*to 12:00 pm*)
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Phil Owen – Community representative
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor (*from 9:55 am to 12:00 pm*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Staff, c/o Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Barbra Fairclough	Ian Rogalski
Clyde Mitchell	Lita Gomez
Linda Franklin	Carly Foster

Regrets

Reid Hamer-Jackson	Robyn Laubman
Howard Nordquist	Dean Trumbley
Kelly Chiatto	Jim Johnson

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Call to Order

Chair Jay Simpson called the meeting to order at 9:40 AM.

The Chair acknowledged the traditional and historic lands of the Secwepemc and Syilx Peoples.

Adoption of meeting agenda

Moved/seconded by Director Hopkins/Erik Kok that:

The agenda for the December 13th 2023 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be approved.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting summary

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The summary of the September 13th 2023 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be approved.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Director Hopkins that:

The correspondence be received for information.

Discussion:

The Chair briefly summarized the reply letter that the SWC received from Ministers Heyman and Cullen; the letter suggested that SWC's recommendations for regulatory tools to stop the spread of invasive mussels be submitted through the *Wildlife Act* review process.

Councillor Beech remarked that it was great to see such an outpouring of correspondence from local governments to the Province about invasive mussels. Chair Simpson agreed; Vice Chair Melnychuk commented on the importance of having the SWC to serve as an advocate for this issue locally.

CARRIED

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Director Hopkins that:

Staff follow up with the Wildlife Act review process as suggested in the Ministerial correspondence.

CARRIED

Action item:

Staff will submit the SWC recommendations to the Province for stopping the spread of invasive mussels to the *Wildlife Act* review process.

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Old business: draft committee meeting summaries, for information

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The draft summaries of the Water Monitoring Group and the Water Protection Advisory Committee be received for information.

CARRIED

Dennis Einarson entered the meeting at 9:55 am

Old business: Item deferred from September 13th SWC meeting – Water Quality Grant Program budget

Mr. Alex de Chantal, Program Manager, gave a brief summary about the rationale for increasing the grant program budget, citing inflation and that the grant program was over-subscribed last year.

Moved/seconded by Director Hopkins/Councillor Cannon that:

The Water Quality Grant Program budget be increased by \$10,000 to a total of \$65,000 for 2023-24.

Discussion:

Councillor Cannon suggested that the grant program specifically target farms in the Salmon River valley and the Shuswap River valley, because the SWC research has shown this is the source of nutrients causing algal blooms. Mr. Phil Owen suggested that social media and mail-outs could be used in promoting the grant program to farms; he also remarked that the SWC could provide signage to grant recipients, similarly to the Environmental Farm Plan program. Mr. Dennis Einarson reminded everyone that the Province has an *Agricultural-Environmental Management Code of Practice*, which requires farms to meet certain standards and requirements; this legislation is being phased in over a period of years. Other comments were made about the grant program targeting hobby or commercial farms in the Shuswap watershed. Kym Keogh reminded everyone that if they observe concerns or problems relating to agricultural waste, they should call the Provincial RAPP line.

Chair Simpson directed staff to administer the vote by email because the meeting did not meet quorum for financial decisions.

Action item:

Staff will administer the vote via email. *Now complete.*

CARRIED

Councillor Pam Beech and Kym Keogh left the meeting at 10:30 am

Report from Chair

No report from Chair Simpson, he moved directly into the next agenda item.

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Update on CSRD referendum and roundtable discussion

Chair Simpson reported that the CSRD has re-scheduled their referendum for the continuation of their funding to support the Shuswap Watershed Council to take place on February 3rd. CSRD staff will commence notifications about the referendum in early January. The CSRD Board has not yet determined if the tax in question will be a parcel tax or an *ad valorem* tax.

Director Gibbons and Carly Foster entered the meeting at 10:45 am

Discussion:

Director Martin commented that communications should emphasize that the CSRD service in question has been in place for 10 years and that the service has nothing to do with water metering or access to water for domestic purposes.

Erik Kok commented on the importance of the CSRD informing residents about the cost implications of continuing the service (i.e. whether it will be a parcel tax or an *ad valorem* tax).

Vice Chair Melnychuk suggested all SWC members reach out to CSRD voters to make them aware of the referendum.

The Chair commented that staff have requested an increase to the communications budget so that they can publish some informative articles and advertisements in January.

Report from Program Managers

Chair Simpson noted the time and suggested the meeting move straight to the updated budget items as presented in the agenda package.

Moved/seconded by Kimm Magill-Hofmann/Phil Owen that:

The Communications budget be revised as presented.

Discussion:

Chair Simpson emphasized that SWC communications will focus on delivering factual information about the SWC's work so that CSRD voters are aware.

Director Gibbons commented that there is a contract with the CSRD and the Shuswap Watershed Council that restricts how the SWC can spend money on communications. Mr. Alex de Chantal, Program Manager, confirmed that necessary steps have been taken, the SWC is registered with Elections BC and that its communications will inform voters about the work of the SWC.

Mr. Erik Kok commented that he is in support of the SWC undertaking communications in January to inform voters about the work and the role of the SWC.

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Chair Simpson directed staff to administer the vote by email because the meeting did not meet quorum for financial decisions.

Action item:

Staff will administer the vote via email. *Now complete.*

CARRIED (Director Gibbons opposed)

Moved/seconded by Director Hopkins/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The Wetland Strategy budget be re-allocated as presented.

The motion could not be voted on because the meeting did not meet quorum for financial decisions.

Action item:

Staff will administer the vote via email. *Now complete.*

CARRIED

**Guest presentation:
White Lake
Residents'
Association**

Mr. Patrick Frank introduced himself as a resident and volunteer of White Lake Residents' Association (WLRA). He explained some of the monitoring underway at White Lake since 2017, including for invasive fish species and water quality. WLRA has worked with the Province and the Salmon Arm Fish and Game Club on these initiatives. In 2018, the WLRA joined the BC Lake Stewardship Society to embark on a Level 1 and later a Level 3 water monitoring program. The WLRA has an experienced volunteer water monitoring crew that carries out the program and they have secured water monitoring equipment. A Level 3 program has now been completed, spanning from 2020-2023. The WLRA will receive the results of their three-year Level 3 monitoring program from a staff member at the Province in January. In 2024 the WLRA is reverting to a simpler Level 1 monitoring program.

Mr. Frank thanked the Shuswap Watershed Council for the financial support to carry out a Level 3 water monitoring program on White Lake. To-date, the WLRA has spent \$3400 of the \$4200 granted from the SWC.

Discussion:

Mr. Erik Kok commented that it's great to see communities involved in local water monitoring.

Mr. Phil Owen asked if the funding from SWC leveraged any other funds for the White Lake monitoring program. Mr. Frank replied that there are plenty of volunteer hours committed to it.

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Guest presentation:
Margot Webster

Ms. Erin Vieira, Program Manager, introduced Margot Webster, a Masters candidate studying at Royal Roads University in the Masters of Environmental Management Program and explained that Ms. Webster reached out to discuss her research thesis. Ms. Webster then introduced herself and stated she is on staff with the Ministry of Environment. Through her work with the Ministry she is aware of the algal blooms that have occurred in the Salmon Arm Bay of Shuswap Lake. She is interested in nature-based solutions to resolve complex environmental issues. Floating treatment wetlands (FTWs) are one such nature-based solution. She explained that it is a simple technology using plants to uptake nutrients from water to improve water quality. FTWs aren't a standardized technology and aren't well tested in natural environments in western Canada.

For her research, Ms. Webster will build three FTWs and deploy them in the Salmon River in 2024 and monitor how they take up nutrients from the river. She provided an overview of her experiment methodology, including three FTWs and a suite of water quality monitoring upstream and downstream of the FTW locations. She explained that algal blooms are a global water quality problem, and FTWs pose a potential solution that is simple and inexpensive.

Ms. Webster provided a cost estimate for her project, and asked that if it aligns with the SWC's objectives, could the SWC provide a contribution to it in the amount of \$5620. She has secured other potential funding sources including BC Wildlife Federation, BC Conservation Foundation, BC Ministry of Environment, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and NSERC and other academic sources. She commented that at the end of her research project, she would be happy to donate the FTWs to a group for long-term deployment on the river or the lake.

Councillor Cannon and Lindsay Benbow left the meeting at 11:35 am

Discussion:

Mr. Dennis Einarson asked some clarifying questions about her methodology. He further commented that he likes the project and anticipates it to be beneficial.

Chair Simpson commented that it is an interesting proposal and potentially fits with the Wetland Strategy that the SWC is developing. He requested that Ms. Webster share a documented request for financial support with the SWC.

