

Council Meeting
December 8th 2021 • 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Virtual meeting via Zoom

Meeting Summary
Approved March 9th 2022

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Discuss request re: financial assistance for glacier assessment
3. Finalize SWC Terms of Reference
4. Set meeting schedule for 2022

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Jay Simpson, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Dave Nordquist – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (*from 10:45 AM*)
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative
Lorne Hunter – Community representative (*from 9:10 AM*)
Sharon Bennett – Community representative (*from 10:15 AM*)

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Barbra Fairclough

Regrets

Colleen Anderson
Howard Nordquist
Lindsay Benbow

- Call to Order** Chair Paul Demenok opened the meeting at 9:00 AM. He acknowledged the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people.
- Adoption of meeting summary** **Moved/seconded** by Director Simpson/Mayor Christian that:
The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council, held September 8th 2021, be approved.
Approved
- Correspondence** **Moved/seconded** by Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:
The correspondence addressed to Minister Joyce Murray, November 26th 2021, be received for information.
Discussion:
Chair Demenok commented on a recent announcement about federal funding allocated to manage aquatic invasive species in Jasper National Park.
Approved
- Old business** **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Councillor Cannon that:
The draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting, held November 4th 2021, be received for information,
And that:
The draft summary of the Water Monitoring Group meeting, held November 18th 2021, be received for information.
Approved
- Report from Chair** Chair Demenok provided a brief update on the recent jointly signed letter to federal Fisheries Minister, Joyce Murray, which was a collaborative effort by the SWC, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society. The Chair also commented on the work of the SWC's Governance Committee to prepare recommendations for finalizing the Terms of Reference.
Lorne Hunter entered the meeting at 9:10 AM
- Report from Program Managers** Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting in September:
 - Staff facilitated a meeting of the Water Protection Advisory Committee on November 4th. The Committee discussed and modified the Water Quality Grant Program guidelines, in preparation of launching a new round of intakes.
 - Staff also facilitated a regular meeting of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group on November 18th. The Monitoring Group reviewed this past season's

monitoring programs, heard updates on the Phosphorus Action Plan and Water Quality Grant Program, and had a brief discussion on wildfires, water quality and post-wildfire water monitoring.

- The Water Quality Grant Program is now open for applications (closing January 31st 2022). The grant program is being promoted widely. Prospective applicants can find a program guide and application template online at www.shuswapwater.ca. The Water Protection Advisory Committee will review and recommend applications in February; the SWC will approve projects for funding in March.
- Development of the Phosphorus Action Plan is underway. A framework for the plan is established; staff are in the stage of seeking input from various orders of government, agricultural groups, and others for the P Action Plan.
- The monitoring season for Zebra and Quagga Mussels (ZQM) has concluded. All samples tested negative, meaning the Shuswap remains invasive mussel-free.
- Staff participated in a Provincial Working Group meeting for aquatic invasives on November 25th. Provincial staff reported that the watercraft inspection program conducted 33,000 inspections and intercepted 17 mussel-fouled watercraft. The Province also reports that compliance at watercraft inspection stations is increasing. All samples from across BC for ZQM tested negative (no mussels detected) which is great news.
- Staff coordinated the writing of a joint letter by the SWC, Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to new federal Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Joyce Murray. The letter outlines concerns regarding a potential new invasion of Zebra and Quagga Mussels to BC, and calls for new federal investment for prevention and for better containment of ZQM-infested waterbodies.
- Staff submitted an application for \$22,900 funding from Transport Canada's Boating Safety Contribution Program. If successful, the funds will support the SWC's Safe Recreation Program and reduce the SWC contribution for this program in 2022 by about 75%. Staff anticipate hearing a response from Transport Canada in March 2022.
- A financial update up to the second quarter, April 1st - September 30th 2021 was provided:

REVENUE - Source	\$
For the fiscal year April 1 st 2021 - March 30 th 2022	
Surplus (from March 31 st 2021)	69,072
Operating Reserve	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement *</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	97,200
TNRD	32,590
City of Salmon Arm	24,320
Adams Lake Indian Band	790
<i>Contribution from partner: Shuswap Lifeboat Society</i>	3200
Total revenue	426,167

* Funders' contributions are reduced by \$100,000, or 39% each, in 2021 to reduce the SWC's Operating Reserve

EXPENSES	Budgeted (\$)	Expense (\$)
Up to second quarter April 1 st - September 30 th 2021		
Water Quality Monitoring	32,950	15,607
Water Quality Protection	111,650	23,633
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	42,750	34,903
Safe Recreation	21,550	20,668
Communications, engagement, advocacy	48,100	22,671
Management & administration	41,500	16,427
Sub-total Program Operations	298,500	133,909
Operating Reserve	127,667	0
Total expenses	426,167	133,909

Discussion

Chair Demenok inquired about Farmland Advantage that's mentioned in the draft Water Protection Advisory Committee (WPAC) meeting summary for November 4th. Mike Simpson explained that the WPAC discussed it as an alternative to the SWC administering its own Water Quality Grant Program - instead, the SWC could provide the funds to a third party such as Farmland Advantage to administer. The WPAC does not want to pursue this option, at this time. Chair Demenok and Mayor Christian agreed with the WPAC's opinion.

Chair Demenok commented on a recommendation from the Water Monitoring Group meeting summary for November 18th, to include the installation of continuous data loggers in the Shuswap River and Salmon River as part of the Phosphorus Action Plan. The Chair expressed his support for this idea and suggested staff pursue this.

Chair Demenok suggested that staff explore the idea of bringing an expert in wildfire and water quality to present or host a workshop with the SWC, together with the Water Protection Advisory Committee members and Water Monitoring Group members. The purpose of a workshop would be to increase all members' general knowledge of wildfire impacts on water quality.

Director Martin inquired if staff have received any grant applications proposing fire rehabilitation projects. Mike Simpson replied that no grant applications have been submitted yet, in response to the recent call for applications.

Councillor Cannon inquired about the availability of guidelines for farmers for manure spreading, and suggested that there may be a need for the SWC to produce educational material for farmers. The Chair remarked that there are many resources already available, including the Environmental Farm Plan program. Mike further remarked that the Phosphorus Action Plan in development will identify best practices related to nutrient and manure management, and he clarified that while SWC is not a regulator, the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy has the *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice* to enforce. The Chair further commented that observations of pollution should be reported to the RAPP line (Report All Poachers and Polluters) which is available to all members of the public.

Dave Nordquist asked if the SWC is involved in the development of Water Quality Objectives, being led by the BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy. Erin Vieira replied that the BC MOE has not approached the SWC about this, however, MOE staff have given updates about it in meetings of the Water Monitoring Group.

Action item:

Staff will organize a presentation or workshop with a wildfire and water quality expert, as described above, to be held in the new year.

Sharon Bennett entered the meeting at 10:15 AM

**New business:
Request from
SEAS**

Chair Demenok briefly explained that the Shuswap Environmental Action Society (SEAS), led by Jim Cooperman, is seeking financial assistance to complete an update to their Adams Lake Glacier Assessment Project Report (authored by Forsite, July 2016). The cost of updating the report is projected to be \$500; Mr. Cooperman has approached other groups for financial assistance and has suggested that SWC's share of the expense could be \$200.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council approve SEAS' request for financial assistance, up to \$500, for updating the Adams Lake Glacier Assessment Project Report.

Approved

Action item:

Staff will follow up with Mr. Cooperman to arrange a payment as described above.

**New business:
Terms of
Reference**

Chair Demenok reviewed each of the SWC Governance Committee's recommendations regarding updating the Terms of Reference.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Crowe/Director Simpson that:

Each of the four Shuswap-area Secwepemc communities have one representative on the Shuswap Watershed Council, and that Pespesellkwe will recommend appointments to the SWC on behalf of Adams Lake Indian Band (who will retain financial voting rights), Little Shuswap Lake Band, Splotsin, and Neskonlith (the latter three will have non-financial voting rights, with the option to vote on financial matters if they become a funding partner).

Approved

Moved/seconded by Mayor Crowe/Director Simpson that:

The Syilx Nation, Okanagan Nation Alliance and/or Okanagan Indian Band, and Secwepemc Fisheries Commission be invited to participate in the SWC's technical committees.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Mayor Christian that:

Staff be directed to seek a representative from the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Mayor Christian that:

An honorary seat for Dennis Einarson, as a senior scientific advisor to the SWC, be created.

Approved

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Mayor Christian that:

The Chair and Vice Chair be enabled to approve additional workplan expenses brought forward by staff, up to a maximum of \$1000 quarterly, so long as they are aligned with the Strategic Plan, and that staff report these additional approved expenses to the SWC.

Approved

Action item:

Staff will update the Terms of Reference with the above changes and circulate it to SWC members, and seek to fill the new seats as described above.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok explained that the Community Representative terms will be complete on March 31st 2022 and will need to be renewed. He inquired about the possibility of re-framing these positions so that the SWC could seek specific perspectives or organizations to be represented. Natalya Melnychuk commented that there is a risk of asking for certain perspectives to be represented on the SWC (as opposed to leaving it undefined, as in the current Community Representative seats). She suggested that the SWC could outline some clearer expectations for the Community Representatives. Sharon Bennett commented that the SWC could provide different avenues for other groups to engage with the SWC, such as the opportunity to make a presentation to the SWC and share viewpoints. Chair Demenok added that public forums would be an effective way of communicating the SWC's activities and accomplishments.

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Talbot that:

Staff be directed to seek Expressions of Interest for up to four Community Representatives, and to bring short-listed candidates to the March 9th 2022 SWC meeting.

Approved

Action item: Staff will put out a call for Expressions of Interest, as described above.

Kym Keogh entered the meeting at 10:45 AM

New business:
Meeting schedule
for 2022

Chair Demenok reviewed the proposed SWC meeting schedule for 2022:

March 9th 2022 (4th quarter meeting, 2021-22)
June 8th (1st quarter, 2022-23)
September 21st (2nd quarter)
December 14th (3rd quarter)

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month except for September, to avoid conflict with the annual Union of BC Municipalities Convention. It is not yet known whether meetings will be held in person or via Zoom.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Mayor Crowe that:

The meeting schedule be approved as presented.

Approved

Roundtable
updates

Kym Keogh reported that the BC Ministry of Environment has completed the development of draft Water Quality Objectives for Shuswap Lake. The team developing the WQOs is collecting more input from Indigenous groups. Kym will ask the team to contact the Shuswap Watershed Council.

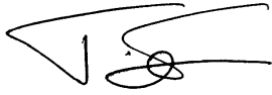
Kym also reported that BC MOE staff are working on a report summarizing the results of attainment monitoring in the Salmon River, which SWC helped to fund, from 2016-2018. She expects a report will be ready early in the new year, and will be shared with the SWC.

Sharon Bennett reported that the Okanagan Basin Water Board has recently developed a Source Water Protection Toolkit. The toolkit is available at www.sourcewaterprotectiontoolkit.ca.

Adjourn

The December 8th 2021 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council adjourned at 10:58 AM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:



Chair