

Council Meeting
March 9th 2022 • 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items

This draft is subject to correction at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives (from agenda)

1. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2022
2. Receive update from program managers
3. Approve work plan and budget for 2022/23
4. Provide input to SWC's response to the Province's *Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper*
5. Receive guest presentation on Water Quality Objectives for Shuswap Lake

Present

Jay Simpson, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Paul Demenok, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area C
Rene Talbot – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Ken Christian – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm (*from 9:00 AM*)
Colleen Anderson – District of Sicamous (*from 9:00 AM*)
Dave Nordquist – Secwepemc Nation, Adams Lake Indian Band (*to 10:40 AM*)
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
Denis Delisle – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area F
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
Natalya Melnychuk – Community representative (*to 11:45 AM*)
Lorne Hunter – Community representative
Sharon Bennett – Community representative (*from 9:30 to 11:30 AM*)
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Kimm Magill-Hofmann
Rob Solinger
Erik Kok
Phil Owen
Terry Robert
Ian Higgins

Regrets

Howard Nordquist
Lindsay Benbow
Rod Crowe

Call to Order Mike Simpson called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM. He acknowledged the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people.

Election Mike Simpson presided over the elections.

Paul Demenok nominated Jay Simpson for Chair; accepted

ELECTION of Chair for 2022 is Jay Simpson, by acclamation

Rene Talbot nominated Paul Demenok for Vice Chair; accepted

ELECTION of Vice Chair for 2022 is Paul Demenok, by acclamation

Chair Simpson acknowledged Director Demenok's contributions to the Shuswap Watershed Council as Chair for the past eight years. He remarked that he looks forward to working with local First Nations, local and provincial governments. He further commented on the need to continue to work on addressing water quality concerns and prevent an invasion of Zebra & Quagga Mussels.

Introductions and welcoming comments Mike Simpson announced that he is resigning from his position at the Fraser Basin Council. He and Erin Vieira introduced Terry Robert, long-time FBC employee who will be working with Erin to manage the SWC's program operations until such time FBC hires a new Regional Manager to replace Mike. Terry has roots in the Shuswap, having grown up in the Sicamous area.

Chair Simpson thanked Mike for all his work on the Shuswap Watershed Council for the past many years, and various other initiatives that he's been involved with at FBC, and wished him well in his future endeavors.

Chair Simpson also thanked Lorne Hunter and Sharon Bennett, out-going Community Representatives on the SWC, for their time and energy committed to the SWC during their terms.

Chair Simpson welcomed Dennis Einarson back to the SWC. Dennis is returning as Senior Scientific Advisor to the SWC, having recently retired from a career as an impact biologist with the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Councillor Cannon and Councillor Anderson entered the meeting at 9:00 AM

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Mayor Christian/Councillor Cannon that:

The meeting agenda for March 9th 2022 be approved.

Approved

Moved/second by Director Delisle/Mayor Christian that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council, held December 8th 2021, be approved.

Approved

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Director Talbot/Mayor Christian that:

The correspondence between RDNO Director Denis Delisle and SWC Chair Paul Demenok, dated December 20th 2020 and January 18th 2022, be received for information.

Approved

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Director Delisle/Councillor Cannon that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council Water Monitoring Group, held February 15th 2022, be received for information,

And that:

The draft summary of the Shuswap Watershed Council Water Protection Advisory Committee, held February 16th 2022, be received for information.

Discussion:

Councillor Cannon commented that the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group meets in November and in February/March, and she asked if they would meet if water quality issues arose in the summer, such as an algal bloom. Erin replied that the Monitoring Group schedules their regular meetings outside of field season and will have extraordinary meetings at other times if needed.

Chair Simpson noted that the Monitoring Group had discussed the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society's (CSISS) need for a watercraft to access some of the monitoring sites on Shuswap Lake. Councillor Cannon asked that staff find out more details about this, and offered that she may be able to assist with this.

Approved

Action item:

Staff will follow up with CSISS to determine their watercraft-access needs and connect with Councillor Cannon.

**Report from
Chair**

Outgoing Chair Paul Demenok reflected on his last eight years as Chair of the Shuswap Watershed Council and commented on some of the highlights during that time, including the research project done in partnership with UBC-Okanagan to understand the inputs of nutrients to the lakes and the subsequent Water Quality Grant Program that was developed. He thanked Council members for their support during his time as Chair.

**Report from
Program
Managers**

Erin Vieira and Mike Simpson provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting in September:

- Staff facilitated a regular, bi-annual meeting of the Shuswap Water Monitoring Group in mid-February. The Monitoring Group discussed the upcoming field season water monitoring activities, and reviewed and made updates to the Shuswap Regional Algal Bloom Response Plan
- Staff administered the third round of intakes for the Water Quality Grant Program. The program was open for applications from November to January; staff received four applications by the deadline and screened the applications to ensure eligibility criteria were met.
- Staff facilitated a meeting of the Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee to review and make recommendations regarding the Water Quality Grant applications
- The Phosphorus Action Plan is in development; staff have received comments and input from government and industry groups
- Planning for education and outreach campaigns for the Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program and Safe Recreation Program is underway for 2022
- Staff are working on building up the SWC membership, per the updates to the Terms of Reference recently; invitations have been sent to three local First Nations and the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development. Staff also sought Expressions of Interest for new Community Representatives (CR) on the SWC, as the current CR terms are complete on March 31st.
- Staff are working with the Chair and Vice Chair to submit a response to the Province's *Watershed Security Strategy and Fund Discussion Paper*
- Staff have submitted two applications for grant funding to federal agencies: an application to Eco-Action to support the SWC's Water Quality Grant Program, and an application to Transport Canada to support the SWC's Safe Recreation Program.
- A financial update up to third quarter, April 1st - December 31st 2021 was provided:
(table on next page)

REVENUE - Source	\$
For the fiscal year April 1 st 2021 - March 30 th 2022	
Surplus (from March 31 st 2021)	69,072
Operating Reserve	198,995
<i>Per Contribution Agreement *</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F and District of Sicamous)	97,200
TNRD	32,590
City of Salmon Arm	24,320
Adams Lake Indian Band	790
<i>Contribution from partner: Shuswap Lifeboat Society</i>	3200
Total revenue	426,167

** Funders' contributions are reduced by \$100,000, or 39% each, in 2021 to reduce the SWC's Operating Reserve*

The \$5,000 contribution from RDNO Area 'F' discretionary funds was received in January 2022 and will be reflected in the fourth quarter financial report.

EXPENSES	Budgeted (\$)	Expense (\$)
Up to second quarter April 1 st - September 30 th 2021		
Water Quality Monitoring	32,950	18,328
Water Quality Protection	111,650	41,004
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	42,750	38,564
Safe Recreation	21,550	22,905
Communications, engagement, advocacy	48,100	30,815
Management & administration	41,500	25,560
Sub-total Program Operations	298,500	177,176
Operating Reserve	127,667	0
Total expenses	426,167	177,176

New business: Water Quality Grant Program

Mike Simpson gave an overview of the Water Quality Grant Program. He explained that the grant program will have long-term results, and is meant to help farms and land-owners improve their nutrient management practices as well as address the legacy of past practices. He also gave a brief overview of how staff administered the grant program for the current intake: the grant program was advertised extensively across the region, and a grant program guide was available to prospective applicants. Staff received four applications by the deadline, and performed an initial screening to ensure the applications met eligibility criteria. The proposals were reviewed in detail by the Water Protection Advisory Committee (WPAC). Mike gave an overview of the WPAC's recommendations.

Discussion:

SWC members discussed the applications and the WPAC's recommendations. Vice Chair Demenok commented that he agrees with the WPAC's recommendations but inquired if the SWC could find a way to support the applications that want to improve manure storage on farms. Councillor Cannon agreed that farms situated next to a river should be a priority for the grant program. Chair Simpson inquired about the provincial Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice requirements for manure storage, and remarked that there's a need for more

clarity around this so that the SWC can avoid providing funds for farm practices that are regulatory. Dave Nordquist suggested the SWC look for or create a guide that describes various funding available for farms (non-SWC funds); Vice Chair Demenok agreed with this idea.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Vice Chair Demenok that:

The Shuswap Watershed Council accept the recommendations of the Water Protection Advisory Committee with respect to the grant applications for funding, and aware funding as recommended.

Approved

Action items:

Staff will follow up with grant applicants as required.

Staff will bring a revised budget (for the grant program, per the grant funds awarded) to the June SWC meeting.

New business: Work plan and budget for 2022/23

Erin Vieira presented the proposed budget for 2022/23 and key work plan items.

Discussion

Chair Simpson commented that he remains concerned about the possibility of a Zebra or Quagga Mussel invasion and encouraged staff to watch for new opportunities to enhance the SWC's work in this area.

Vice Chair Demenok commented that he supports the work plan and budget, and remarked that he would like to see staff add education and outreach regarding invasive clams to the ZQM Program.

Director Martin remarked that she supports the work plan and budget and cautioned the SWC not to take on issues that are a provincial responsibility. She expressed her strong support for the Safe Recreation Program.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The work plan and budget be approved as presented.

Approved

The budget and work plan for 2022/23 is summarized:
(table on next page)

REVENUE for 2022-23	\$
For the fiscal year April 1 st 2022 - March 31 st 2023	
2021-22 projected surplus	
Operational surplus (from March 31 st 2022)	0
Operating Reserve	132,667
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
Grant funding:	
Eco-Action (federal - application turned down)	0
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program (not confirmed)	22,900
Total revenue	410,467

PROGRAM OPERATIONS	\$
For the fiscal year April 1 st 2022 - March 31 st 2023	
Water Quality Monitoring	28,850
Water Quality Protection	79,300
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	35,875
Safe Recreation	*27,600
Communications, engagement, advocacy	55,100
Administration	43,750
Sub-total Program Operations	270,475
Operating Reserve	139,992
Total expenses	410,467

* this budget reflects a grant contribution from Transport Canada

Dave Nordquist left the meeting at 10:40 AM

**New business:
Response to
Provincial
Watershed
Security Strategy
and Fund
Discussion Paper**

Chair Simpson explained that the Province is currently seeking input on a forthcoming Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. He, along with the Vice Chair, have been working with staff to draft a response.

The SWC members discussed the draft submission, with some members commenting on ways to change some of the points raised in the letter. There was mixed support for modifying the letter.

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Mayor Christian that:

The letter be finalized, as presented, and submitted by the deadline of March 18th.

Opposed: Lorne Hunter, Director Martin, Vice Chair Demenok, Director Talbot

Approved

**Guest
Presentation:
Water Quality
Objectives for
Shuswap Lake**

Heather Thompson, Water Quality Specialist with the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, presented an overview of the Water Quality Objectives (WQO) that the Ministry is developing for Shuswap Lake. She explained that this is being done in partnership with Splotsin, Little Shuswap Lake Band, and Adams Lake Indian Band. Water Quality Objectives are a management tool specific to a particular body of water (i.e., lake or river); they do not have legal implications for management in and of themselves, but can help to guide decisions in other decision-making frameworks. The development of WQOs considers water values, desired level of protection, and the current knowledge/data about the waterbody.

Heather explained that water quality objectives for Shuswap Lake are being developed for seven parameters. The objectives will also include recommendations for an attainment monitoring program.

Ms. Thompson explained that the draft objectives are nearly complete, and will be out for public review and comment soon. The SWC will receive a copy of the draft document and will be invited to submit a review and response.

Discussion:

Some SWC members commented on the importance of recreation and tourism in the Shuswap watershed, and suggested that these be considered as water values in the Objectives document.

Sharon Bennett left the meeting at 11:30 AM

**Roundtable
updates**

Lorne Hunter highlighted work underway by the Langley Sustainable Agriculture Foundation to collaborate with local university students on hands-on environmental protection projects. He also mentioned the Windermere Farmers Institute's work on an Environmental Goods & Services program to enhance riparian areas; this work is being administered by the provincial Investment Agriculture Foundation. Lastly, he mentioned the Lake Winnipeg Water Stewardship Project, launched by ALUS and partners to build farm resilience and mitigate water risks in the Lake Winnipeg basin.

Action item:

The above-mentioned initiatives will be reviewed again at the next Water Protection Advisory Committee.

**In Camera
meeting**

Moved/seconded by Director Talbot/Vice Chair Demenok that:

Pursuant to Sections 90(1)(a) - *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.

Approved

The regular meeting of the SWC re-convened at 12:17 PM.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Mayor Christian/Councillor Anderson that:

The March 9th 2022 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 12:19 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

DRAFT