Phil Owen commented that he thinks the research project is a great idea. He asked if her project needs any approvals from DFO due to the Salmon River being a salmon-bearing river. Ms. Webster replied that she is currently working with three permitting bodies.

Chair Simpson thanked Ms. Webster for her presentation.

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Action item:

Staff will follow up with Ms. Webster to receive her presentation slide deck and a written request for funding assistance for her research.

Mayor Lepsoe left the meeting at 11:45 am

**Report from
Program Managers**

Ms. Erin Vieira presented a financial report for the second quarter (April 1st – September 30th 2023):

Revenue for 2023-24 (no change from previous meeting):

Revenue sources	(\$)
2022-23 operational surplus	47,656
2023-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	53,004
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (confirmed)	0
Total revenue	379,585

Expenses shown on the next page ...

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Report from Program Managers

Budget and actual expenses to end of second quarter (April 1st – September 30th 2023):

Program	Annual budget (\$)			Q1 + Q2 actual expenses (\$)		
	Expenses	Program mgmt. (labour)	Sub-total	Expenses	Program mgmt. (labour)	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program						
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	7200	7200	0	640.00	640
Water monitoring expenses	21,900	2200	24,100	16,453.08	600.00	17,053.08
Annual Water Quality Report	7200	5800	13,000	8019.51	3760.00	11,779.51
Water Quality Protection Program						
Water Protection Advisory Committee	0	4200	4200	0	853.33	853.33
Water Quality Grant Program	108,464	9800	118,264	26,590.93	4040.00	30,630.93
Wetland Strategy	20,000	4000	24,000	2316.50	3813.33	6129.83
Climate change impact study (with TRU)	3000	600	3600	3000.00	280.00	3280.00
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program						
Education and outreach campaigns	33,300	6600	39,900	30,417.11	3760.00	34,177.11
Safe Recreation Program						
Safety campaigns	20,000	10,000	30,000	11,872.20	3880.00	15,752.20
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy						
Communications collateral	3250	6100	9350	2488.62	2400.00	4888.62
Public engagement and media	4150	16,800	20,950	5375.97	10,386.67	15,762.63
Advocacy	0	4200	4200	0	493.33	493.33
Administration						
Council meetings, work planning, staff liaise with Chair and Vice Chair	2600	20,800	23,400	578.88	11,466.67	12,045.55
Financial management and fund development	0	16,700	16,700	0	7626.67	7626.67
Sub-total expenses	223,864	115,000	338,864	107,112.79	54,000.00	161,112.79
Contribution to Operating Reserve			40,721			
Total budget for 2023-24			379,585			

Dennis Einarson and Erik Kok left the meeting at 12:00 pm

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**Report from
Program Managers**

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal, Program Managers, provided an update since the last Council meeting held in September:

- SWC members toured Trinity Dairies in Enderby on October 20th to learn about nutrient management, dairy cattle, and the flood mitigation project on the farm that was partially funded by SWC Water Quality Grant funds
- Staff facilitated a meeting of the Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee on November 22nd; the committee reviewed the Water Quality Grant Program Guide and will next meet in February to review applications to the grant program
- Staff facilitated a meeting of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group on November 28th; the group reviewed 2023 water monitoring activities and had a roundtable discussion on wildfire impacts
- An update on five projects funded by SWC Water Quality Grant funds was provided, with four projects being complete and the fifth being on schedule and on budget
- The Water Quality Grant Program opened for applications on December 1st; the application period will close on January 31st and applications will be reviewed in February and approved in March. Staff are facilitating a webinar on January 10th with prospective applicants to provide information about the grant program.
- The Wetland Strategy is progressing; a consulting firm completed an assessment, inventory and mapping project of wetlands in the Salmon Arm Bay drainage. Staff have applied for funding to Environment Canada for next steps, which will include further analysis, prioritization and classification of wetland data to identify key areas for restoration and conservation.
- Educational campaigns for preventing the spread of invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussels to BC have mostly concluded for the winter; with the recent discovery of Quagga mussels in Idaho, staff will keep this program running at lower capacity through the winter instead of shutting down completely
- The field program for monitoring for invasive mussels in the Shuswap has concluded for 2023, no invasive mussels were detected in any samples. This field program is carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society.
- Staff are reviewing and providing input to a new draft Provincial Invasive Species Strategy for BC. Input from the SWC will focus on strategies to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC. See the draft strategy, prepared by the Invasive Species Council of BC, here: <https://bcinvasives.ca/invasive-species-strategy-for-bc/>.
- Staff published an updated Nutrients and Water Quality research summary report in October. The report is available online and print copies were sent to library branches in the Shuswap.

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- Three media releases were published this fall regarding recent SWC activities and announcements
- Staff worked with the Chair to send two letters to Provincial and Federal ministers regarding calls-to-action to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC
- Staff worked with the Chair and four local governments to send a follow-up letter to Interior Health regarding algal bloom response and responsibilities, asking IH to re-instate their leadership over these issues
- Staff are working with the four funders (CSRD, Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Salmon Arm and Adams Lake Indian Band) to amend the Contribution Agreement by extending it for a year, per the direction given at the September SWC meeting
- Staff have applied to Transport Canada for \$24,000 grant funding to support safe boating and swimming campaigns next summer.

Roundtable discussion: 2023 wildfire season and impacts to the Shuswap watershed

This item was removed from the agenda.

New business: SWC meeting schedule for 2024

Moved/seconded by Director Hopkins/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The SWC meeting schedule for 2024 be approved as presented.

Discussion:

Director Hopkins commented that there is an Okanagan Regional Library Board meeting on September 11th 2024 that will create a scheduling conflict with some SWC members.

CARRIED

Action item:

Staff will try to find an alternative date for the September meeting.

The meeting schedule for 2024 will be: March 13th, June 12th, September 11th (tentatively re-scheduled to a date not yet determined), December 11th.

Meetings will be held in the CSRD Boardroom in Salmon Arm, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM except for the December meeting which will be held via Zoom.

Roundtable updates

This agenda item was removed from the agenda.

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Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Director Hopkins/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The December 13th Shuswap Watershed Council meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

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2.i	Correspondence: letter from OBWB to Federal Ministers	9:40



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, BC V1W 3Z4
P 250.469.6270 F 250.762.7011
www.obwb.ca

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2
pm@pm.gc.ca

January 18, 2024

Honourable Diane Lebouthillier
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard
200 Kent St Station 15N100
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0E6
DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Honourable Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Fontaine Building 12th Floor
200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd
Gatineau QC K1A 0H3
ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

Honourable Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P8
ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@ps-sp.gc.ca

Re: CALL FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PREVENT INVASIVE MUSSEL INTRODUCTION TO B.C.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Ministers,

It has come to our attention that federal funding to support B.C.'s Invasive Mussel Defence Program may be reduced or cancelled this year, and further, that other funding partners are citing a lack of federal leadership as justification to cancel or reduce their funding. This is just as the threat of invasive mussels has dramatically increased, with a confirmed infestation in the transboundary Columbia Basin. In addition to the actions we called for in [our letter](#), dated Oct. 18, 2023 and which included a temporary moratorium on boats coming into B.C., we are calling for immediate, long-term federal funding assistance for the Province of B.C. to support invasive zebra and quagga mussels prevention efforts. The Government of Canada should provide funds to at least match provincial government efforts across the West, or plan for significant higher management costs in the near future.

In September, Idaho announced that quagga mussels had been found in the state's Snake River, a tributary of the Columbia River, less than a day's drive to the border of B.C. and Alberta. Idaho's pre-planned rapid response was to spread more than 116,000 litres of toxic copper chelate into Snake River, killing almost

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seven tonnes of fish, and poisoning a 26 km stretch of the river. Wholesale killing of fish, invertebrates, amphibians, and plants in the river was considered better than letting these mussels take hold. We won't know until this coming spring if the treatment has worked. Also in September, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) declared zebra mussels were discovered in New Brunswick. And then in November, Parks Canada declared zebra mussels had spread another 100km west to Clear Lake in Manitoba's Riding Mountain National Park.

DFO has a mandate to sustainably manage fisheries, work with Indigenous communities to enable their continued prosperity from fish, ensure aquatic ecosystems are protected from negative impacts, and protect the environment when emergencies arise. If invasive mussels arrive in B.C., they will severely impact Pacific salmon by depleting the food web in their spawning and rearing habitats in the Fraser and Columbia River systems. First Nations in B.C. have spent decades restoring these systems and their salmon populations, and an infestation will undermine the recovery of these fisheries. Knock-on effects will be seen in marine environments, where reductions in Pacific salmon populations will reduce a key food source for Orcas and other marine species. Protecting B.C.'s freshwaters from invasive mussels is squarely within the mandate of DFO.

The Canada Border Services Agency also has a responsibility to enforce the prohibition against importation of invasive mussels under the federal Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations. While we applaud the work of border service officers to intercept infested watercraft at many land crossings, CBSA is not fulfilling its responsibility for enforcement. Instead, it relies on provincial inspectors to follow up and decontaminate high-risk watercraft once they are identified.

The new Canada Water Agency has a mandate to improve freshwater management in Canada by providing leadership, effective federal collaboration, and improved coordination and collaboration with provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples to proactively address national and regional transboundary freshwater challenges and opportunities. Invasive mussels represent one of the biggest national and regional transboundary threats, yet none of the [\\$750 million](#) allocated to the Canada Water Agency addresses this threat. The Great Lakes region alone will receive more than \$420 million in funding over 10 years to deal with issues such as algae blooms which have been exacerbated by invasive mussels. It would take only \$4 million/year allocated to B.C. invasive mussel inspections to protect the Canadian Columbia Basin, the Fraser Basin, Peace Region, and other major western river systems. The Province of B.C. already allocates over \$1 million/year to this program, but without federal and other partner funding, these efforts will likely fail.

In addition to the threat to Pacific salmon, these mussels are known to stimulate toxic algae blooms, killing migratory birds and contaminating drinking water. They hurt local economies, requiring ongoing maintenance to remove them from in-water infrastructure such as bridges and docks, as well as water systems used to deliver water for agriculture, domestic, industrial, and commercial use. And of course, they degrade the quality of the shoreline environment for human enjoyment.

We view it as unacceptable and unjustifiable, given all the resources and responsibilities of the federal government and your departments, that no federal funding has been allocated to protect freshwater ecosystems from the extreme threat of invasive mussels in Western Canada. Protecting the west from these

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mussels is of national importance, and it will take federal leadership to meet this inter-provincial and transboundary threat.

Understanding that protection of freshwater ecosystems and prevention of invasive species falls within federal mandates, regulations, and laws, we hope your departments will work together to find the resources to properly support western provinces in this important work. This is truly a case where a small investment now will prevent massive costs for years to come.

Yours truly,

Sue McKortoff, Chair
Okanagan Basin Water Board

CC:

- British Columbia MPs
- British Columbia MLAs
- British Columbia Assembly of First Nations
- Okanagan Nation Alliance, Chiefs Executive Council
- Okanagan First Nations Chiefs and Councils
- B.C. Local Government Chairs and Mayors
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region: Matt Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
- Invasive Species Council of B.C.: Gail Wallin, Executive Director
- B.C. Chambers of Commerce
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.ii	Correspondence: letter from CSRD to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	9:40



COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

555 Harbourfront Drive NE, PO Box 978, Salmon Arm, BC V1E 4P1
T: 250-832-8194 | F: 250-832-3375 | TF: 1-888-248-2773 | www.csr.bc.ca

February 29, 2024

Sent by email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada

Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Re: Call to Immediate Action to Prevent Invasive Mussels in BC

On behalf of the CSRD Board of Directors, I am writing to convey our concern over a matter that our Board has frequently discussed - a potential invasion of zebra or quagga mussels. The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) brought our attention to a recent federal government announcement indicating a potential reduction or cancellation of long-term funding that supports invasive mussel prevention strategies.

The absence of direct long-term federal funding designated to protect freshwater ecosystems from the threat of invasive mussels in Western Canada is a huge issue for our region. Coupled with the fact that other funding partners, such as BC Hydro and Fortis BC, are reducing their support adds to the devastating impact on the challenges to keep our freshwater bodies healthy and safe. The Province of BC's program requires this funding to fulfill its responsibility to monitor and prevent the threat of invasive mussels.

The CSRD Board strongly supports the OBWB in their call for immediate action which urges the federal government to provide immediate, long-term federal funding assistance for the Province of BC to support efforts to prevent invasive mussels. While some communities and agencies are pushing for an out of province moratorium on boats and watercraft, the CSRD Board feels this measure would have a negative impact on the regional tourism economy.

This request comes on the heels of our December 4, 2023 letter requesting federal and provincial support to have all crossings into BC monitored to proactively prevent the spread of mussels in BC, without unfavourable and significant impact to the tourism industry or local infrastructure. Not only is it important to monitor, but federal funding also allows the opportunity for inspection, education, and lake monitoring.

The Board recognizes the spread of mussels in BC would have a devastating and irreversible impact on BC's economy; prevention is viewed as the best and most cost-effective option. Given the confirmed finding that quagga mussels have been found in Idaho's Snake River, which feeds into the Columbia River in BC, it is important to accelerate the implementation of preventative measures before the consequences become disastrous and costly.

ELECTORAL AREAS

A. GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
B. REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA

C. EAGLE BAY-WHITE LAKE-TAPPEN
D. FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY

E. SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
F. NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM
G. BLIND BAY-SORRENTO-NOTCH HILL

MUNICIPALITIES

GOLDEN
REVELSTOKE

SALMON ARM
SICAMOUS

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.ii	Correspondence: letter from CSRD to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau	9:40

Meaningful federal involvement is necessary to supplement the involvement of provincial staff with decision-making, compliance, and enforcement authorities. Given the urgency of the situation, the CSRD trusts our request for funding is seriously considered; we also want to ensure continuous coordinated action between the federal and provincial governments, regional districts, and municipalities in BC to address the issues which impact the health of Canada's water systems.

We urgently request your Ministry's call-to-action and collaborative leadership in protecting and safeguarding the water resources in our region and invest in funding to support continued provincial work and protect BC's waters from invasive mussels.

Yours truly,

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

Per:



Kevin Flynn
Board Chair

cc: Shuswap MLA Greg Kylo
North Okanagan Shuswap MP Mel Arnold
Adams Lake Indian Band
Skwłāx te Secwepemcúlecw
Neskonlith Indian Band
Splatsh
City of Salmon Arm
District of Sicamous
Shuswap Watershed Council
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Thompson-Nicola Regional District
Regional District North Okanagan
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen
Regional District Central Okanagan
Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
Shuswap Chambers of Commerce: Salmon Arm, Sicamous, South Shuswap, North Shuswap

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.iii	Correspondence: letter from SWC to Federal Ministers	9:40



c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A – 1383 McGill Road
Kamloops, BC V2C 6K7
250.314.9660
www.shuswapwater.ca
f t i n

Hon. Diane Lebouthillier
Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard
Ottawa, ON
Sent by e-mail to DFO.Minister-Ministre.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hon. Dominic LeBlanc
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions, and Intergovernmental Affairs
Ottawa, ON
Sent by e-mail to IGA.Minister-Ministre.AIG@pco-bcp.gc.ca

Hon. Pablo Rodriguez
Minister of Transport
Ottawa, ON
Sent by e-mail to TC.MinisterofTransport-MinistredesTransports.TC@tc.gc.ca

Hon. Steven Guilbeault
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
Ottawa, ON
Sent by e-mail to ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca

22 February 2024

Re: Renewed call for immediate action to prevent invasive mussel introduction to British Columbia

Dear Ministers,

We are writing to renew our calls to action conveyed to you in our [November 28th 2023 letter](#) and to express support for a similar letter sent to you by the [Okanagan Basin Water Board on January 18th 2024](#) regarding urgent, immediate action needed by the Federal Government to prevent the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels into British Columbia. We have not yet received a reply to our letter. On February 14th 2024, the [Government of Canada announced investments](#) for the prevention of invasive Zebra and Quagga mussels in the West. While these are welcome announcements – including \$540,000 for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation over 2023-2025 and \$90,000 for two new decontamination trailers for the Province of BC – we remain deeply concerned that there are still significant gaps in the British Columbia Invasive Mussel Defence Program (IMDP).

Invasive mussels are touted as one of the most destructive invasive species ever to have invaded North American fresh waters¹. Furthermore, a new report from the Province of BC² estimates an annual cost

¹ 2019 Spring Reports of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development to the Parliament of Canada.

² Potential Economic Impact of Zebra and Quagga Mussels in BC. May 2023. Available online: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/plants-animals-and-ecosystems/invasive-species/invasive-mussels/zqm_economic_report_2023_05_26_final.pdf.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.iii	Correspondence: letter from SWC to Federal Ministers	9:40



of \$64 – 129 million in BC to deal with invasive mussel infestations. The ecological and economic impacts will be staggering for British Columbia. Greater priority must be given to prevention.

The BC IMDP includes the operation of watercraft inspection stations which are absolutely critical to prevent the spread of invasive mussels to BC because watercraft are the primary vector. More funding specifically allocated to watercraft inspection stations will better protect BC from invasive mussels.

Early detection monitoring has indicated that BC waters remain free of invasive mussels. However, that could change in a matter of a day or two if a traveller with infested watercraft or gear were to arrive in BC without having been inspected and launch into a lake, thus starting a new, irreversible infestation of mussels. This scenario is entirely plausible since watercraft inspection stations are not open 365 days a year, nor are they located on all entry-points to BC, and invasive mussels are known to survive out-of-water for up to 30 days. An infested watercraft could depart Manitoba, Ontario, Idaho or another infested jurisdiction today and be in BC, unchecked, tomorrow.

Ministers, we are calling for immediate, long-term federal funding assistance for the Province of BC to support invasive mussel prevention. We are urging you to work with the BC Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship and the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy to provide federal funding for the BC Invasive Mussel Defence Program such that permanent watercraft inspection stations can be established at all entry-points into BC and be open 24 hours/day and 365 days/year. This will address significant gaps in the program and prevent the entry of an unchecked watercraft into BC.

We are also re-iterating our call-to-action in our November 28th letter asking that you issue immediate direction to all Canada Border Service Agency locations in Western Canada that all watercraft entering Canada in that region be inspected for invasive mussels following Provincial protocols.

Ministers, given the proximity of invasive mussels to BC, the devastating and costly impacts of a new infestation, and a lack of sufficient prevention measures, the time to act is now. Your departments have the mandate to protect fresh water, prevent invasive species, and manage sustainable fisheries. We are urging the Government of Canada to make greater investments in watercraft inspection to defend BC's waters against invasive mussels. If nothing is done, it is only a matter of time until we face an irreversible, ecologically disruptive and economically crippling invasion.

Sincerely,

Jay Simpson
Chair, Shuswap Watershed Council
Director, Columbia Shuswap Regional District Area 'F' North Shuswap
250 517-9578 | jsimpson@csrd.bc.ca

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.iii	Correspondence: letter from SWC to Federal Ministers	9:40



CC:

- Shuswap / Okanagan / Thompson / Kootenay / Columbia MPs: Mel Arnold, Dan Albas, Frank Caputo, Tracy Gray, Rob Morrison, Richard Cannings
- Shuswap MLA: Greg Kylo
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District Chair: Kevin Flynn
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District Chair: Barbara Roden
- Regional District of North Okanagan Chair: Kevin Acton
- Secwepemc Kúpi7s: Lynn Kenoras-Duck Chief (Adams Lake Indian Band), James Tomma (Skwax te Secwepemcúcw), Irvine Wai (Neskonlith), and Megan Nicholas, Executive Secretary (Splotsin te Secwepemc)
- Shuswap Mayors: Alan Harrison (Salmon Arm), Colleen Anderson (Sicamous), David Lepsoe (Chase)
- Okanagan Basin Water Board Chair: Blair Ireland
- Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- Shuswap Chambers of Commerce: Salmon Arm, Sicamous, South Shuswap, North Shuswap
- Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.i	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 27 th 2024	9:45



Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group
February 27th, 2024 • 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Virtual meeting held via Zoom.

Draft Meeting Summary as at March 6, 2024

Attending:

Diana Tesic-Nagalingam – Interior Health
Mike Baker – Village of Chase
Connie Hewitt – Regional District of North Okanagan
Marge Sidney – Gardom Lake Stewardship Society, BC Lake Stewardship Society
Patrick Frank – White Lake Residents Association
Terry Winram – White Lake Residents Association
Wes DeArmond – BC Parks
Carly Foster – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Daniel Selbie – Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Laura Gaster – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Scott Bepple – Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Priscilla Cheung – First Nations Health Authority
Rob Niewenhuizen – City of Salmon Arm
Colan Morrow – District of Sicamous

Alex de Chantal – Shuswap Watershed Council, c/o FBC
Erin Vieira – Shuswap Watershed Council, c/o FBC

1. Welcome and introductions

Alex facilitated a round of introductions. He acknowledged participants participating in the Zoom meeting across Secwepemc Territory. He reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

2. Meeting Summary from November 28th, 2024

Alex briefly reviewed the November meeting summary. The meeting summary from November 28th, 2024 was approved.

3. Partner updates

a. Update from Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society:

- CSISS Land Manager meeting in Revelstoke, April 9th. All welcome to attend. Follow up with Laura or Robyn @ CSISS for more information or to RSVP.
- Call for new directors to join CSISS board
- CSISS interesting in partners and project ideas for Critical Habitat Interdepartmental Program (CHIP) and Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR), federal grants to support species-at-risk work on indigenous territory, e.g. invasive mussels, whirling disease, impacts on endangered

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.i	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 27 th 2024	9:45



- salmonids, etc. CSISS can provide grant-writing, education and management. Anyone interested in partnering can contact the CSISS Executive Director, Robyn Hooper.
- CSISS will request funding from SWC in 2024 for early-detection invasive mussel prevention and education/outreach. CSISS will present this request at the March 13th Shuswap Watershed Council meeting.
 - Results of early-detection monitoring across BC indicate no zebra or quagga mussels detected anywhere in the province.
 - CSISS planning early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels in 2024. Have applied to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for funding to carry out this work (also with financial support from the SWC, pending approval). Can't confirm which sites will be monitored until funding is approved,

Question from Dan Selbie: Where to find out which lakes in BC are monitored for invasive ZQM?

Response: Laura will follow up and provide a [link](#) to where this information is posted online.

Within the [2024 Invasive Mussel field protocol](#), on page 21, you can find the updated 2024 priority waterbody list.

Question from Terry Winram: the BC Conservation Officer Service has two mussel-sniffing dogs.

Concerned the dogs are nearing retirement. Are new dogs being trained?

Response: Laura will bring that forward to the spring meeting with the Provincial Working Group.

b. Update from Robyn Laubman – Territorial Water Manager – Splatnin

Treated and untreated water samples from 18 Salmon River Reserve residences were analysed for a comprehensive suite of general water quality parameter groups, including:

- Inorganics
- Anions
- Bacteria (total coliforms and E.coli)
- Nutrients
- Physical Properties
- Total Metals.

Samples were taken from treated and untreated water, beginning August 22 and ending December 20, 2023 and sent to Caro Analytical Laboratories in Kelowna for analysis.

Water quality exceedances were found in 17 of the 18 systems sampled. A summary of these results is shown below in Table 2.

Analyte	Number of Exceedances	Guideline	Minimum - Maximum Lab Result	General Area	Treated Water?
E.Coli	1	MAC: 0	2	Hulicar	No
Iron	13	AO: 0.3	0.327-2.54	Salmon River Reserve (including Hulicar)	No

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3.i	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 27 th 2024	9:45



Analyte	Number of Exceedances	Guideline	Minimum - Maximum Lab Result	General Area	Treated Water?
Lead	2	MAC: 0.005	0.0233-0.280	Salmon River Reserve (including Hullcar)	No
Manganese	13	AO: 0.02, MAC: 0.12	0.0218-0.753	Salmon River Reserve (including Hullcar)	
Nitrate	2	MAC: 10	12.4-14.6	Hullcar	No
pH	13	OG: 7 - 10.5	6.35-6.84	Hullcar	Predominantly
Sodium	1	AO: 200	342	Hullcar	No
Strontium	2	MAC: 7.0	11.9-13.1	Hullcar	No
Total Coliforms (counts)	11	MAC: 0	1-270	Salmon River Reserve (including Hullcar)	Predominantly not treated
Total Coliforms (MPN)	2	MAC: 0	1-23	Hullcar	Mixed
Total Dissolved Solids	8	AO: 500	512-825	Hullcar	Predominantly not treated
Turbidity	14	MAC: 1	1.11-9.94	Salmon River Reserve (including Hullcar)	Predominantly not treated

Of these eleven parameters with exceedances, *E.coli*, *lead*, *manganese*, *nitrate*, *strontium*, *total coliforms* and *turbidity* are the only traditional "health" parameters.

4. Group discussion: 2024 water quality monitoring plans

Alex showed the Shuswap Water Monitoring spreadsheet that summarizes water monitoring plans in the watershed. He reviewed the spreadsheet item by item and sought input from meeting participants to update the records for 2024.

Carly reported that the Province of BC is continuing with attainment monitoring to determine if the newly established Water Quality Objectives developed by the Province for Shuswap Lake are being met.

Terry Winram reported that BC WLRA is now working with the BC Lake Stewardship Society in lieu of with Lucy Thomson's group at BC Ministry of Environment. BC WLRA would eventually like to embark on a Level 4 or Level 5 monitoring program (lake management plan and watershed management plan, respectively) however for 2024 WLRA is reverting to a Level 1 program.

5. Update on SWC initiatives

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.i	Old business: Draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, February 27 th 2024	9:45



a. Erin provided an update on the results of the CSRD referendum. The CSRD will not provide any additional funds to the Shuswap Watershed Council as a result of the referendum. There are three other funders who have not confirmed their funding commitments for 2024 yet; there are also federal and other grant opportunities that Erin and Alex can pursue to support the SWC's work going forward.

b. Alex – Water quality Grant program

A total of 8 applications were received for the 2024 intake of the Water Quality Grant program. The Water Protection Advisory Committee will be reviewing and assessing the applications and their recommendations will go to the Shuswap Watershed Council on March 13th.

c. Alex – Phase 2 Wetland Strategy

The SWC received \$40,000 in funding from the Environment and Climate Change Canada to support Phase 2 of the Wetland Strategy. Associated Environmental Consultants were selected from 5 submissions received through a Request for Expressions of Interest. Work will be completed by March 31, 2024.

Question from Marge Sidney: How much funding is available for water quality grants?

Response: \$65,000 is budgeted for the water quality grant program in 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.ii	Old business: draft summary of Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, February 28 th 2024	9:45

Water Protection Advisory Committee Meeting
February 28th 2024 • 12:30 – 3:00 PM
Salmon Arm City Hall Room #100
500 2nd Ave NE, Salmon Arm BC

Draft meeting summary as March 5th 2024

Meeting objectives

1. Review applications from the Water Quality Grant Program and make recommendations to the SWC for funding
2. Share information

Attendance (committee members)

Carolyn Farris, Horse Council BC
Carly Foster, Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Dennis Einarson, SWC Senior Scientific Advisor
Dan Gietema, Dairy Farmer
Marge Sidney, Gardom Lake Stewardship Society
Lindsay Benbow, Ministry of Agriculture and Food
Ralph van Daltsen, Agriculture – dairy
Dennis Lapierre, Agriculture – other

Robyn Laubman, Splatsin did not attend but did submit an Evaluation Form by email
Erin Vieira, SWC did not attend but did submit an Evaluation Form by email

Staff

Alex de Chantal, Shuswap Watershed Council c/o Fraser Basin Council

Meeting Outcomes

1. Consensus was reached on which applications to recommend for funding
2. Ideas for future changes to the Water Quality Grant Program were identified

Summary of discussions, decisions and action items

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Objectives

Alex de Chantal welcomed everyone to the meeting and a round of introductions took place. Secwepemc territory was acknowledged. Alex reviewed the agenda and objectives for the meeting.

2. Meeting Summary

Alex briefly reviewed the draft summary of the last WPAC meeting held November 22, 2023. No action items were noted from that meeting. The draft summary was approved with no changes.

3. Review Applications, compare scores, discuss, seek consensus on recommendations.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.ii	Old business: draft summary of Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, February 28 th 2024	9:45

Alex reviewed the evaluation procedures document and explained the criteria was established by the Committee and the Shuswap Watershed Council a few years ago. Staff complete some of the scoring criteria objectively during the initial staff screening of the applications; the remainder of the evaluation criteria are reviewed by the committee.

Alex reminded committee members that if they have a conflict of interest with an application, they must leave the room when it is being discussed.

Alex went through each application, briefly, in turn. It was expected that committee members have already reviewed all the applications on their own time.

It was agreed to qualitatively discuss the applications, reach consensus on scoring each application and whether to recommend applications for funding.

The following table summarizes the applications received, lists the grant funding requested and the project goals, and summarizes the committee's deliberations on whether to recommend applications for SWC funding and provides the application's score out of 100 assigned by the committee:

Application	Application description	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max is 100)
Scott & Brittny Syme Manure Storage	Our current dry manure is stored outside, on ground during the winter months. To prevent nutrient leaching, we're looking to construct a concrete pad with side walls to reduce nutrient run off and capture nutrient rich water. This will be constructed in parallel with a liquid manure storage pit allowing the nutrient rich water to be stored within the manure pit.	\$14,000.00	Recommended for funding.	83.39
Gietema Farms Ltd Precision GPS	Purchase and install a precision GPS system for tractor. System will allow application of manure, fertilizer, and seeds in a more precise manner greatly reducing the risk of over application.	\$7,329	Recommended for funding.	80.34
Kristy-Anne & Jeffrey Czepil Riparian Management - Kingfisher Creek	Provide 1750 meters of fencing along Kingfisher Creek to prevent livestock from entering the creek. The creek location on the property is ~1500 meters upstream from where Kingfisher Creek enters the Shuswap River.	\$20,000.00	Recommended for funding.	80.34
Foxtrot Dairy Ltd. New fencing along a creek	The dairy farm has a section of 2,826 feet of pasture along Waby Creek. The goal is to bring the fence line further into the pasture in proximity to the creek. The cows use this area to pasture and we want to ensure that there is no run off from manure into this creek. The	\$6,350.73	Recommended for funding.	80

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.ii	Old business: draft summary of Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, February 28 th 2024	9:45

Application	Application description	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max is 100)
	current fence is too close and is in need of replacement.			
Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery Upgrade irrigation stations to support fertigation	Fertigation is an efficient method of nutrient application in which fertilizers are injected through an irrigation system. Benefits listed are greater nitrogen use for the crop, greater water efficiency and as a result, reduced ground water contamination. Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery currently use drip-irrigation and this project would replace 2 existing water stations to provide fertigation capability.	\$5,341.11	Recommended for funding.	63.51
Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery Cover crop & Under-vine Mower	A cover-crop of white dutch clover was planted under-vine in 2023. Clover fixes nitrogen and helps to prevent soil erosion, which in turn reduces fertilizer and and other farm run off. It is evident from last year that an under-vine mower tool for the tractor is required to manage this cover crop throughout the growing season.	\$6,939.52	Recommended for funding.	54.47
	Total funding request for the above recommended projects	\$59,960.36		
Schweb Family Cattle Fencing and Auto-waterers		\$17,500	Application Incomplete	29.34
Valleyview Ranch Wetland Ditch and Repair	Currently we have one field that is limited in use as it consists of a wet land area. This project will ditch the field, and put a culvert in so animals can travel over the ditch without disturbing the water. The electric fencing system will be used to keep animals out of the ditch, which drains into the Eagle River. This therefore will result is less livestock contaminants entering the water shed.	\$9,569.22	Did not meet grant program criteria	24.34
	Total funding requested	\$27,069.22		

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.ii	Old business: draft summary of Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, February 28 th 2024	9:45

Discussion of applications:

1. Precision GPS – Daniel Gietema declared a conflict of interest as he submitted the application. Daniel left the room during the evaluation of his application. Project is supported.
2. Kingfisher – Project is supported. Unknown how cattle will access water once fencing is constructed, no mention of auto-waterers in application.
3. Sunnybrae – Project is supported. Can they switch between water and fertilizer? Yes, they would be able to control which is being pushed to drip lines. No mention of a comparison of current system vs. proposed new system in terms of over application. General agreement pushing fertilizer through drip lines will be more efficient compared to broadcast application.
4. Foxtrot – Project is supported, even without knowing how much further away from current fence location the proposed new fence location would be. Unclear where new fence will be in terms of their pasture land vs. crop land.
5. Syme Manure Storage – Project is supported, but a committee member shared applications in the past have been turned down because manure storage was a legislated requirement for the farmer. Prov. of BC shared that temporary storage is allowed but it cannot rest in the same place and must be moved annually. Currently it's located on the ground and might be moved annually but we don't know. Regulations state you need appropriate storage for number of animals you have.
6. Valleyview Ranch – No support from committee. Concern around no mention of permits. Many issues regarding working on wetland and installing ditch and culverts. Ineligible activity as per program guidelines which state no culvert installations. Vote was held regarding rejecting the application with 6 voting to reject the application because of ineligible activities. It was noted that 2 abstained from voting.
7. Schweb Family Cattle – Concern around lack of authorizations for working on the riverbank, cannot work in riparian area without permit. Concerns around lack of budget details. Vote was held about marking application incomplete, 6 voted to mark application incomplete, it was noted that 2 abstained. The committee is unable to assess application in current state. Suggest applicant reapply next year with more information.

