



COUNCIL MEETING

Shuswap Watershed Council
September 11th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 11:30 PM



OLD BUSINESS

Motion from June 12th 2024:

Moved/seconded by Director Simpson/Director Hamer-Jackson that: Staff be directed to reduce the Safe Recreation program to a minimum, direct the savings to the surplus, and that the revised budget go to an email vote.

The revised budget was sent to SWC funders by email (June 19th) and a vote took place. The revised budget was approved with 8 votes in favour and zero opposed.



PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT



ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

- Staff will facilitate an email vote to seek approval of the proposed revised budget ✓
- Staff collect comments re: future of the SWC from members who can't attend the September SWC meeting ✓

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER

REVENUE SOURCE	BUDGET (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus	25,113
2023-24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2024-25 projects (water quality grants)	59,961
<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

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FIRST QUARTER

WORK PLAN	BUDGET		EXPENSES	
	Disbursements	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Program mgmt.
Water Quality Monitoring Program	33,059	14,063	19,301	2295
Water Quality Protection Program	124,821	20,250	26,639	3490
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	27,432	7425	22,431	5130
Safe Recreation Program	9480	3713	7126	2070
Communications & Public Engagement	2725	16,763	1650	5667
Administration	1850	38,131	532	11,953
Sub-total	199,367	100,344	77,680	30,605

First quarter: April 1st – June 30th 2024

PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

- Water Quality Grant Program
- Water Quality Report
- Wetland strategy
- Watershed research partnership
- Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention
- Safe boating and recreation
- Communications
- Administration and fund development



Photo: Sunnybrae Winery

Water Quality Grant Program

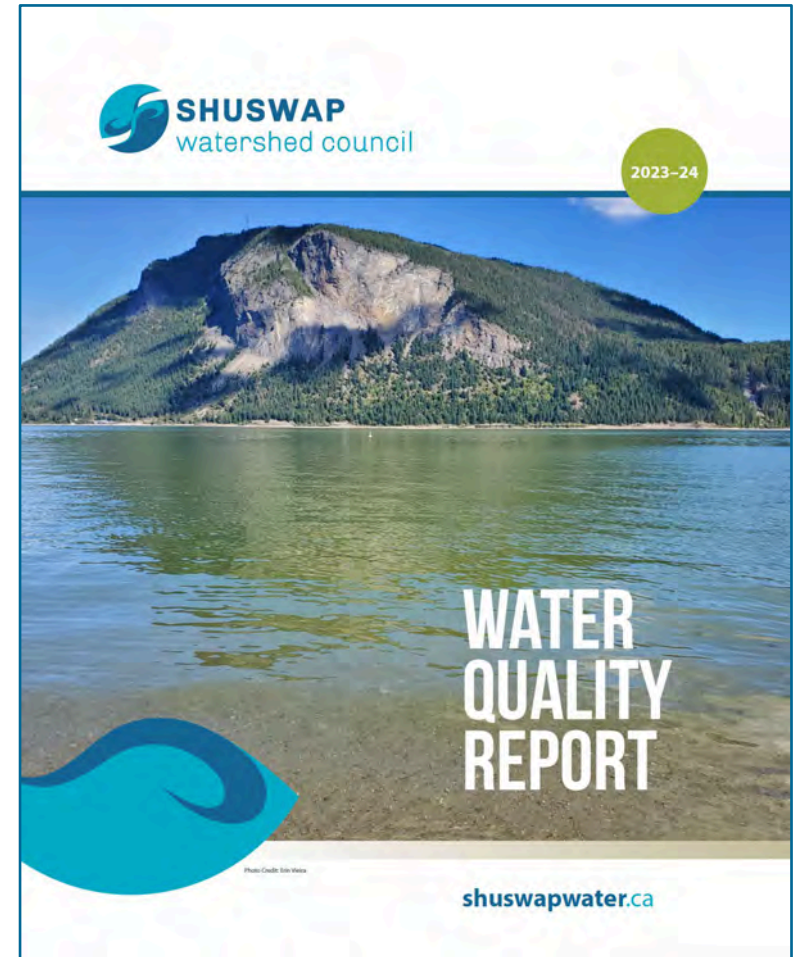
- Six projects (by five applicants) recommended and approved for funding in 2024-25
- Staff completed site visits with all applicants in April
- Contribution Agreements in place with all grant recipients and work is underway
 - Sunnybrae Winery – Fertigation and cover-crop management
 - Gietema Farms – installation of 'Precision GPS' on farm equipment
 - Syme Farms – manure storage improvement
 - Foxtrot Dairy – new livestock fence along creek on farm
 - Jeff Czepil – new livestock fence along creek on farm





Water Quality Report

- Eighth annual Water Quality Report was published at the end of July
- 16-page report includes WQ data for large lakes and beaches, and information about algal blooms, aquatic invasive species, wildfires and water quality, and the SWC's grant program and developing wetland strategy
- Distributed via email and print copies have been sent to library branches
- Snippets published to social media on a weekly basis



Phase 2 Wetland Strategy

- Associated Environmental Consultants Inc. completed Phase 2 of the Wetland Strategy, and the final report has been received.
- Report focused on: a literature review of wetland strategies and conservation plans in other jurisdictions in BC, priority rating attributes for each wetland focusing on the Salmon Arm Bay watershed, a list of classified wetlands with GIS data, and identifying areas for wetland restoration, conservation, or construction with specific emphasis on improving downstream water quality.
- This work has informed next steps in seeking funding for Phase 3 of the Wetland Strategy. An application has been submitted to Environment and Climate Change Canada's Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative to perform detailed ground-truthing and health assessments of high-priority wetlands identified in previous phase. This will include field surveys, monitoring, and data analysis.

Watershed research partnership

Photo credit: Margot Webster

- University researcher Margot Webster has three 'floating treatment wetlands' installed in the Salmon River
- Monitoring water quality and plant growth to understand impact of the FTWs on water quality
- Results anticipated late fall / winter. Observations from the researcher:
 - Plant roots grew > 60cm
 - Thousands of minnows
 - One frog and several invertebrates
- SABNES is assuming long-term ownership of the FTWs



Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

- Educational ZQM prevention campaigns throughout the summer
 - Articles and advertisements in newspapers, travel/tourism literature, radio and social media
 - New signs at marinas and info centres
 - 3 billboards on TCH
- Key messages:
 - Clean, Drain, Dry watercraft
 - Pull the watercraft drainplug before travelling
 - Stop for watercraft inspection when travelling

no other body of water.

STOP at Watercraft Inspection Stations as you pass them in your travels.

All types of boats and watercraft must stop for inspection, including paddleboards, canoes and kayaks, and inflatables.





Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

- Partnership with CSISS to do early-detection monitoring for ZQM
 - Monitoring at 12 sites on six waterbodies is underway
 - SWC staff participated in a field day in July

Early-detection monitoring for ZQM is carried out across the Province by stewardship and community organizations with grant funding.



CSISS technician Nolan launching a plankton net at a monitoring site in Blind Bay



Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

Update from the BC Government:

- 2022 Final Report on the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Program was recently published
 - 8 highway-side inspections + 2 roving inspection crews
 - 20,100 watercraft inspections completed
 - 13 watercraft confirmed to have adult mussels
 - The most common destination for travellers was Shuswap Lake
 - Compliance at inspection stations was 89%



Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

Update from the BC Government:

- 2024 Summer Status Report on the IMDP was also recently published
 - 6 highway-side inspections + 2 roving inspection crews
 - To-date, 19,800 watercraft inspections completed
 - 8 watercraft confirmed to have adult mussels
- Invasive zebra mussels detected in aquarium 'moss ball' plants in Washington State in August. Authorities responded immediately to contain the threat.

Safe boating and recreation

- Program was reduced but not eliminated this summer due to loss of federal grant funding
- Limited safety campaigns in newspapers and radios on long weekends, plus social media campaigns
- Key messages:
 - Lifejackets and safety equipment
 - Boating sober
 - Swim with a friend
 - Silent drowning awareness



KIDS DON'T FLOAT— but lifejackets do!

