

Council Meeting
March 13th 2019 | 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items

This record is subject to correction when adopted at the next SWC meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2019
2. Receive report from Program Managers
3. Approve 2019-20 budget and work plan
4. Receive guest presentation on provincial Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice

Present

Paul Demenok, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E – *by phone, 11:25 am – 12 pm*
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Rod Crowe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Alan Harrison – City of Salmon Arm (alternate)
Colleen Anderson – District of Sicamous
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
Laura Code – BC Ministry of Agriculture
Dennis Einarson – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Ray Nadeau – Community Representative
Randy Wood – Community Representative

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Ian Rogalski, Bob Misseggers

Regrets

Steven Teed
Dave Nordquist
Lorne Hunter

- Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Mike Simpson
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair** **ELECTION** of Chair of the Shuswap Watershed Council for 2019 is Paul Demenok by acclamation.
- ELECTION** of Vice Chair of the Shuswap Watershed Council for 2019 is Jay Simpson by acclamation.
- Welcoming comments** A round of introductions took place. Chair Demenok acknowledged Ray Nadeau, who is completing his term with the SWC as a Community Representative. Chair Demenok thanked Ray for his contributions and participation in the SWC since 2016, and for his efforts leading up to the establishment of the SWC in the years prior. Director Denis Delisle and Director Rick Fairbairn were introduced as newly appointed representatives from the Regional District of North Okanagan.
- Adoption of meeting summary** **Moved/seconded** by Mayor Christian/Director Talbot that:
The summary of the December 12th 2018 meeting of the SWC be adopted.
- CARRIED**
- Correspondence** **Moved/seconded** by Director Simpson/Director Talbot that:
The correspondence from Minister Jonathan Wilkinson dated December 13th 2018 be received for information.
- Discussion:
Directors expressed their concerns over potential vectors that could bring zebra and quagga mussels into BC, including floatplanes, watercrafts entering BC at un-guarded highways and roads, and trans-boundary waters such as Lake Koochanusa, Osoyoos Lake, and Ross Lake. Directors also commented on the potential for less conspicuous watercraft, such as inflatable watercraft and stand-up paddleboards, as being vectors for invasive mussels.
- CARRIED**
- Action item: staff will discuss floatplane monitoring with the Canadian Border Services Agency
- Old business** **Moved/seconded** by Director Delisle/Director Simpson that:
The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting on December 5th 2018 be received for information.

Discussion:

Chair Demenok remarked that the final outcomes and recommendations of the nutrient research in the Shuswap and Salmon River watersheds is forthcoming.

CARRIED

Moved/seconded by Mayor Harrison/Director Simpson that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meeting on February 27th 2019 be received for information.

CARRIED

Report from Chair

Chair Demenok expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to Chair the SWC for another year.

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira presented an update on program operations since the SWC's last meeting in December:

- The second phase of nutrient research with UBC-Okanagan is underway. A sediment core from the Mara Lake bottom has been collected by the researchers, and will be analysed for chronological nutrient deposition this spring and summer.
- The Water Protection Advisory Committee will next meet in April or May, and the meeting will include a tour of the new wetland at Gardom Lake
- The Water Monitoring Group most recently met in February; they discussed water quality monitoring plans throughout the watershed in 2019. They have recommended two monitoring projects for support from the SWC in 2019:
 - Priority monitoring for Zebra and Quagga Mussels at 24 sites in the Shuswap watershed
 - Enhanced monitoring at 7 sentinel sites on Shuswap and Mara Lakes to determine the effects of the 2018 dominant salmon return
- The 2018 Shuswap Water Quality Summary report is underway; it will include some water monitoring results for the previous year, as well as other informative articles.

Erin presented a financial report to the end of the third quarter, April 1st – December 31st 2018:

	Annual budget (\$)	Expenses (\$)
Water Monitoring Initiative	66,400	19,647
Water Protection Initiative	76,300	55,219
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	26,850	26,241
Safe Recreation Program	12,200	11,083
Communications	37,850	23,054
Management and Administration	40,750	26,202
Operating Reserve	131,528	0
Total expenses to December 31st 2018	391,878	161,446

Discussion:

Directors commented on the lack of uptake of SWC's \$10,000 grant available to community or stewardship groups for water quality improvement projects in 2018, and cited specific opportunities for projects if only there were 'boots-on-the-ground' organizations to take a lead role.

Directors also remarked on the 2018 Water Quality Summary, and the opportunity to include more evidence-based commentary on water quality, as well as actions that residents of the Shuswap can take to safeguard water quality.

New business: Work plan and budget for 2019-20

Director Martin joined the meeting by teleconference at 11:25 am

Erin Vieira presented the proposed work plan and budget for 2019-20, to take effect April 1st:

Revenue	\$
Carry forward from 2018-19:	
Projected operational surplus	20,000
Operating Reserve (includes \$20K contingency fund)	131,528
Per Contribution Agreement:	
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
External grant applications (pending):	
Boating Safety Contribution Program	19,538
MITACS	15,000
Total Revenue	440,966

Work plan and budget	\$
Water Quality Program: Water Monitoring Initiative	51,150
Water Quality Program: Water Protection Initiative	79,500
Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	30,825
Safe Recreation Program	26,050
Communications	40,200
Management and Administration	43,150
Sub-total operational expenses	270,875
Operating Reserve (includes \$20K contingency fund)	170,091
Total budget	440,966

Erin highlighted some of the key activities to take place within the Water Quality Program:

- Enhanced monitoring at seven sentinel (long-term) sites on Shuswap and Mara Lakes to determine the effects of the 2018 dominant salmon return. This work will be done by the BC Ministry of Environment.
- The completion of a three-year nutrient research project on the Shuswap River and Salmon River; as well as completion of a follow-up study to understand the chronological nutrient deposition to Mara Lake
- A robust prioritized monitoring detection program for Zebra and Quagga Mussels, to be carried out by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species (with financial support from multiple parties, including the SWC).

Other key activities for the SWC will be the ongoing delivery of educational/awareness campaigns to prevent the introduction of Zebra and Quagga Mussels, with a strong emphasis on promoting watercraft inspection and Clean-Drain-Dry practices. The SWC will also continue its education and outreach for safe boating and recreation. The SWC Communications work plan includes the production and distribution of a 2018 Water Quality Summary report, as well as several outreach initiatives including participation at an aquatic invasive species conference. The nutrient management education program will be cut from the SWC's work plan this year, in part because the Ministry of Environment will be doing outreach across BC with regard to its new Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice in 2019.

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Mayor Crowe that:
 The 2019-20 work plan and budget be received and approved, as presented.

Discussion:

Mayor Harrison inquired about the SWC's operating reserve; Chair Demenok responded that it has built up over the past few years from operational surpluses, and may be used in the future as the SWC considers reasonable measures for collaboratively managing or mitigating nutrient-loading in the watershed.

CARRIED

Director Martin left the meeting at 12:05 pm

Lunch break

The SWC took a lunch break from 12:05 – 12:45 pm

Guest presentation

Josie Beruldsen and Chris Jenkins of the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, and David Poon of the BC Ministry of Agriculture presented an overview of the Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice (AEMCoP or simply CoP).

Ms. Beruldsen thanked the SWC for their involvement in the regulatory review, and their submissions to the Province with regard to development of the AEMCoP. The CoP replaces the Agricultural Waste Control Regulation (1992); it came into effect on February 28th.

The CoP applies to over 17,000 agricultural operations in BC, which includes over 35 distinct sectors of the agriculture industry. The goal of CoP is to have all farms in BC achieve a basic level of environmental protection. Ms. Beruldsen outlined some of the desired outcomes from the Code to protect water quality: these include universal requirements as well as special requirements for high-risk areas or high-risk conditions. She outlined vulnerable aquifer areas and phosphorus-affected areas within the Shuswap, to which special requirements under the Code will be phased in. She also highlighted the Ministry's compliance and enforcement plan for the new Code.

Director Fairbairn left the meeting at 1:00 pm

SWC members had several questions and comments for Ms. Beruldsen and her colleagues. These pertained to the Ministry's plan for outreach; compliance and enforcement; and the Ministry's definitions and designations for high-risk areas and high-risk conditions. In particular, Mr. Chris Jenkins indicated that the Ministry is prioritizing phasing in requirements for nitrate management (due to human health impacts), and phosphorus management requirements will be subsequently phased in.

Chair Demenok inquired if the Ministry is considering supporting any mitigative works with regard to nutrient-loading to rivers and lakes; Mr. Jenkins replied that it is something the Ministry would need to consider.

Ray Nadeau expressed concern over the largely unknown cumulative effects of agricultural pollution in the watershed, and inquired if the Ministry is addressing this. Mr. Jenkins replied that there is provision in the CoP such that the Ministry may obtain information from farms at a regional level and undertake an assessment.

Director Delisle commented that there may be potentially high costs imposed on some farms to come into compliance with the CoP, and inquired if there is any assistance from the Province for this; Mr. Jenkins replied that there are several existing cost-sharing programs such as the Environmental Farm Plan.

Action item:

Ms. Beruldsen committed to sharing a list of regional organizations with the SWC that the Ministry will work with during their outreach; the SWC may be able to assist by building upon their list.

In Camera meeting

Moved/seconded by Mayor Harrison/Director Simpson that:
Pursuant to Sections 90(1)(1) – *personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the Regional District or another position appointed by the Regional District* – of the Community Charter, the SWC move in camera

CARRIED

The regular meeting of the SWC re-convened at 2:20 pm.

Roundtable updates

None provided

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Director Delisle/Director Simpson that:
The March 13th 2019 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.