Committee has scored the applications and ranked projects 1-6 based on criteria and project merit. See table above for recommendations to Shuswap Watershed Council.

4. Next steps

Recommendations for updating grant program for next year:

1. Ask for exact coordinates of project location on property. Show Google Maps with pin on location.
2. A committee member would like to see proximity to water reduced even further.
3. Discussion around whether the SWC should accept projects applications that might contravene current regulations ie: manure storage.
4. Do we want to accept two applications from one property owner? Discuss implications of receiving two from one property.
5. Perhaps review application first with committee, receive questions to put back to applicants, take answer to committee meeting for review of applications. Other commented that applicants need to complete application in full, need to be assessed based on what is submitted by deadline.
6. Discuss concerns around equipment purchase.

5. Meeting Adjourned at 3:30pm.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4.i	Report from Chair – letter to SWC members	9:50

Letter from Shuswap Watershed Council Chair Jay Simpson

SWC Board Members,

We are at a pivotal time in the life of the Shuswap Watershed Council. The people of the CSRD have determined that we, as an organization, are not providing the value they expect of a group charged with advocating for and working towards the health of our Shuswap watershed. Therefore, we have to critique our actions and re-define our role based on a reduction in funding.

During the meeting on March 13th we will spend some time looking at our current work plan for 2024, and I ask you to read carefully through the detailed budget document included in the agenda package [beginning p. 36] and determine your priorities. We have a few items that we have begun, and are slated to be funded and finished in 2024; notably, our current grant in-take and the second year of the partnership with Thompson Rivers University on glacier research above Adams Lake. With our current reserves and possible / in-principle commitments from CSRD Electoral Area Directors grant-in-aid funds we can continue these projects and likely a reduced work plan for 2024.

Along with this budget discussion, we should consider our future for 2025 and beyond. The Province has made noise about the importance of watershed groups, but to-date there is no funding attached to those words and therefore we must rely on ourselves for the foreseeable future. Is this a worthwhile organization and, if so, what can we do to ensure its continuation? Can we fine-tune its operations to work within an ongoing reduced / uncertain budget? Or, do we finish this year and say goodbye?

I look forward to your questions, comments, and decisions. See you next week.

Jay Simpson
 CSRD Area F Director, North Shuswap
 c. 250 517-9578

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.i	Report from Program Managers: Financial report to third quarter	10:00

Budget and actual expenses to end of third quarter (April 1st – December 31st 2023)

Program		Annual budget (\$)			Q1 + Q2 + Q3 actual expenses (\$)		
		Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program							
	Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	7200	7200	0	3120.00	3120.00
	Water monitoring expenses	21,900	2200	24,100	20,828.08	600.00	21,428.08
	Annual Water Quality Report	7200	5800	13,000	8401.63	4840.00	13,241.63
Water Quality Protection Program							
	Water Protection Advisory Committee	0	4200	4200	0	1960.00	1960.00
	Water Quality Grant Program	118,464	9800	128,264	42,908.43	6320.00	49,228.43
	Wetland Strategy	18,400	5600	24,000	2316.50	4106.67	6423.17
	Climate change impact study (with TRU)	3000	600	3600	3000.00	280.00	3280.00
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program							
	Education and outreach campaigns	33,300	6600	39,900	34,248.30	5840.00	40,088.30
Safe Recreation Program							
	Safety campaigns	20,000	10,000	30,000	12,612.73	4360.00	16,972.73
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy							
	Communications collateral	3250	6100	9350	2714.12	3440.00	6154.12
	Public engagement and media	9650	17,400	27,050	7572.37	17,586.67	25,159.04
	Advocacy	0	4200	4200	0	2453.33	2453.33
Administration							
	Council meetings, work planning, staff liaise with Chair and Vice Chair	2600	20,800	23,400	915.22	16,260.00	17,175.22
	Financial management and fund development	0	16,700	16,700	0	12,186.67	12,186.67
	Sub-total expenses	237,764	117,200	354,964	135,517.37	83,353.33	218,870.70
	Contribution to Operating Reserve			24,621			
	Total budget for 2023-24			379,585			

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.ii	Report from Program Managers: Revised budget for 2024-25	10:00

Revised budget for 2023-24

Staff received notification of a successful grant application to Environment & Climate Change Canada on December 20th 2023. The grant provides \$40,000 in funding from ECCC's *Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative* towards the Shuswap Watershed Council's Wetland Strategy. The budget for 2023-24 has been updated accordingly.

Prior to receiving notice of the federal grant funding, the SWC had budgeted \$24,000 of its own funding toward developing the Wetland Strategy. As a result of the grant funding, most of the SWC's budget won't be needed for the strategy, so it will go toward the year-end surplus.

Budget and revenue sources as of January 1st 2024. Revisions are highlighted.

Revenue sources	(\$)
2022-23 operational surplus	47,656
2023-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	53,004
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (confirmed)	0
Environment & Climate Change Canada Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative	40,000
Total revenue	419,585

Expenses shown on next page

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.ii	Report from Program Managers: Revised budget for 2024-25	10:00

Expenses and work plan items as of January 1st 2024. Revisions are highlighted.

Program		Annual budget (\$)			Revised annual budget (\$)		
		Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program							
	Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	7200	7200	0	7200	7200
	Water monitoring expenses	21,900	2200	24,100	21,900	2200	24,100
	Annual Water Quality Report	7200	5800	13,000	7200	5800	13,000
Water Quality Protection Program							
	Water Protection Advisory Committee	0	4200	4200	0	4200	4200
	Water Quality Grant Program	118,464	9800	128,264	118,464	9800	128,264
	Wetland Strategy	18,400	5600	24,000	51,400	12,600	64,000
	Climate change impact study (with TRU)	3000	600	3600	3000.00	600	3600
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program							
	Education and outreach campaigns	33,300	6600	39,900	33,300	6600	39,900
Safe Recreation Program							
	Safety campaigns	20,000	10,000	30,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy							
	Communications collateral	3250	6100	9350	3250	6100	9350
	Public engagement and media	9650	17,400	27,050	9650	17,400	27,050
	Advocacy	0	4200	4200	0	4200	4200
Administration							
	Council meetings, work planning, staff liaise with Chair and Vice Chair	2600	20,800	23,400	2600	20,800	23,400
	Financial management and fund development	0	16,700	16,700	0	16,700	16,700
	Sub-total expenses	237,764	117,200	354,964	270,764	124,200	394,964
	Contribution to Operating Reserve			24,621			24,621
	Total budget for 2023-24			379,585			419,585

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.i	New business: Water Quality Grant Program	10:25

Background

The purpose of the Water Quality Grant Program is to protect water quality in the Shuswap by minimizing nutrient loading from land to surface waters. The grant program provides financial assistance to arms and other large land holdings for projects that improve nutrient management and that reduce the amount of nutrients that wash off or leach out of soils into nearby creeks, rivers and lakes within the Shuswap watershed. By retaining nutrients in soils, and preventing their movement to nearby watercourses, a win-win situation is created for farms and for water quality.

Up to \$65,000 is available in the Water Quality Grant Program budget. The grant program opened for applications on December 1st 2023 and closed on January 31st 2024. Staff promoted the grant fund across the region through advertising, e-mails, and social media and invited applications by the deadline of January 31st. A grant program guide – including detailed eligibility criteria, application templates and evaluation procedures – were posted on the SWC website to assist potential applicants.

Staff received eight applications, worth a total ask of \$87,030. Staff performed an initial screen of the applications to ensure there were complete and met the edibility criteria. The applications were then reviewed by members of the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee (WPAC).

Recommendations

The WPAC makes the following recommendations, with comments, for funding. The table is colour-coded accordingly (green = project is recommended for funding; orange = project is not recommended for funding). This is the same table that is included in the WPAC draft meeting summary included on page 26 in this agenda package.

Application	Application description	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max is 100)
Scott & Brittny Syme Manure Storage	Our current dry manure is stored outside, on ground during the winter months. To prevent nutrient leaching, we're looking to construct a concrete pad with side walls to reduce nutrient run off and capture nutrient rich water. This will be constructed in parallel with a liquid manure storage pit allowing the nutrient rich water to be stored within the manure pit.	\$14,000.00	Recommended for funding.	83.39
Gietema Farms Ltd Precision GPS	Purchase and install a precision GPS system for tractor. System will allow application of manure, fertilizer, and seeds in a more precise manner greatly reducing the risk of over application.	\$7,329	Recommended for funding.	80.34
Kristy-Anne & Jeffrey Czepil Riparian Management - Kingfisher Creek	Provide 1750 meters of fencing along Kingfisher Creek to prevent livestock from entering the creek. The creek location on the property is ~1500 meters upstream from where Kingfisher Creek enters the Shuswap River.	\$20,000.00	Recommended for funding.	80.34
Foxtrot Dairy Ltd.	The dairy farm has a section of 2,826 feet of pasture along Waby Creek. The goal is	\$6,350.73	Recommended for funding.	80

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.i	New business: Water Quality Grant Program	10:25

Application	Application description	SWC \$ ask	WPAC recommendation to SWC	Score (max is 100)
New fencing along a creek	to bring the fence line further into the pasture in proximity to the creek. The cows use this area to pasture and we want to ensure that there is no run off from manure into this creek. The current fence is too close and is in need of replacement.			
Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery Upgrade irrigation stations to support fertigation	Fertigation is an efficient method of nutrient application in which fertilizers are injected through an irrigation system. Benefits listed are greater nitrogen use for the crop, greater water efficiency and as a result, reduced ground water contamination. Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery currently use drip-irrigation and this project would replace 2 existing water stations to provide fertigation capability.	\$5,341.11	Recommended for funding.	63.51
Sunnybrae Vineyards & Winery Cover crop & Under-vine Mower	A cover-crop of white dutch clover was planted under-vine in 2023. Clover fixes nitrogen and helps to prevent soil erosion, which in turn reduces fertilizer and other farm run off. It is evident from last year that an under-vine mower tool for the tractor is required to manage this cover crop throughout the growing season.	\$6,939.52	Recommended for funding.	54.47
	Total funding request for the above recommended projects	\$59,960.36		
Schweb Family Cattle Fencing and Auto-waterers		\$17,500	Application Incomplete	29.34
Valleyview Ranch Wetland Ditch and Repair	Currently we have one field that is limited in use as it consists of a wet land area. This project will ditch the field, and put a culvert in so animals can travel over the ditch without disturbing the water. The electric fencing system will be used to keep animals out of the ditch, which drains into the Eagle River. This therefore will result is less livestock contaminants entering the water shed.	\$9,569.22	Did not meet grant program criteria	24.34
	Total funding requested	\$27,069.22		

In summary, it is recommended the Shuswap Watershed Council provide funding in the amount of \$59,960.36 to six projects. Next steps would include staff conducting a site visit to all successful grant applicants and preparing Contribution Agreements between the SWC (c/o Fraser Basin Council) and the grant recipients.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

Budget and work plan – Scenario A

Budget and work plan Scenario A was drafted by staff with the provision of funding from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Salmon Arm and Adams Lake Indian Band for 2024-25 in addition to the Operating Reserve as a source of revenue. This work plan provides a detailed cost breakdown of all items.

Revenue sources – Scenario A	(\$)
2023-24 projected operational surplus	20,410
2023-24 grant program funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	65,000
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	0
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program – not confirmed	24,391
<i>Operating Reserve</i>	
Operating Reserve from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total revenue	379,688

Budget and work plan – Scenario A	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program			
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year and correspondence Track monitoring activities 	6638	0	6638
Watershed and water quality monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZQM early-detection monitoring by CSISS \$17,500 Floating Treatment Wetland research by Margot Webster, Royal Roads University \$5509 Community monitoring fund \$3000 	2025	26,209	28,234
Annual Water Quality Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing, preparing data, graphic design, printing and distribution 	5400	7350	12,750
Water Quality Protection Program			
Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year and correspondence 	5050	400	5450
Water Quality Grant Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants disbursed in 2024, up to \$65,000 Grant budget for 2025 \$60,000 	10775	125,460	136,235
Wetland Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland Committee meetings Continue developing strategy 	6463	4000	10,463

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

Climate change impact studies	675	5000	5675
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adams River watershed glacier research by Tay Powrie, Thompson Rivers University 			
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	7425	30,720	38,145
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and awareness campaigns incl. three billboard rentals, newspaper ads and editorial, ads in travel literature, social media ads, sandwich boards for visitor centres, graphic design Contribution to CSISS for education and outreach \$10,000 Staff participate in Prov. Working Group, CSISS Board, liaise with OBWB and ISCBC 			
Safe Recreation Program			
Safety campaigns and safety equipment	9450	20,700	30,150
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper ads and editorials, ads in travel literature, radio campaigns, social media ads, print and distribute rack cards. Campaign material developed in partnership with RMC-SAR. Distribute marine safety whistles Promote RCM-SAR lifejacket kiosks <p>* this program is 75% funded by Transport Canada – grant application to be confirmed</p>			
Communications, Community Engagement, and Advocacy			
Communications collateral	5163	2400	7563
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Highlights Report 2023-24. Writing, graphic design, printing and distribution. E-newsletters Other communiques as needed 			
Public engagement	11,463	3750	15,213
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases Meeting Highlights one-pagers Promote the Water Quality Grant Program Misc. correspondence, events, presentations as needed 			
Advocacy	2700	0	2700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence with regulators, senior orders of government re: critical issues and concerns 			
Watershed Roundtable Meeting	5800	5550	11,350
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-day community meeting Staff to plan, prepare, develop agenda, promote event, prepare meeting summary Hire facilitator for the day Venue, catering and travel expenses 			
Council Meetings, Administration, and Financial Management			
Council meetings	16,375	2100	18,475
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings per year Staff prepare agenda, meeting materials, presentations, meeting summary One-day field tour for SWC members 			

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel expenses 			
	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual work planning and budgeting Regular correspondence and meetings with Chair, Vice Chair and staff On-boarding for new SWC members (~ January 2025) 	3694	0	3694
	Financial management and fund development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track expenses and pay invoices Fund development and proposals 	19,613	0	19,613
	Sub-total work plan expenses	118,706	233,639	352,345
	Surplus			27,343
	Total work plan expenses			379,688

Budget and work plan – Scenario B

Budget and work plan Scenario B are adjusted to lower funding levels. Contributions from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Salmon Arm and Adams Lake Indian Band have been removed from the revenue stream. The Operating Reserve is the largest source of revenue. Additionally, \$40,000 of grant-in-aids is included in the revenue as a potential new source of funding for the SWC's work as directed by the Chair and Vice Chair. The work plan and budget are reduced to suit these funding levels.

The main cut-backs in Scenario B as compared to Scenario A are: reduced campaign costs in the Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program; minor reduction to labour cost and disbursements in the Communications and Engagement Program; and a one-day field tour for SWC members has been removed from the work plan.

Summary of key achievements and deliverables for 2024-25 in Scenario B:

- Administer the **Water Quality Grant Program** with up to \$65,000 grant funds distributed in 2024 and \$60,000 budgeted for 2025. Grants are available to farms and landowners to protect and improve water quality.
- Continue developing a **Wetland Strategy** for the Shuswap watershed
- Administer the **Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program**
 - Deliver educational campaigns about best practices to prevent the movement of invasive mussels into BC
 - Partner with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to monitor the Shuswap watershed for invasive mussels
- Administer a **community water monitoring grant fund**, to support community-based stewardship and water monitoring
- Facilitate bi-annual meetings of the **Shuswap Water Monitoring Group** to discuss water monitoring across the Shuswap watershed, collaborate and share information
- Provide financial support for **watershed research** by partnering with academic institutions and graduate students
- Promote safe boating** and water-based recreation in the Shuswap through educational campaigns
- Educate and inform** the public about water quality

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

- **Advocate for the Shuswap** watershed by corresponding with senior government agencies about critical concerns and threats
- **Communicate and engage** with the public about the SWC's activities and achievements
 - Publish an Annual Highlights Report for 2023-24
 - Media releases and newsletters
 - Maintain a website and social media
- **Hold four Council meetings** per year
- **Track and report** expenses
- **Apply for grant and foundation funding** to support the Shuswap Watershed Council in 2024 and beyond.

Revenue sources – Scenario B	(\$)
2023-24 projected operational surplus	20,410
2023-24 grant program funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	65,000
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	0
TNRD	0
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	0
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program – not confirmed	24,391
Grants-in-aid – multiple contributors – not confirmed	40,000
<i>Operating Reserve</i>	
Operating Reserve from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total revenue	324,788

Budget and work plan – Scenario B	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program			
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x meetings per year and correspondence • Track monitoring activities 	6638	0	6638
Watershed and water quality monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ZQM early-detection monitoring by CSISS \$17,500 • Floating Treatment Wetland research by Margot Webster, Royal Roads University \$5509 • Community monitoring fund \$3000 	2025	26,209	28,234
Annual Water Quality Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing, preparing data, graphic design, printing and distribution 	5400	7350	12,750
Water Quality Protection Program			
Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2x meetings per year, correspondence, and action items 	5050	400	5450
Water Quality Grant Program (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants disbursed in 2024, up to \$65,000 • Grant program budget for 2025 \$55,000 	8063	120,460	128,523
Wetland Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Committee meetings 	6463	4000	10,463

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue developing strategy 			
	Climate change impact studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adams River watershed glacier research by Tay Powrie, Thompson Rivers University 	675	5000	5675
	Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and awareness campaigns incl. three two billboard rentals, newspaper ads and editorial, ads in travel literature, social media ads, sandwich boards for visitor centres, graphic design Contribution to CSISS for education and outreach \$10,000 Staff participate in Prov. Working Group, CSISS Board, liaise with OBWB and ISCBC 	7425	26,220	33,645
Safe Recreation Program				
	Safety campaigns and safety equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper ads and editorials, ads in travel literature, radio campaigns, social media ads, print and distribute rack cards. Campaign material developed in partnership with RMC-SAR. Distribute marine safety whistles Promote RCM-SAR lifejacket kiosks * this program is 75% funded by Transport Canada – grant application to be confirmed	9450	20,700	30,150
Communications, Community Engagement, and Advocacy				
	Communications collateral (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Highlights Report 2023-24. Writing, graphic design, printing and distribution. E-newsletters Other communiques as needed 	3475	2400	5875
	Public engagement (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases Meeting Highlights one-pagers Promote the Water Quality Grant Program Misc. correspondence, events, presentations as needed 	10,588	2500	13,088
	Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence with regulators, senior orders of government re: critical issues and concerns 	2700	0	2700
	Watershed Roundtable Meeting	0	0	0
Council Meetings, Administration, and Financial Management				
	Council meetings (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings per year Staff prepare agenda, meeting materials, presentations, meeting summary One-day field tour for SWC members Travel expenses 	14,825	1850	16,675
	Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual work planning and budgeting Regular correspondence and meetings with Chair, Vice Chair and staff On-boarding for new SWC members (~ January 2025) 	3694	0	3694

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

Financial management and fund development	19,613	0	19,613
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track expenses and pay invoices Fund development and proposals 			
Sub-total work plan expenses	106,081	217,089	323,170
Surplus			1618
Total work plan expenses			324,788

Budget and work plan – Scenario C

Budget and work plan Scenario C are adjusted to the lowest funding levels. The Operating Reserve is the largest source of revenue.

The main cut-backs in Scenario C as compared to Scenario B are: the Annual Water Quality Report has been removed from the work plan; the continuation of the Wetland Strategy has been removed from the work plan; and a \$10,000 contribution to the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society for education and outreach has been removed from the budget;

Revenue sources – Scenario C	(\$)
2023-24 projected operational surplus	20,410
2023-24 grant program funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	65,000
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	0
TNRD	0
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	0
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program – not confirmed	24,391
Grants-in-aid – multiple contributors – not confirmed	0
<i>Operating Reserve</i>	
Operating Reserve from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total revenue	284,788

Budget and work plan – Scenario C	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program			
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	6638	0	6638
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year and correspondence Track monitoring activities 			
Watershed and water quality monitoring	2025	26,209	28,234
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ZQM early-detection monitoring by CSISS \$17,500 Floating Treatment Wetland research by Margot Webster, Royal Roads University \$5509 Community monitoring fund \$3000 			
Annual Water Quality Report	0	0	0
Water Quality Protection Program			
Facilitate the Water Protection Advisory Committee	5050	400	5450
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2x meetings per year, correspondence, and action items 			

Item No.	Agenda item	Time		
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00		
	Water Quality Grant Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants disbursed in 2024, up to \$65,000 Grant program budget for 2025 \$50,000 	8063	115,460	123,523
	Wetland Strategy	0	0	0
	Climate change impact studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adams River watershed glacier research by Tay Powrie, Thompson Rivers University 	675	5000	5675
	Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program (<i>reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and awareness campaigns incl. two billboard rentals, newspaper ads and editorial, ads in travel literature, social media ads, sandwich boards for visitor centres, graphic design Contribution to CSISS for education and outreach \$10,000 Staff participate in Prov. Working Group, CSISS Board, liaise with OBWB and ISCBC 	6750	16,220	22,970
	Safe Recreation Program			
	Safety campaigns and safety equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper ads and editorials, ads in travel literature, radio campaigns, social media ads, print and distribute rack cards. Campaign material developed in partnership with RMC-SAR. Distribute marine safety whistles Promote RCM-SAR lifejacket kiosks * this program is 75% funded by Transport Canada – grant application to be confirmed	9450	20,700	30,150
	Communications, Community Engagement, and Advocacy			
	Communications collateral <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Highlights Report 2023-24. Writing, graphic design, printing and distribution. Other communiques as needed 	3475	2400	5875
	Public engagement (<i>further reduced</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media releases Meeting Highlights one-pagers Promote the Water Quality Grant Program 	10,588	2000	12,588
	Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correspondence with regulators, senior orders of government re: critical issues and concerns 	2700	0	2700
	Council Meetings, Administration, and Financial Management			
	Council meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 meetings per year Staff prepare agenda, meeting materials, presentations, meeting summary Travel expenses 	14,825	1850	16,675

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6.ii	New business: Draft budget and work plans for 2024-25	11:00

Administration	3694	0	3694
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual work planning and budgeting Regular correspondence and meetings with Chair, Vice Chair and staff On-boarding for new SWC members (~ January 2025) 			
Financial management and fund development	19,613	0	19,613
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track expenses and pay invoices Fund development and proposals 			
Sub-total work plan expenses	93,544	190,239	283,783
Surplus			1005
Total work plan expenses			284,788

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.	Request for funding support from Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	10:55



**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP INVASIVE
SPECIES SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 2853
Revelstoke, BC
V0E 2S0
1-855-PUL-WEED
info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org

February 23, 2024

Shuswap Watershed Council
c/o Fraser Basin Council
200A - 1383 McGill Road, Kamloops BC
V2C 6K7

Dear Shuswap Watershed Council Board,

We are extremely grateful for the funding and collaborative support the past six years. We are writing to request funding support for this year:

1. \$17,500 to support monitoring zebra/quagga mussels and surveying invasive freshwater clams, as follows:
 - a. Monitoring to be done in the Shuswap watershed
 - b. Monitoring to be done in 2024
 - c. Monitoring for invasive mussel and invasive clam larvae and adults, and/or water quality attributes according to the Provincial risk framework (i.e., pH, Secchi, temperature).

Note: we have applied for \$49,882 in matching funds for this program from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, as well as small contributions from wage-subsidy funding and coordination support from other main funders. Total project costs are estimated at \$80,082.56, including \$1,700 in kind goods and services.

2. \$10,000 to education and outreach efforts relative to preventing the spread of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels and invasive freshwater clams within the Shuswap watershed in 2024. Activities may include:
 - a) Face-to-face interactions and education with visitors and residents at marinas, boat launches, and community events within the Shuswap watershed
 - b) Telephone and social media education and outreach
 - c) Training and workshops for marina owner/operators
 - d) Production and distribution of educational print material and/or signage.

Note: we have received funding from the BC Community Gaming grant (\$35,000) toward outreach programming in 2024, and have applied to several other funding sources. Our total outreach and coordination budget is estimated at \$244,243 – it is the bulk of our organization's work, as prevention is the best and most cost effective way to manage invasive species. The SWC contribution will target the aquatic invasive species outreach in the Shuswap, while other outreach funding sources are species-wide and cover the Columbia Shuswap Regional District / Columbia Basin.

For both projects 1 and 2, funds may go toward the following expenses:

- Staff and contract labour
- Travel
- Supplies and materials
- Administration and reporting.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.	Request for funding support from Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society	10:55



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info@columbiashuswapinvasives.org

While inflation and project expenses have increased our program costs, we understand that Shuswap Watershed Council is undergoing some changes with the recent referendum results, thus we have kept our funding request to the same amounts as 2023. We believe this work is vitally important to protect the Shuswap's water quality, as detailed in the [recent provincial economic impacts report](#); zebra and quagga mussel annual management costs could be up to \$172 million annually, of which a substantial amount is attributed to water quality losses. We thank you again for your ongoing support for this work and advocacy efforts to protect our region's water quality for future generations.

Most sincerely,

Robyn Hooper
Executive Director, CSISS
Rhooper@columbiashuswapinvasives.org