No Life Jacket?

You can borrow one for a child free-of-charge from a **Kids Don't Float PFD loaner station**, provided by the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue, Station 106 Shuswap.

Children's lifejacket kiosk at Sunnybrae Community Park

20 PFD loaner stations located around the Shuswap!

1	Scamouss Boat Launch	Scamouss
2	Old Town Bay Boat Launch	Scamouss
3	Canoe Beach Park	Canoe
4	Downtown Salmon Arm Boat Launch	Salmon Arm
5	Sunnybrae Community Park	Sunnybrae
6	Herald Provincial Park	Sunnybrae
7	Harbour Road Boat Launch	Blind Bay
8	Sandy Beach Community Park	Blind Bay
9	Markwart Road Boat Launch	Sorrento
10	Shuswap Lake Provincial Park	Scotch Creek
11	Magna Bay Wharf Road Park	Magna Bay
12	Memorial Park Boat Launch	Chase
13	Oxford Road Lake Access	Swansea Point
14	Beswick Road Community Park	Seymour Arm
15	Bristow Road Boat Launch	Celista
16	Belvidere Park	Enderby
17	Tuey Park	Enderby
18	Shannon Beach	Eagle Bay
19	White Lake Community Park	White Lake
20	Rebble Beach—Mini Kiosk	Blind Bay

8 TIPS for Having Fun and Staying Safe in the Shuswap

- 1** Whether boating, floating, paddling, or SUPing always wear a lifejacket.
- 2** Have a sober skipper! Never boat under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- 3** Be prepared. Check your pre-departure checklist.
- 4** Be extra safe in cold water—it can disable you from resurfacing.
- 5** Always use a spotter for tow sports.
- 6** Watch for floating and partially submerged debris.
- 7** Watch—don't just listen—for trouble in the water. Don't be distracted while supervising children.
- 8** Always swim with a friend—it's safer than swimming alone.

ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE SEARCH & RESCUE
 Living Lines to the Water
 Station 106 • Shuswap
rcmsar106.ca #RCMSAR106

SHUSWAP watershed council
shuswapwater.ca

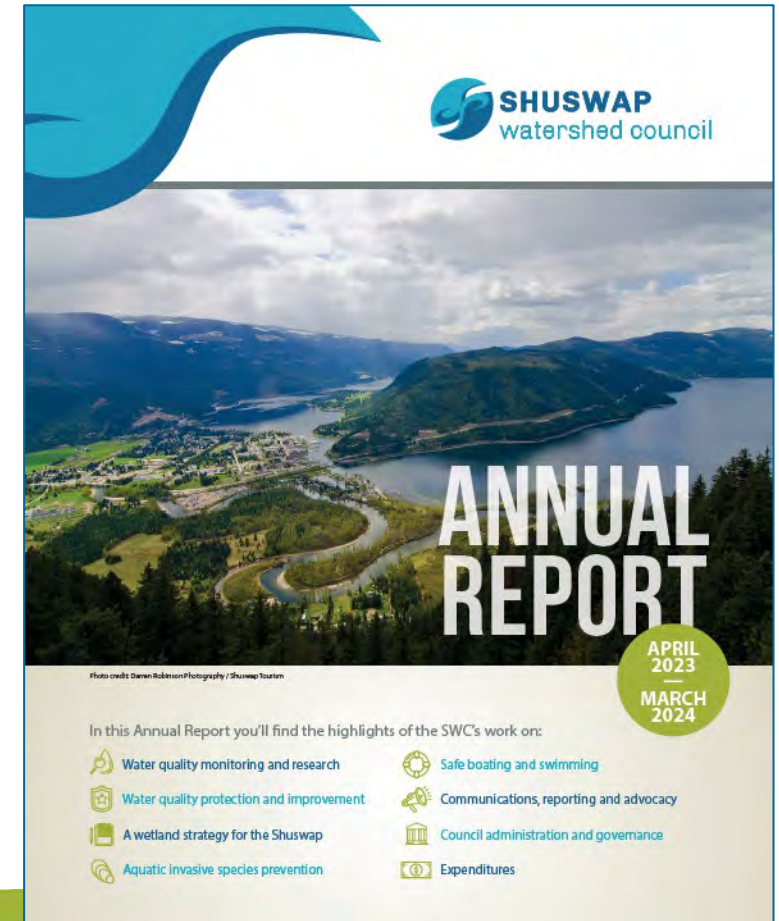
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 @ShuswapWater
 #shuswapwater
 Shuswap Watershed Council

Have a safe and fun summer in the Shuswap!



Communications

- Annual Report for 2023-24 was published (online only) at the end of June
- 10-page report covers the SWC's activities:
 - Water monitoring collaboration
 - Water quality grant program successes
 - New wetland strategy for the Shuswap
 - Invasive mussel prevention
 - Results of safe boating program
 - Two watershed research projects
 - Communications and advocacy
 - Expenses





Communications

- Media release on August 7th re: publication of Water Quality Report
- Created a Linked In profile page for the Shuswap Watershed Council to expand our social media reach
- Other SWC social media platforms have shown growth over the past year by an average of 10-11% (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Provided some SWC resources to a librarian at Salmon Arm library for a water-themed display in August



Administration and fund development

- 2024 Contribution Agreement with funders (TNRD + ALIB) is fully signed
- Staff submitted a grant funding application to Environment & Climate Change Canada for Phase 3 of the Wetland Strategy
- Staff looking into funding opportunity via Provincial Watershed Security Fund, possible application in December
- Staff waiting for announcement of Boating Safety Contribution Program funding call from Transport Canada for 2025



NEW BUSINESS

SWC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Items in the Terms of Reference:

- Introduction, Purpose, Role
- Membership
- Appointed members, community representatives, terms, alternates
- Decision making, voting rights, financial and non-financial decisions, casting votes
- Chair and Vice Chair election, roles and responsibilities
- Liaise with Water Quality Monitoring Group; Water Protection Advisory Committee
- Comments in the public or media
- Funding and compensation, administration

The Terms of Ref
were last
reviewed and
updated
December 2021

SWC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Membership

- Columbia Shuswap Regional District – EA Directors for Area C, D, E, F, G
- District of Sicamous (1)
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District (2)
- City of Salmon Arm (1)
- Secwepemc Nation (2, up to 4)
- North Okanagan Regional District (2)
- BC Ministries (3 - MOE, MOF, M. Ag)
- Community reps (3, up to 4)
- Senior Scientific Advisor (1)

SWC TERMS OF REFERENCE

Voting and quorum

- Voting rights on financial issues are granted to the representatives of organizations contributing funding (CSRD including Sicamous, TNRD, Salmon Arm, ALIB)
- Voting on non-financial issues are granted to the above-mentioned plus other representatives of the Secwepemc Nation, RDNO, and community representatives
- Provincial Ministry staff and the Senior Scientific Advisory do not have voting rights
- Quorum for financial decisions is 75% of SWC membership with financial voting rights; decisions by two-thirds majority
- Quorum for non-financial decisions is 50% of SWC membership with voting rights; decisions by simple majority



Roundtable discussion

- Are you committed to continuing participation in the Shuswap Watershed Council, and what outcomes or benefits do you hope to achieve through your continued involvement?
- Considering the current funding landscape, what local government funding mechanisms do you see as most viable for sustaining the SWC's operations, and how can we advocate effectively for these?
- How can we improve our governance structure and align the Council's operations with the priorities of potential funders to enhance decision-making and increase the likelihood of securing financial support?



Recommended motions

- Direct staff to apply for grant-in-aid or discretionary funding from all local governments within the Shuswap watershed
- Direct staff to convene a committee to review Terms of Reference and bring forward recommended revisions to the December 2024 SWC meeting
- Others?