



# COUNCIL MEETING

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Shuswap Watershed Council  
March 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM



# AGENDA FOR MARCH 5<sup>TH</sup>

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1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
2. Adoption of agenda and meeting summary
3. Introduction of new candidates for SWC membership
4. Correspondence
5. Old business
6. Report from Chair
7. Report from Program Managers
8. Guest presentation
9. Water Quality Grant Program
10. SWC membership



# PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT

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# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD 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 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	174,987
<b>Summary of revenue for 2024-25</b>	<b>314,961</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THIRD QUARTER

WORK PLAN	BUDGET		EXPENSES	
	Disbursements	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Program mgmt.
Water Quality Monitoring Program	33,059	13,725	31,763	9668
Water Quality Protection Program	124,821	20,250	47,270	18,027
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	27,432	7425	27,744	7605
Safe Recreation Program	9480	3713	8619	2835
Communications & Public Engagement	2725	16,763	2544	16,165
Administration	1850	38,131	758	28,760
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>199,367</b>	<b>100,344</b>	<b>118,698</b>	<b>82,302</b>

Third quarter: April 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

# PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

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- Water Quality Grant Program
- Water Protection Advisory Committee
- Wetland Strategy
- Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention
- Communications and advocacy
- Fund development



# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Six water quality improvement projects are underway or complete on five farms with funding (2024) from the SWC
  - Sunnybrae Winery – Fertigation and cover-crop management - *complete*
  - Gietema Farms – installation of 'Precision GPS' on farm equipment – *complete*
  - Syme Farms – manure storage improvement - *complete*
  - Foxtrot Dairy – new livestock fence along creek on farm
  - Jeff Czepil – new livestock fence along creek on farm - *complete*



Photo: Dan Gietema





# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Purpose of grant program is to provide financial assistance to farms and other stewards for projects that improve nutrient management and protect water quality
- Intake period was open for two months, December 1<sup>st</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>
- Grant program was promoted locally through media releases, advertisements, social media, email newsletters
- Application package was available online including a detailed Grant Program Guide, link to online application templates, other resources including FBC staff contact information
- 11 applications received by deadline – a new record!
- Staff screened applications to ensure eligibility. Two of the 11 were determined not to meet eligibility criteria and one application was incomplete.





# Water Protection Advisory Committee

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- Committee had a bi-annual meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> with seven committee members attending in person
- Primary purpose of the committee is to provide technical input and experienced opinions on the grant applications
- Thorough discussion on all grant applications, review and scoring completed according to a pre-determined scoring matrix
- Committee recommends five projects for funding, for a total of \$34,646 grant fund awarded in 2025



# Wetland Strategy

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- Phase 3 of the wetland strategy is underway
- Contract with McTavish Resource and Management Consultants for the work. Phase 3 focuses on:
  - Ground-truthing the wetland model developed in phase 2
  - Field work was completed in February to collect data on wetlands in the study area and perform wetland health assessments
  - Sites identified as candidates for potential wetland restoration projects
  - Contractor will deliver a report that summarizes the field assessments and presents recommendations for next steps. Completion data is March 31<sup>st</sup>.



# Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

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- Early-detection monitoring for ZQM wrapped up this fall
  - Partnership with Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, SWC provides funding
  - 12 sites on six Shuswap waterbodies were monitored in 2024
  - All sample results came back negative – no invasive mussels 😊
- CSISS has applied to a Provincial fund to support early-detection monitoring in 2025





## Update from the Province on ZQM

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- Staff attended a provincial working group meeting on aquatic invasive species on February 5th
- The Province reported the following updates for their watercraft inspection program in 2024:
  - 6 permanent inspection stations and two roving stations were operational, April to October
  - 24,500 inspections completed
  - 128 watercraft decontaminations were performed at stations
  - 12 watercraft confirmed to have invasive mussels coming from Ontario (4), Manitoba (2), Michigan (2), Arizona (2), Utah (1) and Quebec (1)
  - Traveller compliance at watercraft stations is 90.7%, a slight increase from previous years
- New 'golden mussel' detection in California in October 2024; the first of its kind of North America.



## Communications

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- Media release sent out mid-December about whirling disease detection in Kootenay Lake and urging water recreationists to follow all best practices to prevent further spread
- Media release sent out mid-January inviting youth to apply to join the SWC membership
- Staff and chair attended a ProBus Club of Salmon Arm meeting in February to give a presentation. Great discussion and Q&A.
- Staff and chair meeting with MLAs Milobar (Kamloops Centre) and Stamer (North Thompson) later in March



## Fund development

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- FBC has signed a contribution agreement with Canada Water Agency for \$170,000. Funds are for this fiscal year, ending March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Staff applied to the Provincial Watershed Security Fund for next fiscal year
  - Requesting \$400,000 over two years (2025-26, 2026-27)
  - Funding will go toward many items in the SWC Strategic Plan including watershed collaboration, planning and governance, monitoring and assessment, restoration, and knowledge sharing
  - Funding announcement expected in April or May
- Staff will apply for funding from all local/regional governments in the Shuswap watershed to support work in 2025-26.



**NEW BUSINESS**

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## Grant recommendations

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- The Water Protection Advisory Committee has reviewed all grant applications and recommends five for funding
- Agenda package p. 26



## Membership

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The following SWC members had their terms renewed at the December SWC meeting:

- Rhona Martin, Erik Kok, Kimm Magill-Hofmann, Phil Owen, Diane Sutherland

The following SWC members may have their terms renewed, if they wish:

- Representing local government: David Lepsoe, Stephen Karpuk, Pam Beech, Debbie Cannon, Brian Schreiner, Rick Fairbairn
- Representing First Nations: Cliff Arnouse and Robyn Laubman

Remaining vacancies on the SWC membership:

- First Nations (1), youth (1), Provincial government (1)



## Next meeting

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June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Salmon Arm City Hall, Room 100

