



# COUNCIL MEETING

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Shuswap Watershed Council  
March 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 • 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



# PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT

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# ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

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- Staff follow up with the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy regarding the letter that was sent in October ✓
- Staff follow up with Kelly Chiatto (M. For) regarding the letter that was forwarded to the Minister of Forests for a reply – incomplete, not needed
- Staff ensure the BC Cattlemen's Association receives a copy of the Phosphorus Action Plan ✓

# PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

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- Water Quality Grant Program
- Water Quality Protection Advisory Committee
- Water Quality Monitoring Group
- Phosphorus Action Plan
- Wetland strategy
- Advocacy
- Administration

Financial update:

- Third quarter, April 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2022



# Water quality grant program

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- Application period was open December 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 – January 31<sup>st</sup> 2023
- Grant program guide including eligibility criteria and application templates was available online to proponents
- \$63,200 budget for grants
- Staff received nine applications by the deadline – a new record
- Staff screened applications to ensure eligibility criteria were met and prepared an information package for the Water Quality Protection Advisory Committee
- Business item for decision later in meeting



## Water protection advisory committee

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- Met on February 9<sup>th</sup>
- Reviewed water quality grant applications in detail
- Reached consensus to recommend five projects for funding
- Detailed draft meeting summary is in agenda package (p. 17)

## Water monitoring group

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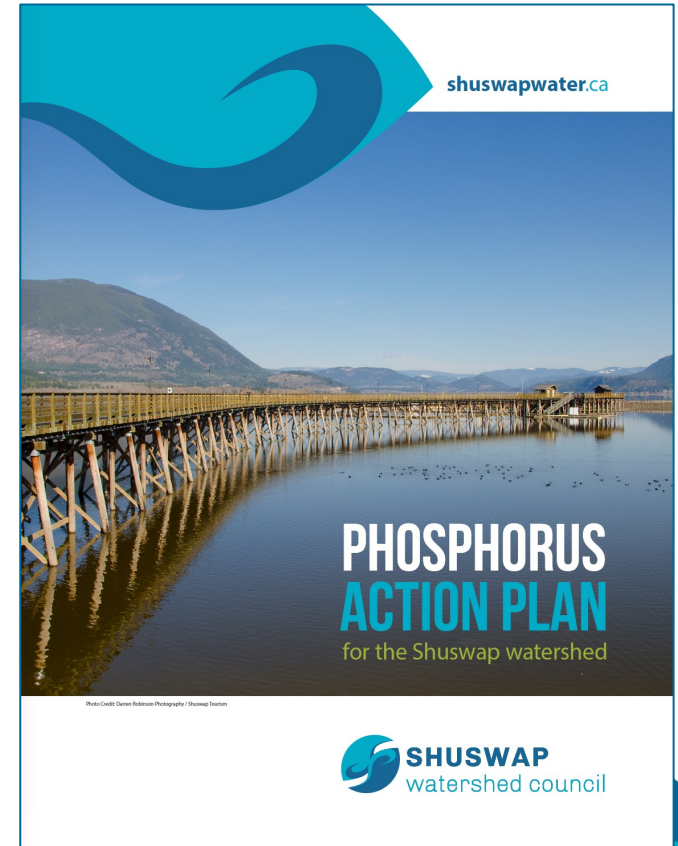
- Met on February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed upcoming field season water quality monitoring
- Staff shared information about the SWC Water Quality Grant Program and Phosphorus Action Plan
- Detailed draft mtg summary in agenda package (p. 22)



# Phosphorus Action Plan

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- Phosphorus Action Plan has been distributed widely via e-mail
- Also available on the SWC website
- Staff presented at a 'Salmon Safe BC' webinar on February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - Approx. 90 people in attendance from across BC and beyond
  - Great Q&A session
  - Webinar recording will be shared soon





## Advocacy

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- Joint letter to Interior Health signed by: SWC Chair Jay Simpson, Salmon Arm Mayor Alan Harrison, CSRD Board Chair Kevin Flynn, Sicamous Mayor Colleen Anderson re: algal bloom response
  - No response to-date but the letter prompted a Provincial review of the Algae Bloom Response Protocol.
  - Expecting to have a meeting with Interior Health to further discuss the issue.
  - Letter is in agenda package – p. 12
- Response received from Minister Heyman on March 2<sup>nd</sup>
  - Late item in agenda package – see p. 38





## Administration

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- Staff developed draft work plan and budget for 2023-24
- Workshopped the draft budget with Chair Simpson and Area G representative Natalya Melnychuk in late February
- Business item for decision later in meeting
- Staff are planning a full-day field tour for SWC members and guests to grant funded project sites ~ May

# FINANCIAL UPDATE — REVENUE

| Revenue for 2022-23                                    | \$      |
|--|---------|
| Surplus (from Mar. 2022)                               | 81,804  |
| Operating reserve                                      | 132,667 |
| Return of SWC grant funding                            | * 8200  |
| <u>Per Contribution Agreement:</u>                     |         |
| CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, and District of Sicamous        | 160,000 |
| TNRD   | 53,600  |
| City of Salmon Arm                                     | 40,000  |
| Adams Lake Indian Band                                 | 1300    |
| <u>Grant funding:</u>                                  |         |
| Transport Canada – Boating Safety Contribution Program | 22,900  |
| Total  | 500,471 |

# FINANCIAL UPDATE - EXPENSES

| Expenses April 1 <sup>st</sup> – December 31 <sup>st</sup> | BUDGET (\$)    | EXPENSE (\$)   |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Water Quality Monitoring                                   | 28,850         | 21,150         |
| Water Quality Protection & Improvement                     | * 158,930      | 46,186         |
| Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention                           | 35,875         | 32,828         |
| Safe Recreation  | 27,600         | 23,814         |
| Communications, Public Engagement & Advocacy               | 55,100         | 36,268         |
| Management & Administration                                | 43,750         | 22,291         |
| Sub-total Program Operations                               | 350,105        | 182,538        |
| Operating Reserve  | 150,366        | 0              |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                                      | <b>500,471</b> | <b>182,538</b> |



**NEW BUSINESS**

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# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Purpose of SWC grant program: to protect and improve water quality in the Shuswap by minimizing nutrient loading from land to surface waters. Emphasis on the Salmon River and Shuswap River valleys.
- Grant program guide defines eligibility criteria, e.g.:
  - Eligible applicants: landowners, farms, hobby/small-lot farms, agri-businesses, First Nations governments, non-profit organizations
  - Projects must be located in the Shuswap watershed
  - Projects must improve water quality or build agricultural soil health
  - Leverage at least 50% funds and/or in-kind contributions from other sources
  - Eligible activities: wetland restoration or creation, riparian area improvements, regenerative agricultural practices (cover or relay cropping, no-till, rotational grazing), controlling run-off or seepage



# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Applications were reviewed by the Water Protection Advisory Committee according to evaluation criteria laid out in the grant program guide:
  - Technical merit
  - Location and proximity of project to a water body
  - Scale and scope of project
  - Leveraging of other funds or in-kind contributions of labour, equipment, etc.
  - New applicants vs. previous grant recipients
  - Clarity and completeness



# Water Quality Grant Program

For Financial Decision

| Proponent  | Project type                                 | SWC ask (\$) | Committee score (out of 100) | Committee recommendation |
|--|--|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Rivershore Nursery<br>Tree nursery                               | Fertilizer and irrigation reduction          | \$6235       | 79.80                        | Fund ✓                   |
| Werner and Jody<br>Stump -<br>Crystal Lake Ranch<br>Cattle ranch | Livestock control fencing on Eagle River     | \$14,325     | 76.90                        | Fund ✓                   |
| Shuswap Organics<br>Vegetable farm                               | Cover crops and no-till to build soil health | \$6000       | 76.32                        | Fund ✓                   |
| Fresh Valley Farms<br>Poultry and hog farm                       | Automated pastured livestock management      | \$20,400     | 52.05                        | Fund ✓                   |





# Water Quality Grant Program

For Financial Decision

| Proponent                                     | Project type   | SWC ask (\$) | Committee score (out of 100)        | Committee recommendation   |
|---|--|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Iron Horse Ranch<br>Hobby farm<br>/equestrian | Farm land revitalization (four separate projects included) | \$20,024     | 50.01                               | Partial Fund ✓<br>(\$6044) |
| BV Agro<br>Forage                             | Fall cover cropping  | \$1080       | 49.90                               | Do not fund ✗              |
| Turtle Valley<br>Donkey Refuge                | Tree and shrub planting                                    | \$4575       | 46.00                               | Do not fund ✗              |
| Crosby Farm<br>Hobby farm                     | Salmon River and Gordon Creek Restoration                  | \$38,600     | Did not meet grant program criteria | Do not fund ✗              |
| Shuswap Food<br>Action Society                | Hedgerow, soil building and effective irrigation           | \$5000       | Did not meet grant program criteria | Do not fund ✗              |



# Water Quality Grant Program

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For Financial Decision

- In summary:
  - Five applications recommended for funding
  - Grant program budget is \$63,200
  - Total grant funding worth \$53,004 for a watershed investment of \$109,629

# Wetland Strategy

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- A priority identified in the SWC's Strategic Plan for 2021-26
- Phosphorus Action Plan suggests SWC develop a wetland restoration strategy
- Importance of wetlands in the interior of BC
- Benefits of a Wetland Strategy
- Okanagan Basin Water Board and Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners





# Wetland Strategy

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- Recommendations
- Phase 1 – 2023/2024 – Develop Wetlands Strategy
  - Hire consultant for data collection (inventory and assessment), prioritization, and mapping. Identify partnerships and align with regional conservation and management goals. Develop set of policies and guidelines that outline how SWC will protect, manage, and restore wetlands.
  - **\$24,000**
- Phase 2 – 2024/2025 – Wetland Project Implementation
  - Developing a Wetland Strategy is a key first step to help organizations identify and pursue funding opportunities to undertake wetland conservation projects. SWC could seek to collaborate with their partners to leverage the Wetlands Strategy and seek grant funding.
  - **Fund development opportunity**

## SWC meeting schedule

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Seeking alternative dates to the meeting schedule:

June 14<sup>th</sup> ~ 10 AM – 2 PM

September 13<sup>th</sup> ~ 10 AM – 2 PM

December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting doesn't need to change.

