

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

SHUSWAP EMERGENCY PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Shuswap Emergency Program Executive Committee meeting held April 20, 2022
via Zoom Electronic Meeting Software

Note: The following minutes are subject to correction when
endorsed by the SEP Executive Committee at the next Regular meeting

PRESENT:

Chair:	A. Harrison	City of Salmon Arm
Directors:	T. Lavery	City of Salmon Arm
	T. Rysz	District of Sicamous
	P. Demenok	Electoral Area C
	R. Talbot	Electoral Area D
	R. Martin	Electoral Area E
	J. Simpson	Electoral Area F
Staff:	D. Sutherland	Team Leader, Protective Services
	C. Semchuk	Emergency Program Facilitator
	T. Hansen	Emergency Program Coordinator
	K. Doussept	Administrative Services Assistant II

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 1:01 PM.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S Directors Demenok/Talbot THAT:
The agenda for the April 20, 2022 SEP Executive Committee meeting be approved with
the following addition: Shuswap Lake Watch website.
CARRIED

**ELECTION OF CHAIR
AND VICE CHAIR** A. Harrison was nominated as Chair, carried by acclamation and Director Rysz was
nominated as Vice Chair, carried by acclamation.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES M/S Directors Simpson/Lavery THAT:
The minutes from the December 14, 2021 SEP Executive Committee meeting be adopted.
CARRIED

SEP UPDATE **FRESHET**
The Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC) provided a general update for FRESHET 2022.
The snowpack is average this year but there are still chances for flooding, with many
variables including the amount of rainfall and temperature fluctuations that cannot be
predicted.

No local flooding issues have been reported to date. There have been some requests for
sandbags from residents who want to be prepared. Discussion ensued on how to provide
information to the public regarding sandbags, with the EPC advising that Emergency Services
is the contact for further information. Periodic correspondence will be sent out to the SEP
Executive Committee to provide updates regarding any changes or risks during the FRESHET.

SEP UPDATE (cont.)**Post Wildfire Hazard Assessments**

The EPC provided an update of the work done during and after the wildfires by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) who have completed post wildfire hazard assessments. The significant fires in the SEP area include the White Rock Lake Fire, Three Valley Lake Fire, Momich Fire and most significantly, Wiseman Creek near Sicamous.

Wiseman Creek

The Team Leader, Protective Services (Team Leader) advised that the risk of a landslide occurring in the at Wiseman Creek drainage basin is the biggest issue facing the emergency program at this time and is the number one focus. The risk is to the Sicamous Mobile Home Park which is located at the south end of the District of Sicamous with Wiseman creek running directly through the park. The CSRD's geotechnical engineer has advised there is a 100% chance that this drainage area will slide within the next two years because of the burnt trees and hydrophobic soils created by the wildfire in 2021. SEP has been focusing a great deal of energy into preparing the community for potential disaster. The Emergency Program Facilitator (EPF) is working directly with the community to develop a Neighbourhood Emergency Program (NEP) in that area. The EPF has assembled a team of volunteers and equipment at the Sicamous Seniors Centre to help deal a potential evacuation.

An Early Warning System has been implemented for the area that uses forecasted data to indicate there will be a significant rainfall event. The system provides daily updates on the rainfall in BC. This system is expected to be fully automated with a lower level of supervision required by the end of April.

Gateway Slope Instability

The Team Leader provided an update on the ongoing slope instability issue at the Gateway Lakeview Resort. There has not been any significant development on this issue and SEP is still working with outdated information from geotechnical engineers that there has not been any change to the risk until the water issue is mitigated from the slope. The owners of Gateway Resort continue to work with FLNRORD to try and develop an engineering plan to get water off the slope. We are hoping to be able to take evacuation orders and alerts off as this has been going on for two years. The EPC is in regular contact with FLNRORD and property owners to try and get the situation resolved.

Newsome Creek

The Team Leader provided an update on the Newsome Creek situation. The CSRD received news that it was not successful with its two grant applications for mitigative measures. The CSRD has applied for a third grant through the Federal Government for the required mitigation work and have not heard any results to date. The EPC has recently received reports from affected residents who have been noticing further erosion and land slippage occurring on their properties.

Evacuation Route Planning

The EPF is taking the lead in on the Evacuation Route Planning project and advised that an extension was approved from UBCM for the grant work to be complete by the end of April. The contractor, Red Dragon Consulting has pulled together information and is focusing on ten communities with specific evacuation route plans along with a very in-depth guidance plan.

SEP UPDATE (cont.)**Emergency Support Services (ESS)**

The EPF provided an update for SEP ESS team. The team had an extremely busy 2021 season providing support to evacuees. The team also had to learn a new electronic system called the Evacuation Registration and Assistance Tool (ERA), which was implemented by the Province.

The team volunteered hundreds of hours helping community members from all over the interior of BC. At one point in July 2021, ESS had three reception centres open, one in north Shuswap, one in Salmon Arm and one in Sicamous. Overall, ESS had 46 volunteers who contributed over 5200 volunteer hours helping over 2200 evacuees.

The Team Leader provided an update on the financial impact and advised that when EMBC requests a reception centre, they agree to pay for everything including any time that is involved outside of regular staff hours, as well as any supplies. Any regular staff hours are the responsibility of the local authority.

Neighbourhood Emergency Program (NEP)

The Emergency Program Facilitator provided an update on the Neighbourhood Emergency Program (NEP) and emphasized how critically important and invaluable the program is when called upon.

There are 47 NEP teams across the SEP coverage area, with the most recent one being formed at the Sicamous Creek Mobile Home Park. NEP teams are very instrumental in assisting particularly during an EOC with communication between the community members and the EOC team. The EPF provided examples of this valuable communication link. Work continues to develop more NEP's throughout the SEP area.

FireSmart Update

The EPC provided an update on the FireSmart Initiative. In 2021, the program saw significant growth and interest from community members. The FireSmart Program is already setting new records so far this spring, with a considerable number of home assessments scheduled. There have been 332 home assessments and 7 neighbourhood assessments completed to date, and 73 homeowner rebates grants have been paid out.

Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWRP)

The CSRD received a grant from UBCM to complete two more CWRPs this year, one for Electoral Area C and one for Electoral Area D. An RFP has been released for qualified firms to submit proposals to complete the work. Work is expected to commence sometime in May, 2022.

Structural Protection Unit Program (SPU)

The EPC provided an update on the SPU Program. The Program has been expanded in terms of number of team members and training. An additional trailer has also been ordered but there is a lengthy wait time. There will be continued training for this Program. There has also been changes to Provincial Type 2 Trailer requirements.

Emergency Management Training (EM)

The EPF provided an update for EM Training. The province has shifted all training to be delivered online. This has worked quite well as it is easier for staff to take courses. There are more EOC, and Evacuation exercises planned in the future to keep the team fresh.

SEP UPDATE (cont.)**Capital Project Updates**

The Team Leader provided an update on capital projects. There are two capital projects identified in the budget this year, both Structure Protection Unit (SPU) related projects that are funded through deployment revenues received through the program.

- SPU storage facility - the program is currently utilizing shop and storage space that belongs to the CSRD's Environmental Health Services Division. The project is expected to take a couple of years, starting with the preliminary design work occurring in 2022 and the procurement and construction process planned for 2023. The plan is for a simple pole barn type building with covered parking for the SPU's and a closed in space in the middle to be used for shop space.
- Additional SPU – plans are in place to acquire a fourth SPU. Issues with the supply chain are currently affecting the availability of goods. The project may end up being deferred until 2023 depending on how and when market conditions improve.

Shuswap Lake Watch Website

The Team Leader provided an overview of the Shuswap Lake Watch website. The individual who has maintained the site as the webmaster has recently had to step back due to personal reasons. The last update to the site was in March 2022. The site is an incredibly valuable resource and is accessed by a significant amount of people to determine what the lake is doing as a general guideline. The Committee suggested CSRD staff investigate options to find a replacement webmaster for the site and to report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SEP Executive Committee tentatively scheduled for October 25, 2022.

**ADJOURNMENT
2:47 PM**

M/S Directors Demenok/Talbot THAT:
The meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED