



COUNCIL MEETING

Shuswap Watershed Council
March 13th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM



PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT



ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

- Staff will submit the SWC recommendations to the Province for stopping the spread of invasive mussels to the *Wildlife Act* review process ✓
- Staff will administer the [December 13th] vote [re: Water Quality Grant Program budget] via email ✓
- Staff will administer the [December 13th] vote [re: budget for communications] via email ✓
- Staff follow up with Ms. Webster to receive her [December 13th] presentation slide deck and written request for funding assistance for her research ✓
- Staff to look into an alternative date for the SWC September meeting ✓

BUDGET FOR 2023-24 – Q3 EXPENSES

WORK PLAN ITEMS	Annual budget (\$)			Q1+Q2+Q3 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
• Water Quality Report	7200	5800	13,000	8401.63	4840.00	13,241.63
Water Quality Protection Program						
• 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

BUDGET FOR 2023-24 – Q3 EXPENSES

WORK PLAN ITEMS	Annual budget (\$)			Q1+Q2+Q3 expenses (\$)		
	External expenses	Program mgmt	Sub-total	External expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
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 and media engagement	9650	17,400	27,050	7572.37	17,586.67	25,159.04
• Advocacy	0	4200	4200	0	2453.33	2453.33

BUDGET FOR 2023-24 – Q3 EXPENSES

WORK PLAN ITEMS	Annual budget (\$)			Q1+Q2+Q3 expenses (\$)		
	External expenses	Program mgmt	Sub-total	External expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
Council Meetings & Administration						
• Council meetings, work planning, liaising 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			

REVISED BUDGET FOR 2023-24 (April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024)

REVENUE SOURCE – AS OF JANUARY 1 ST 2024	BUDGET (\$)
2022-23 operational surplus	47,656
2022-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects (water quality grants)	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>Federal grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada - Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Environment & Climate Change Canada – Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative	40,000
Summary of revenue for 2023-24	419,585

REVISED BUDGET FOR 2023-24 - SUMMARY

WORK PLAN ITEMS - SUMMARY	Annual budget (\$)			REVISED Annual budget (\$)		
	Ext. expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	Ext. expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
Water 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	600	3600
Sub-total expenses Water Protection Program	139,864	20,200	160,064	172,864	27,200	200,064

PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

- Committee meetings
 - Water Monitoring Group – February 27th
 - Water Protection Advisory Committee – February 28th
- Water Quality Grant Program
- Wetland strategy
- Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program
- Communications
- Advocacy
- Administration



Shuswap Water Monitoring Group

- Bi-annual meeting held February 27th
 - Staff from 13 different organizations participated
- Reviewed 2024 watershed monitoring plans by all parties
- Committee heard SWC updates from staff
 - Referendum results
 - Water Quality Grant Program
 - Progress on wetland strategy



Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee

- Bi-annual meeting held February 28th
 - Representatives from six organizations and the agriculture sector participated
- Purpose of meeting was to review Water Quality Grant Program applications
 - 8 applications were reviewed in detail and discussed
 - Six projects worth a total ask of \$59,960 SWC funds are recommended (later agenda item)
 - Two projects not recommended for funding due to application being incomplete and not meeting grant program criteria



Water Quality Grant Program

2023 Funded Projects

- Rivershore Nursery – fertilizer and irrigation reduction. Project complete.
- Crystal Lake Ranch – livestock control fencing along Eagle River. Project complete.
- Shuswap Organics – cover crops and no-till agriculture. Project complete.
- Fresh Valley Farms – automated pastured livestock management. Project complete.
- Iron Horse Ranch – fencing and off-stream livestock watering. Project complete.



Water Quality Grant Program

2024 Intake

- Grant Program was open for applications December 1st 2023 – January 31st 2024
 - Grant Program Guide to assist applicants
 - Staff spoke one-on-one with interested applicants, provided support and guidance
 - Applications received through online portal
- Advertised across the Shuswap watershed
 - Newspapers, social media, word of mouth, agriculture supply stores, EFP advisors
- Informative webinar held on January 10th



SHUSWAP
watershed council

GRANT FUNDING FOR FARMS

Up to \$65,000 grant funding is available from the **Shuswap Watershed Council** in 2024 to assist farmers, landowners and other stewards in the Shuswap watershed with projects to protect or improve water quality.

Deadline for applications is January 31st 2024.
For more information and to apply, visit their website.

shuswapwater.ca    

Phase 2 Wetland Strategy

- Grant application submitted in fall of 2023 to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative.
- Application was successful, \$40,000 awarded for Phase 2
- Request for Expressions of Interest – received 5 proposals
- Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. were awarded contract
- Deliverables – refine GIS database, gap analysis + quality assurance and data validation, literature review and discussion paper, two-hour workshop with SWC Wetland Committee, wetland prioritization and classification and Phase 2 Wetland Strategy report
- Work must be complete by March 31, 2024





Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

- Early detection monitoring for ZQM in 2023 found no invasive mussels in Shuswap or BC
- Staff participated in the inaugural 'Okanagan-Interior Working Group on Invasive Mussels' meeting on March 8th in Kelowna hosted by the OBWB
 - ~ 80 – 90 people attended
 - Informative presentations by OBWB, Province of BC
 - Workshop to discuss and provide input to prevention, containment and management strategies





Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

- Concern over lack of funding for Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program
 - Rumoured cut-backs from federal government and industry sponsors
 - February 14th announcement by DFO re: \$540,000 to Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation over 2023 – 2025 – early-detection monitoring for ZQM and \$90,000 for two new decontamination trailers for DFO to deploy





Advocacy

- February 22nd letter to four Federal Ministers to ask for immediate, long-term funding to the Province of BC to expand the watercraft inspection station network
 - All entry-points to have an inspection station
 - 24 hours/day, 365 days/year

“Watercraft inspection stations are not open 365 days a year nor are they located at 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 jurisdiction today and be in BC, unchecked, tomorrow.”



Communications

- Media releases:
 - December 20th: More funding available from Shuswap Watershed Council for water quality protection; informative webinar offered in January
 - February 22nd: Shuswap Watershed Council urging federal government to provide more funding for watercraft inspection to prevent spread of mussels



Communications

Communications from the SWC during the CSRD referendum period:

- Key collateral: SWC Annual Highlights Report, FAQ document, articles on the SWC website
 - Staff shared communiques with staff at Elections BC in advance of the referendum
 - SWC registered under Local Election Campaign Financing Act (LECFA)
- Key messages: SWC role as advocate, collaborator, educator, support for monitoring and research
- Method: social media, newspaper advertisements, direct e-mail
 - Two paid ads in Black Press
 - Paid ads and articles in Shuswap Scoop and Kicker
 - Four paid ads on social media plus organic (unpaid) posts



Administration

- Work plans and budgets developed in January – February
 - Scenarios A, B and C reflect different revenues
- Amendment to Contribution Agreement with funders under way
- Fund development: staff applied for grant funding from Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program in October. Request of \$24,391 would support safe boating and swimming campaigns in 2024. Awaiting confirmation.



Reminder: meeting schedule for 2024

- March 13th
- June 12th
- September 11th
- December 11th

Time: ~ 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: CSRD Boardroom in Salmon Arm except the December meeting held via Zoom.