

New candidates join Shuswap Watershed Council

Megan Ludwig and Daniel Selbie were recommended as new candidates to join the Shuswap Watershed Council as science and research advisors. Jeff Nitychoruk was recommended to join the SWC as a representative of the BC Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship.

Report from Program Managers

Erin Vieira reported the following updates:

- The Water Quality Grant Program was open for applications December 1st 2024 – January 31st 2025. The grant program was promoted locally, with up to \$45,000 available.
- The Water Protection Advisory Committee met on February 20th to review the water quality grant applications. The committee recommended five projects for funding, for a total grant budget of \$34,646.
- Staff participated in a Provincial Invasive Animals working group meeting in February. Updates were shared from the Province of BC about the Watercraft Inspection Program.
- The Fraser Basin Council (program staff and administration) has signed a Contribution Agreement with the Canada Water Agency for a \$170,000 grant on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council
- The Fraser Basin Council has applied for funding to the BC Watershed Security Fund; if successful, the grant will provide funding for two years beginning spring 2025
- Phase 3 of developing a wetland strategy for the Shuswap watershed is underway, thanks to funding from the Canada Water Agency. The work is being completed by a consultant. Phase 3 focusses on field work to collect data on wetlands and perform wetland health assessments.

Water Quality Grants awarded

Five water quality grant applications were approved for funding. The total grant funding approved is \$34,646 to four Shuswap-area farms and one non-profit organization.

Guest presentation from Thompson Rivers University graduate student

Tay Powrie, a candidate in the Masters of Environmental Science Program at Thompson Rivers University, presented an update on his research on glacier coverage and influence of glacial melt in the Adams River watershed.

A full meeting summary is available on the SWC website.

SWC MEMBERS:

Rhona Martin – Chair
Community representative

Stephen Karpuk – Vice Chair
TNRD, City of Kamloops

David Lepsoe
TNRD, Village of Chase

Pam Beech
District of Sicamous

Cliff Arnouse
Adams Lake Indian Band

Robyn Laubman
Splantsin te Secwepemc

Brian Schreiner
RDNO, City of Enderby

Diane Sutherland
BC Ministry of Environment & Parks

Jeff Nitychoruk
BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship

Erik Kok
Community Representative

Kimm Magill-Hofmann
Community Representative

Phil Owen
Agriculture Representative

Megan Ludwig
Science and research advisor

Daniel Selbie
Science and research advisor