

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira provided an update on program operations since the last SWC meeting:

- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group (committee of the SWC) held a bi-annual meeting in November to discuss 2024 water monitoring programs by all organizations
- The SWC Water Quality Grant Program is open for applications. The intake window is December 1st 2024 – January 31st 2025. Prospective applicants can learn more and apply online at www.shuswapwater.ca.
- The Fraser Basin Council (program manager for the SWC) is expecting a \$170,000 grant from Environment & Climate Change Canada (Canada Water Agency) to advance the next stage of the Wetland Strategy and other workplan items
- Educational campaigns and early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels in the Shuswap watershed wrapped up mid-late fall
- Staff relayed that a new occurrence of whirling disease (a parasite affecting salmon, trout and whitefish) has been detected in Kootenay Lake highlighting the need for everyone to follow best practices including clean-drain-dry for watercraft and water gear and stopping for watercraft inspection when travelling
- The Fraser Basin Council is applying for funding from the Provincial Watershed Security Fund on behalf of the SWC for 2025 and 2026
- Operational expenses for 2024-25 total \$144,547 against an operating budget of \$299,711.

Discussion with DFO staff re: invasive mussels

Mr. Joshua Lindner, Senior Regional Advisor for BC to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, attended the meeting to participate in a roundtable discussion about Zebra & Quagga Mussels. There was a lengthy Q&A session with SWC members and Mr. Lindner.

Revised budget for 2024-25

Staff presented a revised budget for the Shuswap Watershed Council to reflect the \$170,000 grant from Environment & Climate Change Canada (Canada Water Agency).

New Terms of Reference and membership

The SWC approved a new Terms of Reference, including membership, to take effect April 1st, 2025. The membership will include representatives of local/regional government, First Nations, Provincial government agencies, the agriculture sector, community representatives, and a youth representative.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Rhona Martin – Chair

CSRD Area 'E'

Natalya Melnychuk – Vice Chair

CSRD Area 'G'

Marty Gibbons

CSRD Area 'C'

Dean Trumbley

CSRD Area 'D'

Jay Simpson

CSRD Area 'F'

David Lepsoe

TNRD, Village of Chase

Stephen Karpuk

TNRD, City of Kamloops

Debbie Cannon

City of Salmon Arm

Pam Beech

District of Sicamous

Cliff Arnouse

Secwepemc Nation,
Adams Lake Indian Band

Robyn Laubman

Secwepemc Nation
Splatsin te Secwepemc

Rick Fairbairn

RDNO Area 'D'

Brian Schreiner

RDNO, City of Enderby

Diane Sutherland

BC Ministry of Environment
& Parks

Lindsay Benbow

BC Ministry of Agriculture &
Food

Kelly Chiatto

BC Ministry of Forests

Erik Kok

Community Representative

Kimm Magill-Hofmann

Community Representative

Phil Owen

Community Representative

Dennis Einarson

Senior Scientific Advisor