

Council Meeting
September 11th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE
Salmon Arm, BC

Record of Decisions and Action Items as at September 12th 2024
Approved December 11th 2024

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Roundtable discussion on future of the SWC

Present

Rhona Martin, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Natalya Melnychuk, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F (*via Zoom*)
Tim Lavery – City of Salmon Arm (*alternate, via Zoom*)
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*via Zoom, from 10:25 AM*)
Stephen Karpuk – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops (*from 9:38, via Zoom*)
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Cliff Arnouse – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Robyn Laubman – Splatsin te Secwepemc
Brian Schreiner – Regional District of North Okanagan, City of Enderby (*via Zoom*)
Diane Sutherland – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (*alternate, by Zoom*)
Kelly Chiatto – BC Ministry of Forests
Erik Kok – Community representative
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Ian Rogalski
Cathy Sawatzky

Regrets

Marty Gibbons
Dean Trumbley
Debbie Cannon
Rick Fairbairn
Phil Owen
Kimm Magill-Hofmann
Lindsay Benbow
Kym Keogh

Call to Order

Chair Rhona Martin called the meeting to order at 9:30. A round of introductions took place around the room.

Adoption of meeting agenda

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Erik Kok that:

The agenda for the September 11th 2024 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

Director Karpuk entered the meeting at 9:38

Adoption of meeting summary

Moved/seconded by Director Lepsoe/Erik Kok that:

The draft meeting summary for the June 12th 2024 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

Correspondence

Moved/seconded by Dennis Einarson/Robyn Laubman that:

The correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Discussion

Program Manager Erin Vieira provided a brief summary of the correspondence.

Chair Martin commented that it's unfortunate that a response letter from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans took 9 months.

Director Schreiner suggested that a few members of the SWC attending the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) meeting next week in Vancouver arrange for a meeting with the Province regarding invasive mussels.

Chair Martin suggested that Senior Regional Advisor for BC, Mr. Joshua Lindner, who is named in the reply correspondence from the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, be invited to the next SWC meeting in December.

Moved/seconded by Dennis Einarson/Vice Chair Melnychuk that:

Joshua Lindner be invited to the next Shuswap Watershed Council meeting on December 11th 2024 (zoom meeting).

Action item:

Staff to invite Mr. Lindner to the next Shuswap Watershed Council by Zoom.

Old business Program Manager Erin Vieira briefly reviewed the results of an email vote that took place on June 19th regarding revisions to the 2024/25 budget. The vote passed with eight SWC members in favour and zero opposed.

Report from Chair Chair Martin briefly reported that she reviewed the Fraser Basin Council’s first quarter invoice for their program management services.

Report from Program Managers Program Manager Erin Vieira provided a financial report for the first quarter, April 1st – June 30th 2024:

Revenue	Amount (\$)
2023-24 Operational Surplus	25,113
2023-24 Funds allocated and carried forward to 2024-25	55,961
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous)	0
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Operating Reserve:</i>	
Full SWC Operating Reserve from March 31 st , 2024	174,987
Summary of revenue for 2024-25	314,961

Expenses shown on next page ...

Program	Annual budget (\$)			Q1 actual expenses (\$)		
	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program						
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	6637.50	6637.50	0	315.00	315.00
Water monitoring expenses	26,209.00	2025.00	28,234.00	18,901.18	1395.00	20,296.18
Annual Water Quality Report	6850.00	5400.00	12,250.00	400.00	585.00	985.00
Water Quality Protection Program						
Water Protection Advisory Committee	400.00	5050.00	5450.00	0	0	0
Water Quality Grant Program	115,421.00	8062.50	123,483.50	26,638.56	2475.00	29,113.56
Wetland Strategy	4000.00	6462.50	10,462.50	0	880.00	880.00
Climate change impact study (with TRU)	5000.00	675	5675.00	0	135.00	135.00
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program						
Education and outreach campaigns	27,432.00	7425.00	34,857.00	22,430.99	5130.00	27,560.99
Safe Recreation Program						
Safety campaigns	9480.00	3712.50	13,192.50	7126.45	2070.00	9196.45
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy						
Communications collateral	225.00	3475.00	3700.00	1650.25	2520.00	4170.25
Public engagement and media	2500.00	10,587.50	13,087.50	0	3101.67	3101.67
Advocacy	0	2700.00	2700.00	0	45.00	45.00
Administration						
Council meetings	1850.00	14,825.00	16,675.00	532.37	4078.33	4610.70
Administration (budgeting, staff liaise with chair and vice chair, membership and governance, etc)	0	3693.75	3693.75	0	855.00	855.00
Financial administration	0	19,612.50	19,612.50	0	7020.00	7020.00
Sub-total expenses	199,367.00	100,343.75	299,710.75	77,679.79	30,605.00	108,284.79
Surplus			15,250.25			
Total budget for 2024-25			314,961.00			

Councillor Pam Beech entered the meeting at 10:25

Ms. Vieira provided a program operations update since the last Council meeting in June:

- The SWC Water Quality Grant Program is providing funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed; work will be completed by the proponents by March 31st 2024
- The 2023-24 Shuswap Water Quality Report was published in July, this is the eighth annual report from the SWC. The report is available on the SWC website, www.shuswapwater.ca and from local library branches.
- Phase 2 of the Wetland Strategy is complete. The work was carried out by Associated Environmental. This phase included a literature review of other wetland strategies, priority ratings for wetlands in the Salmon Arm Bay catchment, and identifying areas for wetland restoration, conservation and re-construction.
- The SWC research partnership with Royal Roads University researcher Margot Webster is underway; Ms. Webster installed three 'floating treatment wetlands' on the Salmon River and is monitoring water quality to determine what improvement the FTWs have on water quality via the uptake of nutrients and water contaminants by the FTWs
- Educational campaigns to prevent the spread of invasive mussels were delivered throughout spring and summer. The target audience for these campaigns is boaters and all watercraft users. Key messages focus on clean-drain-dry protocol, pulling the watercraft drainplug prior to travel, and stopping for watercraft inspection when travelling.
- SWC funding is supporting early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels in the Shuswap watershed; this work is carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
- Staff relayed that new reports are available from the Province of BC regarding the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program. These reports cover the activities of the watercraft inspection stations. Reports can be found on the [Provincial website](#).
- Educational campaigns for safe boating and recreation were delivered throughout spring and summer. Key messages focus on eight tips for safety, including lifejacket use and drowning prevention. This program was reduced in 2024 due to a loss of federal grant funding from Transport Canada.
- The SWC Annual Report for 2023-24 was published at the end of June, the report covers the SWC's activities and accomplishments throughout the year. The report is available at www.shuswapwater.ca. Other recent communications work recently includes a media release and a new Linked In page for the SWC.
- Staff submitted a grant funding application to Environment & Climate Change Canada for Phase 3 of the Wetland Strategy.

Discussion

Robyn Laubman asked about work done to-date on the wetland strategy, and if reports and data can be shared. Dennis Einarson suggested that staff look into work on wetlands done by the Association of Professional Biologists and Ducks Unlimited; Dennis can forward contact information to Alex de Chantal (program manager leading the Wetland Strategy).

There were a few questions about the Provincially-run watercraft inspection stations. Concerns were expressed about the limited operating hours and lack of fines for invasive mussel-infested watercraft. It was noted that a \$345 fine can be levied to travellers who do not stop for inspection.

Concerns were expressed about the recent spread of whirling disease within the Columbia watershed.

Action item:

Staff will share the Phase 2 report on the developing Wetland Strategy prepared by Associated Environmental.

Staff will provide some background information on whirling disease for SWC members.

The SWC took a short break at 10:35

New business: Roundtable discussion on future funding and governance of the SWC

Chair Martin posed the following questions to SWC members, and a roundtable discussion took place: 1. Is the SWC a valuable and worthwhile organization to you, and would you like to continue to participate as an individual or as a representative of your organization, and 2. What funding can the SWC access to keep it going, and specifically for local government representatives would you support a grant-in-aid application from the SWC?

Dennis Einarson: yes, this is a valuable group and it has created a more efficient way to share data and information between groups and regulators.

Erik Kok: Agree with Dennis' comments. He has concerns for the future of the watershed. This table has influence, has made a difference and can continue to make a difference.

Stephen Karpuk: Agreed. This table is diverse. Any groups that facilitates collaboration is worthwhile. Water is valuable and worth protecting and advocating for.

David Lepsoe: It is a 'no-brainer' to look after the water and is fully in support of continuing.

Cliff Arnouse: First Nations view water as life and is important for ceremonies and many other uses. It's needed for survival. Watersheds are under stress. This table can do something.

Robyn Laubman: Agreed, Splatsin recognizes the importance and significance of water. The scope of this Council is focused and believes the Council can take on a larger mandate to include water security.

Natalya Melnychuk: Is prepared to support a grant-in-aid application on behalf of Area G but will not be able to continue participating as a CSRD director. She may be able to participate or contribute via her vocation with the Provincial government.

Pam Beech: This organization is critical. The focus on water protection is absolutely critical and is happy to continue to participate as a representative of the District of Sicamous. She would support and would advocate for a funding request from the SWC to the District.

Jay Simpson: Is prepared to contribute funding to support the continuation of the SWC, but acknowledged it would likely not be to the same level as previously. Commented on the Province's declared interest in watershed action and funding, but lack thereof to-date.

Tim Lavery: Without a doubt, there is value on having a roundtable to carry on this work. He recalled some history of the City's involvement, having contributed \$40,000 annually for several years. The City will be observing how other regional districts and municipalities go forward.

Brian Schreiner: The Shuswap River is very vital to the City of Enderby. There are some questions to answer, such as how much the regional districts and municipalities will contribute and what the budget would be.

Chair Martin concluded that there is a willingness to go forward. The Chair suggested that a small committee form to review the SWC's Terms of Reference, make some recommendations for revisions and bring it to the December meeting. Program Manager Erin Vieira presented a brief overview of the current Terms of Reference. In addition to the Chair, the following SWC members volunteered: Director Lepsoe, Robyn Laubman, and Councillor Lavery would like Councillor Cannon to be invited.

A few more comments and questions were posed, including the possibility of the SWC seeking non-profit status; membership fees as potential revenue; the opportunity to link up with Indigenous organizations to advocate for water; and where the SWC will meet in the future.

Action items:

Staff to convene a committee to review the Terms of Reference and bring recommended revisions to the December 11th SWC meeting

Staff to look into potential meeting spaces, including CSRD boardroom, beyond December.

Roundtable updates

Vice Chair Melnychuk commented that the CSRD bylaw ends on December 31st 2024, therefore the December SWC meeting will be the last one as a committee of the CSRD.

Vice Chair Melnychuk also suggested staff prepare to send introductory letters to newly elected ministers post-election, if necessary.

Vice Chair Melnychuk asked if any other SWC members from local government would like to try to arrange a meeting with Provincial ministers/staff at UBCM about whirling disease and invasive mussels. Directors Karpuk, Simpson, Lepsoe and Schreiner stated that they are attending UBCM and would be involved in such a meeting if their schedule permits. She said it will be important to be prepared with requests to the Province.

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Councillor Lavery that staff send letters of introduction to newly elected Ministers after the Provincial election, if there are any changes.

CARRIED

Action items:

Staff will send letters of introduction to newly elected/appointed Ministers of Environment, Forests, Agriculture, and Water, Land & Resource Stewardship after the Provincial election.

Staff to prepare a list of requests of the Province regarding aquatic invasive species for those SWC members attending the UBCM.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Erik Kok that:

The September 11th 2024 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair