



**Thompson Regional Committee Meeting (Zoom meeting)
Draft summary for September 10th, 2024**

In attendance:

Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap RD	Board member
Jamison Squakin	Okanagan Nation Alliance	Board member
Allysa Hopkins	North Okanagan RD	Committee member
James Gordon	Thompson Rivers University	Committee member
Vivian Birch-Jones	Squamish-Lillooet RD	Committee member
Trevor Bohay	BC Ministry of Forests	Committee member
Alex de Chantal	Fraser Basin Council	Staff
Erin Vieira	Fraser Basin Council	Staff

Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

1. Welcome and introductions

Alex welcomed all present and acknowledged Secwepemc territory. A round of introductions took place. The March 12th 2024 draft meeting summary was approved.

Vivian requested an update from staff on the Fraser Landslide project.

Action item:

Alex will follow up with FBC staff to get an update via email.

2. Staff reports

Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC)

Background	The FBC is the program manager for the Shuswap Watershed Council, a collaborative partnership of local governments, First Nations, and Provincial agencies to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap for the long term. See www.shuswapwater.ca for more information.
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Update	<p>Erin reported that the Shuswap Watershed Council is operating all its usual programs, despite the failed CSRD referendum in February that resulted in the CSRD ceasing their funding support. In 2024-25, the SWC is funded by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Adams Lake Indian Band, and the SWC's Operating Reserve which has grown to approx. \$174K over the past several years.</p> <p>This summer the SWC ran its Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention program, delivering educational campaigns to prevent the spread of these mussels as well as providing funding support for early-detection monitoring of invasive mussels at several sites throughout the Shuswap.</p> <p>The SWC's Water Quality Grant Program is supporting six water quality protection projects to be carried out on five farms in the Shuswap.</p> <p>The SWC has a regular meeting tomorrow morning. The agenda will include a discussion on the future funding and governance of the Council.</p>
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Thompson Shuswap Salmon Collaborative (TSSC)

Background	FBC has been retained to facilitate and provide planning support for a Thompson-Shuswap Salmon Collaborative. It is a government-to-government-to-government initiative involving the Secwepemc Fisheries Commission, the Province of BC, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO). See https://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/tssc.html for more information.
Update	The TSSC met in July. They have received more funding and work can continue until the end of March 2025.

Community Wildfire Roundtables

Background	FBC is facilitating roundtables for wildfire preparedness in the communities of Clearwater, Williams Lake, Clinton, Lillooet, Quesnel, Similkameen, Prince George and Salmon Arm. See www.wildfireroundtables.ca
Update	8 communities now have wildfire roundtables established. Inaugural meetings took place in the spring, and the roundtables will reconvene in November.

Cooperative Community Wildfire Response

Background	FBC staff have been retained to work on a Cooperative Community Wildfire Response project. BC Wildfire Service wants to determine the interest and capacity of rural communities in the BC Interior in developing wildfire fighting capabilities in areas outside of structural fire protection boundaries. This is an engagement project to identify training and equipment requirements of rural communities.
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Update	<p>S100 and S185 training courses were delivered to over 300 people in 25 communities across the BC Interior. Four contractors were engaged to deliver the training. There is still funding available, and more people/community organizations can receive training up until the end of March 2025. FBC will receive a report from BC Wildfire outlining the results and successes of the programs.</p> <p><u>Comments:</u> Vivian commented that she has been very pleased with this work and fire brigades in her area have taken the training.</p> <p>James mentioned a documentary called "The Test" that covers the community fire readiness in the community of Logan Lake.</p>
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Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Background	<p>FBC facilitates a technical roundtable including City of Kamloops, BC government, T'kemlups te Secwepemc, health authorities, industry, Thompson Rivers University and community groups. The Roundtable meets to discuss air quality issues and how to work together. See www.kamloopsairquality.ca.</p>
Update	<p>The Roundtable will meet again in the fall.</p>

3. Committee member reports

Allysa Hopkins

- Beginning conversations about fire protection for communities in Area F / RDNO.

Trevor Bohay

- Trevor re-introduced himself as the Director of all-hazard response coordination for the Assistant Deputy Minister’s office of the Ministry of Forests. He oversees delivery of the post-wildfire natural risk analysis program.
- Regarding wildfires in the area: 11 fires will have preliminary post-wildfire hazard assessments. The Shetland Creek fire will get a detailed assessment done by a consultant.
- Mention of Provincial funding programs:
 - UBCM Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation Program closes on October 4th. There will not be a Spring 2025 program. More info: <https://www.ubcm.ca/cepf/disaster-risk-reduction-climate-adaptation>.
 - New program, Disaster Resilience Innovation Funding, includes various streams of funding up to \$40M for the next two years. More info: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/local-emergency-programs/financial/drif>.
- The Tsilqotin National Government Emergency Salmon Task Force has seen a dramatic increase in Sockeye salmon passage past the site of the Chilcotin River slide. More info in this news release: <https://mcusercontent.com/52b75e17647b0b4460687b60d/files/1e8ee219-77d8-333f->



[eafd4d8a9262bd4e/September_9_2024_Emergency_Salmon_Task_Force_Situation_Report_01.pdf](#).

Vivian Birch-Jones

- Lillooet Invasive Species Society is still working on post wildfire invasive species work
- SLRD offered free tipping fees for landowners doing FireSmart activities and fuel reduction
- A community forum between SLRD, Northern St'at'imc, and District of Lillooet is coming up, it will include a casual dinner with community representatives and a full day of meetings
- Community concerns about frequent emergency room closures
- SLRD participated in running a collaborative emergency operations centre in response to the Chilcotin Slide
- New CAOs at the SLRD, Heather Paul, and District of Lillooet, Joe McCulloch.

Rhona Martin

- Pleased to hear about the wildfire training for rural communities
- Lots of fatalities due to vehicle accidents on the highways this summer
- Looking forward to the Shuswap Watershed Council meeting tomorrow and a discussion on sustaining the work of the Council
- Experienced a busy tourist season in the Shuswap, lots of Americans are returning to BC for vacation
- Heard comments about a terrible mosquito season in the eastern part of CSRD and it impacted tourism and enjoyment of the outdoors
- FarmGate program supported by the CSRD has been very successful.

Jamison Squakin

- Okanagan Sockeye are reportedly experiencing a record year. Temperatures and oxygen in Osoyoos Lake are limiting factors.
- Annual salmon feast, September 20th – 22nd at Okanagan Falls Provincial Park, a culturally significant site for the Syilx People and an important traditional fishing camp, gathering place and trading site. More info: <https://syilx.org/events/okanagan-nation-salmon-feast/>.
- Okanagan Nation Alliance annual river restoration workshop is October 8th – 10th, deadline to register is September 13th. More info: <https://forms.gle/iCc6694gmCvBznS46>.
- National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is on September 30th, all committee members are encouraged to attend and support local events
- Kamloops Film Society is presenting the 3rd annual Stseptekwles re Sk'elep (Coyote Stories) Indigenous Film Festival, September 27th – 29th, at Paramount Theatre. More info: <https://thekfs.ca/indigenous-film-festival/>.
- Planning Institute of BC is organizing a webinar on September 25th re: TRC and Realizing UNDRIP. More info: <https://web.cvent.com/event/de00a278-3c6b-4968-add6-d752daf5a718/summary>.



James Gordon

- TRU unveiled their low-carbon district energy system which has been in development since 2020. When it is fully completed in 2030 it will reduce the university's emissions by 95% compared to 2020 levels. The energy system employs BC Hydro air- and water-source heat pumps. TRU has approval to install a 1-MW photovoltaic system (i.e., ~ 550 panels on three roof-tops)
- Transportation sector produces about 40% of emissions in BC. TRU is working to reduce emissions and incentivize low-carbon commuting to/from the campus.
- September 25th is National Tree Day and TRU will plant 54 trees on campus in honour of the 54th anniversary of the campus
- Working on a water audit to identify opportunities to improve irrigation on campus
- Films for Change Program offers community groups an opportunity to show a film in the Alumni Theatre and facilitate a discussion.

4. FBC Update

Management meeting

Alex reported that a management meeting is taking place later this week to discuss the organizational review that is underway in preparation for the October FBC Board meeting. Some of the topics being examined in the review include FBC's presence in the Kootenays/Southeast; inter-regional collaboration; and succession planning.

Board meeting

The next FBC Board meeting is October 9th – 10th in Vancouver.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Next Thompson Region Committee (ThRC) meeting:

November 12th, 2024, 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

Hybrid meeting – in-person and Zoom available – your choice how to participate.