



COUNCIL MEETING

Shuswap Watershed Council

June 4th 2025 • 10:45 AM – 1:30 PM



AGENDA FOR JUNE 4TH

- Adoption of agenda and meeting summary
- Correspondence
- Old business – Water Monitoring Group meeting draft summary
- Report from Chair
- Report from Program Managers
- Presentation from graduate student researcher, Margot Webster
- Lunch break
- New business: updated work plan and budget for 2025-26
- Roundtable discussion: strategic planning for 2026
- Roundtable updates



PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

| 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> | |
| Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) | 53,600 |
| Adams Lake Indian Band | 1300 |
| City of Salmon Arm | 0 |
| Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) | 0 |
| <i>Grant funding:</i> | |
| Canada Water Agency | 153,765 |
| <i>Operating Reserve:</i> | |
| Full SWC Operating Reserve from March 31 st , 2024 | 174,987 |
| Summary of revenue for 2024-25 | 468,726 |

YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

| WORK PLAN | BUDGET | | EXPENSES | | VARIANCE |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | Disburse-ments | Program mgmt. | Disburse-ments | Program mgmt. | |
| Water Quality Monitoring Program | 98,059 | 13,725 | 96,876 | 12,877 | 2031 |
| Water Quality Protection Program | 185,821 | 19,813 | 124,266 | 19,590 | 61,777 |
| Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program | 27,432 | 7425 | 27,744 | 7605 | -492 |
| Safe Recreation Program | 9480 | 3713 | 8619 | 3420 | 1154 |
| Communications & Public Engagement | 2725 | 16,763 | 4143 | 19,208 | -3863 |
| Administration | 8475 | 56,156 | 4648 | 55,672 | 4312 |
| Sub-total | 331,992 | 117,594 | 266,296 | 118,372 | |
| Surplus | 19,140 | | 0 | | 19,140 |
| Totals | 468,726 | | 384,667 | | 84,058 |

2024-25 YEAR END HIGHLIGHTS

Working together on water

- 8 organizations participate in SWC, plus science/academia and community perspectives
- ~ 18 organizations participate in monitoring group

Water Quality Grant Program

- 5 grants awarded and six projects completed
- \$55,203 SWC funds awarded and \$60,984 leveraged

Wetland strategy

- Phase 3 completed including field work to assess state of wetlands

Zebra & Quagga Mussel prevention

- 97 water samples collected and tested for ZQM from 12 sites on six waterbodies in the Shuswap
- Educational campaigns had ~ 4.4 million impressions!

Safe boating and recreation

- Safety campaigns had nearly 600,000 impressions

Two new watershed research projects with universities completed



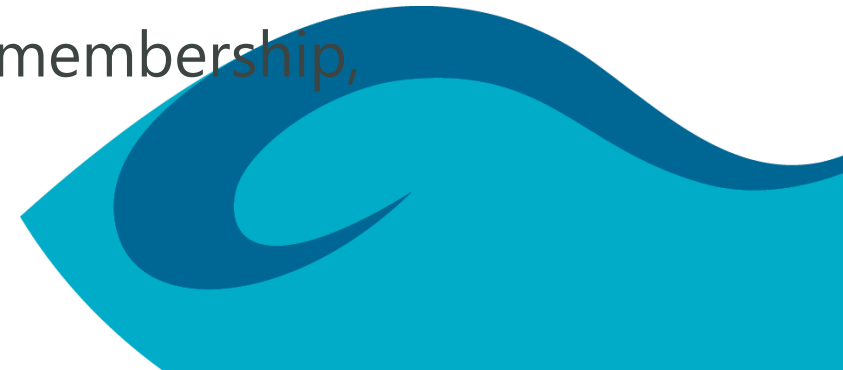
PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

- Administration
- Water Quality Grant Program
- Aquatic invasive species prevention
- Safe boating and recreation
- Communications and advocacy
- Fund development and work planning

PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Administration

- Financial year-end was March 31st; all invoices are paid and accounts reconciled
- Final report submitted to the Canada Water Agency for grant in 2024-25
 - Eligible expenses totaled \$153,765
 - Supported wetland strategy phase 3; water budget for the Salmon River; administration expenses
- Staff working on recruiting new candidates for SWC membership, per the Terms of Reference



PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Water Quality Grant Program

- 2024 grant program provided funding to six projects on five farms. All projects are complete, projects reports have been submitted by proponents and all grants paid out





PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Water Quality Grant Program

- 2025 grant program is underway
- \$34,656 being awarded to four Shuswap-area farms and one non-profit stewardship group. Projects are proponent-led and will be complete by March 31st, 2026.

Water Monitoring Group

- Regular bi-annual meeting of the group took place on March 13th
- Discussed 2025 water monitoring plans



PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention

- Educational campaigns about AIS throughout the month of May, “Invasive Species Action Month”
- Target audience is water and watercraft users
- Messaging focusses on “Clean-Drain-Dry” and watercraft inspection

Safe boating and recreation

- “Safe Boating Awareness Week” campaigns during mid-May

Please follow and share!





STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- ✓ **Clean, drain and dry** your boat or watercraft and gear when you move it from one waterbody to another
- ✓ **Pull your watercraft drainplug** when you travel on BC roads
- ✓ Stop for **watercraft inspection** along your route when you travel

May is Invasive Species Action Month!

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shuswapwater.ca

Quagga mussels in Lake Mead, Nevada:



These sections of pipe - which were taken from under the water - illustrate how quickly the mussels have colonized all over and inside the pipes. In just six months, the pipe on the right is fully encrusted and filled in.

REPORT WHIRLING DISEASE

Whirling Disease is not known to be present in the Shuswap watershed. If you see fish that appear to be infected with whirling disease, please do not remove or transport the fish. Instead, take photos and submit them to the Province of BC at whirlingdisease@gov.bc.ca.



shuswapwater.ca

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REPORT WHIRLING DISEASE

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shuswapwater.ca



- Whirling disease confirmed in Kootenay Lake
- No known presence in Shuswap watershed
- Prevention and containment is critical!
 - Clean-Drain-Dry AND follow special decontamination protocol within the Columbia River watershed
 - Provincial protocol available online gov.bc.ca/whirlingdisease
 - Stop for watercraft inspection on travel routes into and around BC

Power of social media:

- 56,000 views
- >2100 interactions
- 99% non-page followers

PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Communications and advocacy

- Chair and staff met with MLA Peter Milobar and MLA Ward Stamer in March to provide overview of the SWC and discuss pressing watershed issues
- Two media releases this spring re: aquatic invasive species prevention and water quality grant announcement
- Spring newsletter sent out to ~ 250 subscribers
- Working on 2024-25 Annual Highlights Report; nearly complete and will distribute electronically



PROGRAM OPERATIONS UPDATE

Fund development and work planning

- Staff have been working from a draft/tentative work plan since April 1st, given outstanding grant applications
- Received notice from the Provincial Watershed Security Fund (WSF) that grant application for \$400,000 over two years was unfortunately not successful
 - Primary reason given is that the fund was extremely over-allocated; \$7M available through WSF and received >\$41M in applications
 - Had follow-up mtg with WSF staff and received constructive feedback
- Staff have submitted a new grant application to Canada Water Agency
- Staff have revised budget and work plan for 2025-26 accordingly.



NEW BUSINESS

UPDATED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2025-26

- Unprecedented challenge of low levels of confirmed funding
 - Grant application to Provincial Watershed Security Fund was not successful
 - Awaiting announcement on grant application to Canada Water Agency
- Grant applications take time for staff to research, prepare, submit and report on
- Staff recommend funding be prioritized for the following:
 - Water Quality Grant Program (2025 intake, 2026 delivery)
 - Two SWC committees (2 mtgs each per year)
 - AIS prevention
 - Communications, outreach and advocacy
 - Administration and Council meetings
 - Fund development



UPDATED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2025-26

- Opportunities for savings this year:
 - Water Quality Report (~ \$12,500 savings if we wait until 2026 to publish again)
 - Reduce number of Council meetings from four to three (~ \$4800-5000 savings)
 - No new work on the wetland strategy
 - These items can be added back into the work plan if additional funding becomes available



WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR 2025-26

| REVENUE SOURCE | BUDGET (\$) |
|---|----------------|
| 2024-25 operational surplus (from March 31 st 2025) | 49,412 |
| 2024-25 funds allocated to 2025 grant program | 34,646 |
| <i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i> | |
| Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) | 53,600 |
| Adams Lake Indian Band | 1300 |
| Total confirmed revenue | 138,958 |
| | |
| Grant application to Canada Water Agency for 2025-26 (not confirmed) | 70,000 |
| Pending applications to local governments (grant-in-aid, discretionary funding) | 30,000 |

| Workplan | EXPENSE (\$) | | | FUNDING SOURCE | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| | Program mgmt. | Disbursements | Sub-total | SWC funds (confirmed) | CWA – not confirmed | Local govt – not confirmed |
| Water Quality Monitoring | | | | | | |
| Shuswap Water Mon. Group | 6300 | | 6300 | 6300 | | |
| Watershed monitoring | 1688 | 8312 | 10,000 | | 10,000 | |
| Water Quality report 2024-25 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | <i>possible? Need \$12,500</i> |
| Water Protection and Improvement | | | | | | |
| Water Protection Adv. Comm. | 4850 | 400 | 5250 | 5250 | | |
| Grant Program 2025-26 | 5125 | 35,146 | 40,271 | 40,271 | | |
| Grant Program 2026-27 | 7150 | 34,350 | 41,500 | | 41,500 | <i>additional funding? Could add \$10-15K</i> |
| Wetland Strategy | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | <i>possible? Could add \$5K+</i> |

| Workplan | EXPENSE (\$) | | | FUNDING SOURCE | | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Program mgmt. | Disbursements | Sub-total | SWC funds (confirmed) | CWA – not confirmed | Local govt – not confirmed |
| Zebra & Quagga Mussel / AIS prevention | | | | | | |
| Education and engagement; staff participate in Prov. Working Group etc. | 8775 | 15,210 | 23,985 | 10,485 | 13,500 | |
| Safe recreation | | | | | | |
| Safety campaigns (multi media) | 2025 | 1500 | 3525 | 3525 | | |
| Communications & advocacy | | | | | | |
| Communications collateral | 4150 | 2100 | 6250 | 6250 | | |
| Public and media engagement | 11,263 | 2500 | 13,763 | 13,763 | | |
| Advocacy | 2700 | | 2700 | 2700 | | |

| Workplan | EXPENSE (\$) | | | FUNDING SOURCE | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| | Program mgmt. | Disbursements | Sub-total | SWC funds (confirmed) | CWA – not confirmed | Local govt – not confirmed |
| Administration & governance | | | | | | |
| Council meetings 3x per year incl. honourariums and mileage | 10,488 | 4900 | 15,388 | 12,138 | 3250 | |
| Administration and governance incl. onboarding and strategic planning | 4925 | 0 | 4925 | 4925 | | |
| Financial mgmt. and fund development incl. work planning, budgeting, financial admin, fund development and proposals, reporting to funders, financial audit (CWA item) | 17,800 | 1000 | 18,800 | 17,800 | 1000 | |
| Sub-totals | 87,238 | 105,419 | 192,656 | 123,406 | 69,250 | |



STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR 2026

STRAT PLAN FOR 2026 – THE PROCESS

Considerations

- Who should lead the development of the new strategic plan?
 - In-house with SWC members supported by staff, or
 - In-house by a committee of SWC members supported by staff, or
 - Hire a consultant to provide some guidance to the SWC or a committee. If so, the SWC will need to allocate some budget to this.
- How and when should the planning process unfold?
 - As part of the agendas for the next 2-3 SWC meetings, or
 - Schedule extra meetings for strategic planning.

The new Strategic Plan would ideally be complete by March 2026.