



**Thompson Regional Committee Meeting (Zoom meeting)
Draft summary for November 12th 2024**

In attendance:

Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Board member
James Gordon	Thompson Rivers University	Committee member
Vivian Birch-Jones	Squamish-Lillooet RD	Committee member
Terry Robert	Fraser Basin Council	Staff
Erin Vieira	Fraser Basin Council	Staff

Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

1. Welcome and introductions

Erin welcomed all present and acknowledged Secwepemc territory. The September 10th 2024 draft summary was approved.

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.
Update	<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. Two are now complete, including the construction of livestock exclusion fencing on a ranch adjacent to Kingfisher Creek and the installation of a Precision GPS on a farm in Grindrod.</p> <p>The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group met last week to discuss 2024 water monitoring activities. The group heard a presentation from Dr. Dan Selbie, a limnologist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, regarding water quality monitoring on Shuswap Lake in relation to juvenile salmon production.</p> <p>The Water Quality Grant Program is opening for applications on December 1st. The grant program provides funds to farmers and other stewards in the Shuswap watershed for projects improve nutrient management and built soil health, ultimately to protect water quality by preventing the movement of nutrients from the landscape to surface water. The application window will be open from</p>



	<p>December 1st – January 31st. Up to \$45,000 is available, to be distributed Spring 2025 to successful applicants. A full program guide describing eligibility criteria and more will be available at www.shuswapwater.ca on December 1st.</p> <p>The next Shuswap Watershed Council meeting is in mid-December. The agenda will feature a discussion on the SWC membership, a revised budget, and more.</p> <p>The Fraser Basin Council is preparing a funding application for the Watershed Security Fund, to be submitted by the deadline in December, and it will include a request for funding to support the Shuswap Watershed Council among other FBC programs.</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	No report

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	Terry briefly reported on behalf of Alex that 8 communities have wildfire roundtables established. Inaugural meetings took place in the spring, and the roundtables are re-convening 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.
Update	Terry briefly reported on behalf of Alex that the training programs are going well.

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Background	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 .
Update	No report.



3. Report from Director of Interior Regions

Terry Robert reported the following:

- FBC has been retained to help with the provincial Forest Landscape Planning Process. The Province of BC is doing these plans in shared authority with First Nations. Terry facilitated a government-to-government meeting in Cranbrook recently related to establishing a FLP for the Cranbrook Timber Supply Area. Alex is working with FBC Chief Executive Officer David Marshall to support the FLP in the Nicola-Similkameen region. FBC is trying to create the best opportunity for the Province and First Nations to work together in this process.
- The Cariboo region has two community wildfire roundtables established. FBC staff in the region are also working on developing a Community Wood Innovation Hug in partnership with the City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District, Alex Fraser Research Forest and more.
- In the Northern Interior Region:
 - the Nechako Watershed Roundtable recently grant funding from Environment and Climate Change Canada that will support its work for the next couple of years. Northern Interior.
 - FBC is involved in facilitating meetings between the Wet'suwet'en elected and hereditary leaders
 - The North Central Local Government Association is hosting the 2024 Mental Health and Addictions Symposium in Prince George this week. Expecting ~270 participants. 22 agencies have committed to signing an accord at the symposium that identifies their shared commitment to advance solutions with regard to mental health and addictions.
- The FBC Board met in Vancouver in October. The next Board meeting will be in Vancouver in February, and FBC is looking for ways to expand the online component of the meeting. Next board meeting after that will take place in June in the Cariboo region and will be a nice opportunity to feature some work done in the FBC Interior regions.
- Organizational review underway at FBC. Consultant has completed her work including interviews with staff and developing recommendations for the board.
- The Fraser Landslide two-year review process is wrapped up and new funding is needed to keep the project's momentum going. Staff have reached out to several agencies to support some of the recommendations including ongoing monitoring, emergency planning and preparedness, and the establishment of a monitoring centre.

4. Committee member reports

Vivian Birch-Jones

- Vivian reported that FBC staff Alex de Chantal attended the Lillooet Community Wildfire Roundtable recently to support the facilitator, Mike Simpson. Good work is happening and important relationships are being built through this program. Vivian commented on the perceived shift of responsibility away from the Province to the regional government.



- Vivan watched the documentary, “The Test”, and shared the link with local wildfire roundtable members
- District of Lillooet has a vacancy for Fire Chief
- Pleased to see Kamloops Chronicles newspaper published recently.

Rhona Martin

- Met the new CAO of District of Sicamous
- Bruhn Bridge project in Sicamous is complicated due to proximity to CP Rail
- Highway 97A near Sicamous is being re-surfaced but weather may interrupt that
- CSRD board elections taking place soon
- Working with Shuswap Watershed Council staff and a small committee to develop new governance and membership for the SWC beyond 2024
- Sicamous local Shea Weber was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

James Gordon

- A new initiative launched at TRU, “TRU Wildfire”, a centre for wildfire research, education, training and innovation. For more information visit <https://www.tru.ca/wildfire.html>.
- TRU just announced a solarization project – 1000 solar panels installed on campus, as part of its low-carbon energy plan, beginning early January in response to growing demand for electricity
- Repair Café taking place November 22nd, residents invited to attend with small appliances, clothing, bicycles etc.
- Gwynne Dyer coming to campus February 19th evening to speak about his new book, “Intervention Earth”, which calls for eco-engineering to address climate change
- Dramatic drop in international student enrolment is resulting in universities needing to cut their budgets, TRU is facing this in addition to other institutions in Canada
- Salmon poaching in the news recently and lack of resources to monitor and enforce this
- Interested in participating in an upcoming CCWR training session.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Next Thompson Region Committee (ThRC) meeting:

January 14th, 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 AM.

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