

Council Meeting
September 21st 2022 • 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items

This summary is subject to correction at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Receive presentation Phosphorus Action Plan for the Shuswap watershed
3. Discuss Shuswap Lake algal bloom and potential next steps

Present

Jay Simpson, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Paul Demenok, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E *(from 10:15 am)*
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Colleen Anderson – District of Sicamous
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Robyn Laubman – Splatstin First Nation *(from 11:05 am)*
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative *(from 10:45 am)*
Erik Kok – Community Representative *(to 11:00 am)*
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Phil Owen – Community representative
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Rob Solinger
Linda Franklin
Alyssa Hopkins
Ian Rogalski
Clyde Mitchell

Regrets

Howard Nordquist
Rick Fairbairn
Lindsay Benbow
Kelly Chiatto

Call to Order

SWC Chair Jay Simpson called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. He acknowledged the meeting taking place on unceded Secwepemc Territory.

Adoption of meeting agenda and meeting summary

Moved/seconded by: Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:

The agenda for the September 21st 2022 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be approved.

Carried

Moved/seconded by: Vice Chair Demenok/Councillor Cannon that:

The draft summary of the June 8th 2022 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting be approved.

Discussion:

None

Carried**Correspondence**

None

Old business

None

Report from Chair

Chair Simpson reported that he attended the Union of BC Municipalities Annual General Meeting and Convention last week in Whistler. He met with Minister Josie Osborne (BC Ministry of Land, Water, & Resource Stewardship) to discuss invasive Zebra & Quagga Mussels. Mayor Sue McKortoff (Osoyoos), who chairs the Okanagan Basin Water Board, also participated in the meeting. He commented that it was a good meeting, and that the Minister has a background in biology and understands the issue. No commitments from the Province were made in the meeting.

Director Martin entered the meeting at 10:15 am

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira provided a program operations update since the last Council meeting held in June:

- An algal bloom is occurring in the Salmon Arm portion of the lake (impacting Salmon Arm Bay, Tappen Bay, Canoe, Herald) since early August. The Shuswap Regional Algal Bloom Response Plan has been enacted, with Interior Health (IH) recommending that the City of Salmon Arm, CSRD, and First Nations Health collect water samples for analysis on a weekly basis. [As part of this, Interior Health issued a Cautionary Advisory due to the bloom on August 9th. All water samples collected to-date have tested negative for microcystin (i.e., no microcystin present).] SWC staff received phone calls, emails, and messages via social media about the algal bloom.

- Two partner-led projects with funding from the SWC's Water Quality Grant Program are underway. The next intake for applications to the Grant Program will open in November.
- Staff have completed the Phosphorus Action Plan. Next steps include circulation of the Plan, and implementing the items identified for the SWC to take action on.
- The SWC's partner, Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, has just recently completed their field season of monitoring lakes in the Shuswap for signs of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels. All water samples collected to-date have tested negative for invasive mussels (i.e., no mussels found).
- Staff implemented various education/outreach campaigns for the prevention of invasive mussels over the spring and summer months, with key messages of 'Clean-Drain-Dry' and watercraft inspection for all watercraft owners, especially those coming to BC from out of province.
- Staff relayed that the Province has recently published a Summer Status Report on the provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program. Among the statistics, the province reported that six watercraft inspection stations were operational plus two roving inspection stations; 10 mussel-fouled watercraft were intercepted this summer.
- Staff implemented a variety of educational campaigns to promote safe boating and water-based recreation over the spring and summer months. Key messages focus on 8 tips for safety and promoting the availability of free self-serve lifejacket kiosks for children.
- The SWC's 6th Annual Water Quality Summary Report for the Shuswap watershed was published in July, covering a wide variety of water quality topics and summarizing water quality monitoring data from 2021. The report was broadly distributed electronically and in print.
- The SWC's social media was kept very active over the summer months. All three platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) have shown steady growth for the past few years. Staff have also been making updates to the SWC website, www.shuswapwater.ca.

Erin provided a financial update for the first quarter (April 1st – June 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

EXPENSES (April 1st – June 30th 2022):

Program (per 2022-23 work plan)	Budget (\$)	Expense (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring	28,850	12,890
Water Quality Protection & Improvement*	150,730	9938
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,875	28,179
Safe Recreation	27,600	14,333
Communications, Engagement, & Advocacy	55,100	13,956
Management & Administration	43,750	7387
Sub-total Program Operations Expenses	341,905	86,683
Operating Reserve	150,366	0
Total expenses	492,271	86,683

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

Discussion:

Director Martin suggested that the SWC write a letter to Minister Osborne requesting the provincial watercraft inspection program operations return to previous levels (i.e., additional staffing and inspection stations).

Action item:

Staff will prepare a letter to Minister Osborne (as directed in the June SWC meeting), including a request for more staff and resources allocated to the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program.

Natalya Melnychuk entered the meeting at 10:45 am

Roundtable discussion on Shuswap Lake (Salmon Arm Bay / Tappen Bay) algal bloom

Councillor Cannon commented that she is concerned that Interior Health issued a Cautionary Advisory at the end of June without confirming the presence of algae.

Mayor Christian suggested the SWC be cautious when sharing Interior Health advisories; want to be clear that the advisory is not 'owned' by the SWC, but that it comes from IH.

Vice Chair Demenok inquired what sort of questions and concerns staff heard throughout August and September regarding the algal bloom. Erin replied that most inquiries were either related to public health and safety (i.e., "Is it safe to swim") or the cause of the algal bloom. For the former, staff directed those inquiries to Interior Health. For the latter, staff explained the various factors that create an algal bloom.

The Vice Chair suggested that the SWC write a letter to Interior Health, outlining concerns with posting Cautionary Advisories without testing and also requesting that IH staff be available for follow up communications and inquiries related to algal blooms. Councillor Cannon added that IH staff should take a lead role in collecting water samples during an algal bloom.

Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Vice Chair Demenok that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council write a letter, in partnership with the City of Salmon Arm and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, to Interior Health requesting they confirm the presence of algae prior to releasing an Advisory, state the precise location of the bloom in the advisory, and be available for follow-up communications after the advisory is posted.

Carried

Action item:

Staff will work with the Chair and with partners to prepare a letter to IH as described above.

Erik Kok left the meeting at 11:00 am

Robyn Laubman entered the meeting at 11:05 am

**New business:
Presentation of
Phosphorus Action
Plan**

Erin Vieira presented an overview of the recently completed Phosphorus Action Plan for the Shuswap watershed. SWC members have received the document from staff, but it is not yet published on the website nor has it been further circulated via email.

Moved/seconded by: Mayor Christian/Councill Cannon that:

The Phosphorus Action Plan be approved.

Carried

**Roundtable
discussion on
Phosphorus Action
Plan**

Kimm Magill-Hofmann suggested that a map of the watershed be added the Plan.

Vice Chair Demenok commented that the Plan is a very good document. He specifically expressed his support for one of the items in the plan, that the SWC create a Wetland Strategy for the Shuswap watershed. He urged the SWC to go a step further and create a strategy for circulating the Phosphorus Action Plan, promoting it, and ensuring the actions described within get implemented by their respective groups and sectors; he suggested presentations to the agriculture and forestry sectors, and to community groups such as Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association. The Vice Chair further suggested that the authors of the Salmon River attainment monitoring report (prepared for the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy) be invited to a future meeting of the SWC to make a presentation.

Director Martin suggested that some of the items in the Phosphorus Action Plan be shared with the school district to be included in environmental education curriculum. Councillor Cannon suggested 4H groups receive the Plan.

Dennis Einarson suggested that components of the Plan be adopted by local/regional government within planning and growth strategies.

Action items:

Staff will amend the Phosphorus Action Plan with a map, as suggested.

Staff will create a communications and outreach strategy for promoting the Phosphorus Action Plan.

Staff from the City of Salmon Arm Engineering Department will be invited to the next SWC meeting (December) to give a presentation on the City Wastewater Treatment Plan upgrades that are underway.

Staff will work with staff at BC MOE to arrange for a presentation on the Salmon River monitoring program and results at a future meeting of the SWC.

Roundtable updates

Councillor Anderson commented that she received notice of a traveler with watercraft arriving at a boat launch/marina in Sicamous who had driven to there via Highway #1, and passed by the Golden watercraft inspection station which was closed. The traveler was proactive and cooperative, understanding the importance of being inspected before launching. Councillor Anderson relayed that she had some challenges contacting provincial staff to arrange for the watercraft to be assessed and/or inspected prior to launching.

Parting comments

Chair Simpson acknowledged Vice Chair Paul Demenok, Mayor Christian, Mayor Crowe, and Director Delisle who are not seeking re-election in October. He thanked them for their participation in the SWC, and especially thanked Vice Chair Demenok for chairing the SWC for eight years (2014 – 2022).

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Director Talbot that:

The September 21st 2022 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair