

Council Meeting
December 14th 2022 • 9:30 – 12:00 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom

Record of Decisions and Action Items
Approved March 8th 2023

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from Program Managers
2. Receive update on Salmon Arm Water Pollution Centre upgrade from City of Salmon Arm
3. Receive presentation on Salmon River Water Quality Assessment Report from Ministry of Environment
4. Receive presentation and request for partnership support from Thompson Rivers University

Present

Jay Simpson, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Marty Gibbons – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Dean Trumbley – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E (*from 9:40 am*)
Natalya Melnychuk – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Robyn Laubman – Splotsin te Secwepemc
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (*from 9:40 – 11:00 am*)
Kelly Chiatto – BC Ministry of Forests (*to 11:35 am*)
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Phil Owen – Community representative (*from 9:40 am*)
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor (*from 10:00 am*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Guests and observers

Lily Kotzeva
Tay Powrie
Tom Pypker
Rob Solinger
Carly Foster
Ian Rogalski

Regrets

Erik Kok
Pam Beech
Lindsay Benbow
Howard Nordquist
Rick Fairbairn

Call to Order

Chair Jay Simpson called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM. The Chair introduced Director Marty Gibbons and Director Dean Trumbley as new members on the SWC representing the Columbia Shuswap Regional District Areas C and D, respectively. A round of introductions took place. The Chair acknowledged the meeting taking place on the traditional, unceded territory of the Secwepemc Peoples.

Adoption of meeting summaries

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Trumbley that:

The December 14th 2022 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting agenda be adopted.

Discussion:

The Chair amended the agenda such that the program managers provide an update on the current water quality projects receiving funding from the SWC.

Carried

Moved/seconded by Robyn Laubman/Director Trumbley that:

The draft meeting summary of the September 21st SWC meeting be approved

Discussion:

Robyn Laubman requested that the meeting summary be corrected such that her representation on behalf of Splatsin be noted as “Splatsin te Secwepemc”.

Carried

Rhona Martin and Kym Keogh entered the meeting at 9:40 am

Correspondence

Moved/seconded by Director Gibbons/Director Melnychuk that:

The correspondence be received for information.

Discussion:

Director Gibbons inquired if the SWC has taken other steps to contact the Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy regarding the algal bloom that took place in August-September. He suggested contacting the Ministry’s Assistant Deputy Minister to discuss it. Erin Vieira confirmed that the SWC has not received a reply from the Ministry, to-date.

Phil Owen inquired about the process to send correspondence, and where the direction to do so comes from. Director Gibbons suggested that SWC members be given the opportunity to see draft correspondence before it is sent. Chair Simpson agreed this would be a good change to the SWC’s process of sending correspondence and that SWC members can be given one day to review draft correspondence (via email).

Kelly Chiatto commented that she can assist in prompting a reply to the recent correspondence from the Ministry of Forests.

Carried

Action items:

Staff will follow up with the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy regarding the letter sent in October.

Staff will follow up with Kelly regarding the letter that was sent to Minister Heyman and forwarded to the Minister of Forests for a reply.

Old business

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Melnychuk that:

The draft meeting summaries be received for information.

Discussion:

None

Carried

Report from Chair

Chair Simpson reported that he attended a meeting with MP Mel Arnold to share information and discuss potential new measures to protect BC from invasive mussels. The meeting was also attended by staff from the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District. He relayed that OBWB is working on a vulnerability assessment toolkit for Okanagan-area local governments.

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal provided a program operations update, since the last Council meeting held in September:

- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group (technical committee of the SWC) had its regular bi-annual meeting on November 7th via Zoom. Participants discussed water monitoring activities in the Shuswap watershed in 2020 and discussed the collective response to the algal bloom in Salmon Arm Bay (Aug-Sept 2022).
- The Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee (the other technical committee of the SWC) met on November 23rd via Zoom to hear updates on the current SWC-funded water quality improvement projects, and discuss and provide input to the 2022/23 SWC Water Quality Grant Program Guide.
- Three water quality improvement projects receiving funds from the SWC are well underway: one is complete, has submitted a final report and has received full payment of funds from the SWC; two others are progressing well, nearly complete, and have received 50% payments from the SWC with the remainder of funds to be issued upon receipt of final project reports.
- The Water Quality Grant Program opened for new applications on December 1st. Up to \$55,000 is available in the current intake. A

program guide describing eligibility criteria, and including application templates, is available online. Staff are promoting the grant program through various media.

- Staff have been researching other like-minded organizations' wetland strategies, in preparation for developing a wetland strategy for the Shuswap watershed.
- Staff have developed a communications/outreach strategy for the recently published Phosphorus Action Plan; an overview of the strategy was presented
- Staff worked with the Chair to prepare letters to Minister George Heyman (Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy), Minister Josie Osborne (Ministry of Land, Water & Resource Stewardship), and Jim Standen (BC Parks and Conservation Officer Services) regarding various water quality issues affecting the Shuswap watershed. No responses to any of the correspondence have been received at this time.
- The Chair and staff met with MLA Greg Kylo and MP Mel Arnold in November and December, respectively, to discuss invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels and additional measures from the provincial and federal governments to better protect BC from an invasion
- Staff submitted an application for grant funding to Transport Canada in October. The application requests \$24,025; if successful, the funds will support the SWC's Safe Recreation Program in 2023.

Lily Kotzeva entered the meeting at 10:07 am

Erin provided a financial update for the second quarter (April 1st – September 30th 2022):

Revenue for 2022-23 (April 1st 2022 – March 31st 2023):

Source	(\$)
Surplus (from March 31 st 2022)	81,804
Operating Reserve	132,667
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
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
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program	22,900
Total revenue	492,271

(Financial report continues on next page)

Expenses (April 1st – September 30th 2022):

Program (per 2022-23 work plan)	Budget (\$)	Expense (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	28,850	14,987
Water Quality Protection & Improvement*	150,730	31,926
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,875	29,179
Safe Recreation	27,600	23,289
Communications, Engagement, & Advocacy	55,100	26,933
Management & Administration	43,750	14,304
Sub-total Program Operations Expenses	341,905	140,618
Operating Reserve	150,366	0
Total expenses	492,271	140,618

* Of the \$150,730 budget for Water Quality Protection, \$71,430 is carried forward from last fiscal year's workplan and budget.

Discussion:

Director Trumbley and Ian Rogalski suggested that staff reach out to Ducks Unlimited and the Okanagan Basin Water Board, respectively, in the development of a wetland strategy for the Shuswap. Robyn Laubman encouraged staff to engage with Splatsin on this.

Director Gibbons inquired about the SWC's operating reserve. Erin Vieira explained that it has been growing each year as a result of annual surpluses. Chair Simpson remarked that the SWC requisitioned fewer funds last year, as a way to draw down the reserve and incur savings for the four funders.

Director Gibbons commented that he would like to see the SWC develop educational/campaign material encouraging care of the Shuswap watershed because of its value as a drinking water source.

Director Trumbley commented on the contributions of nutrients to the watershed from livestock on rangeland, in the upper reaches of the watersheds. Phil Owen encouraged staff to get in touch with BC Cattlemen's Association about this issue, and promote the SWC's Phosphorus Action Plan.

Action item:

Staff will ensure the BC Cattlemen's Association receives a copy of the Phosphorus Action Plan.

New business: SWC meeting schedule for 2023

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Director Trumbley that:

The proposed meeting schedule for 2023 be adopted.

Carried

(meeting schedule on next page)

The meeting schedule for 2023 will be as follows:

March 8th, approx. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – at the CSRD Boardroom
June 14th, approx. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – at the CSRD Boardroom
September 13th, approx. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM – at the CSRD Boardroom
December 13th, approx. 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM – via Zoom

**Guest presentation:
Update on Salmon
Arm Water
Pollution Control
Centre Upgrade**

Rob Niewenhuizen, Director of Engineering and Public Works with the City of Salmon Arm, provided an update on the City's wastewater treatment plant. The initial treatment plant was commissioned in 1977 and over the years there have been several plant upgrades. The plant uses biological nutrient removal technology. It has primary, secondary and tertiary treatment. The plant is authorized by a Provincial Operational Certificate (OC), under the provision of the *Environmental Management Act*. The OC has several criteria for the plant's effluent, including for phosphorus; the City has consistently achieved lower concentrations of phosphorus than are specified in the criteria. The OC also requires environmental monitoring.

The plant is currently at about 90% of its 15,000 service population loading capacity. Upgrades to the plant will increase capacity. Preparing for plant upgrades included a site selection study and several opportunities for collecting public input. Additionally, the City conducted a pilot study in 2021 to test different treatment technologies. Concurrent to the plant upgrades, the City's Liquid Waste Management Plan is also being updated. Mr. Niewenhuizen reported that the upgrades are anticipated to be complete and operational in 2027.

A question & answer period took place after the presentation.

The City can offer tours of the plant to interested groups or citizens.

Kym Keogh left the meeting at 11:00 am

Tom Pypker and Tay Powrie entered the meeting at 11:10 am

**Guest presentation:
Overview of Salmon
River Water Quality
Assessment and
Report**

Lily Kotzeva, a biologist with the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (MOE), presented an overview of the Ministry's recently published Salmon River Water Quality Assessment Report.

Ms. Kotzeva summarized the objectives of the report: (a) to determine how water quality in the river has changed over time, and (b) to determine if Water Quality Objectives (WQOs) for the Salmon River, which were established by the MOE in 1998, have been met. She explained that two rigorous monitoring programs were done, leading up the report, in 2005 – 2010 and 2016 – 2019.

Ms. Kotzeva presented an overview of how the Salmon River water quality measured against the WQOs for the two monitoring periods 2005 – 2010 and 2016 – 2019. She highlighted that for most parameters, water quality measurements met the WQOs most of the time, but that over time (i.e., from

the first monitoring period to the second period) there were more exceedances observed meaning that water quality in the Salmon River is deteriorating. She also highlighted that total phosphorus concentrations were higher at downstream sites than at upstream sites during turbid flows, indicating that particular matter is contributing to these measurements.

A question & answer period took place after the presentation.

The Salmon River Water Quality Assessment Reports authored by the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy are available online:

Full report (November 2022):

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/waterquality/monitoring-water-quality/thompson-okanagan-wq-docs/salmon_river_water_quality_assessment_nov_2022.pdf

Summary report (September 2022):

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/waterquality/monitoring-water-quality/thompson-okanagan-wq-docs/salmon_river_water_quality_assessment_summary_sept_2022.pdf

Kelly Chiatto left the meeting at 11:35 am

**Guest presentation:
Update on Adams
River watershed
glacier study**

Tay Powrie, graduate student at Thompson Rivers University, presented an overview of the Adams Watershed Glacier Research project. He explained that the extent of glaciers in the Adams River watershed is not well understood. He also remarked that glaciers in Western Canada are shrinking at an increasing rate. Furthermore, the timing and quantities of discharge from glaciers is changing. These hydrological changes could cause impacts to salmon spawning habitat, domestic water use and water security, and water quality.

The research outcomes from his research project will include the local impacts of climate change in the Adams River watershed, the future of hydrological processes, and management implications within and beyond the Adams watershed.

Tay provided an overview of his research work plan and budget for 2022 – 2024. The budget includes a request for funding from the SWC in 2023 (\$3000) and 2024 (\$5000), which are in addition to other sources of cash and in-kind contributions supporting the research project.

A question & answer period took place after the presentation.

Roundtable updates Omitted from the agenda.

Convene In Camera Moved/seconded by Director Trumbley/Councillor Cannon that:

Pursuant to Sections 90(1)(a) – *personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the Regional District or another position appointed by the Regional District* – and Sections 90(1)(c) – *labour relations or other employee relations* – of the Community Charter, the SWC move In Camera

Carried

The regular meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council re-convened at 12:22 pm.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Robyn Laubman/Councillor Cannon that:

The December 14th 2022 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair