

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday September 11th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

Option to join meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84307061023?pwd=9rOcRFOXxG2cKXHm7UPtGFglrG0mzs.1>

Meeting ID: 843 0706 1023 • Passcode: 681111

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1.	June 12 th 2024 draft meeting summary for approval	9:35

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June 12th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE
Salmon Arm, BC

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items as at June 12th 2024
This record is subject to change at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Approve revised budget for 2024-25
3. Receive guest presentations
4. Roundtable discussion on formation of a committee to work on fundraising and governance

Present

Rhona Martin, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Natalya Melnychuk, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G (*by Zoom, to 10:10*)
Jay Simpson – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F (*by Zoom, until 11:15*)
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*by Zoom*)
Reid Hamer-Jackson – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D (*by Zoom*)
Diane Sutherland – BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (*alternate, by Zoom*)
Lindsay Benbow – BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food
Kelly Chiatto – BC Ministry of Forests (*by Zoom, to 11:50*)
Erik Kok – Community representative (*to 11:35*)
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Phil Owen – Community representative
Dennis Einarson – Senior Scientific Advisor

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Rob Solinger
Ian Rogalski

Regrets

Robyn Laubman
Brian Schreiner
Marty Gibbons
Dean Trumbley
Howard Nordquist

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Call to Order Chair Martin called the meeting to order at 9:35 AM and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Chair acknowledged the meeting taking place on the historical and traditional lands of the Secwepemc and Syilx Peoples.

Adoption of meeting agenda **Moved/seconded** by Councillor Cannon/Erik Kok that:
The agenda for the June 12th 2024 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adopted.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Phil Owen/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:
The draft summary of the March 13th 2024 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adopted.

CARRIED

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Councillor Cannon/Director Hamer-Jackson that:
The correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Old business Erin Vieira, program manager, reported that an email vote took place on April 23rd to approve two Water Quality Grant Program applications. The vote passed with 7 in favour and one opposed. Staff have signed Contribution Agreements with all grant recipients, and work is underway with the grant funds. The total value of the SWC grant funding awarded this year is \$59,961.

Report from Chair No report.

Update from CSRD administration John MacLean, Chief Administrative Officer for the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, joined the meeting by telephone. He explained that the CSRD established their participation in the SWC through a bylaw that had a ‘sunset clause’. The bylaw was originally scheduled to sunset during the Covid pandemic. The provincial government granted an extension to the CSRD’s bylaw until such time it was safe to convene the public in an assent process regarding the continuation of the bylaw. A referendum was scheduled for August 2023 but had to be re-scheduled due to wildfires in the region to February 2024. Referendum results indicated that the majority of voters are not in support of continuing CSRD funding to the SWC. Thus, the bylaw will come to an end in December 2024. Beyond 2024, the CSRD will not have a service, bylaw or other mechanism to appoint CSRD directors to the SWC. Mr. MacLean clarified that CSRD directors may choose to use discretionary or grant-in-aid funding to support the SWC, but there will be no formal agreement or participation of the CSRD in the SWC starting in 2025.

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Vice Chair Melnychuk left the meeting at 10:10

Discussion

Erik Kok asked about the percentage of electorate that voted in the referendum. Mr. MacLean said that approximately 1200 votes were cast, out of an estimated 10,000 – 12,000 eligible voters. Mr. Kok also clarified that CSRD directors could participate in the SWC beyond 2024, but not as an appointed representative of the CSRD. Mr. MacLean confirmed that yes, that is correct. Mr. Kok also clarified that the CSRD is not ordering directors not to participate in the SWC. Mr. MacLean said that yes, that is also correct.

Director Simpson asked SWC staff if Area Directors were to contribute funding via grant-in-aid or discretionary funds in 2025, would that allow them to participate and vote? Erin Vieira replied that it possibly could, but that the SWC Terms of Reference would need to be revised to reflect changing membership and funding. Revising the Terms of Reference will be a decision of the SWC members.

Kimm Magill-Hofmann asked if the CSRD could change their participation and support of the SWC in the future? Mr. MacLean said that it could, if the board provided the direction to do so. It would require public assent to establish a service, as before.

Councillor Cannon asked if the CSRD could hold another referendum concurrent with the next local government election. Mr. MacLean said that yes, it would be possible, and would require a CSRD board directive.

Dennis Einarson asked about the results of the referendum. The CSRD website reports that the results were 982 against and 364 for the service and funding to the SWC.

Director Lepsoe commented that water quality is very important, including for residents in the Village of Chase downstream of the lake. He remarked that he and residents of Chase disappointed with the results of the referendum.

Councillor Beech commented that a lot of effort by the CSRD was put into preparing for the referendum and she agreed with other comments that the voter turnout was very poor.

Mr. MacLean left the meeting at 10:30.

Director Fairbairn commented that the Regional District of North Okanagan has two representatives appointed to the Shuswap Watershed Council.

Director Simpson suggested that local government representatives of the SWC convene for a meeting in the Fall to discuss how to keep the SWC going.

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Report from Program Managers: Year-end financial report for 2023-24

Erin Vieira, Program Manager, presented the year-end financial report for 2023-24:

Revenue Source	Amount (\$)
2022-23 operational surplus (carried forward from March 31 st , 2023)	47,656
2022-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	53,004 ¹
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Areas C, D, E, F and the District of Sicamous)	160,000
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Federal grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada – Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Environment & Climate Change Canada – Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative	40,000
Revenue for 2023-24	419,585

Expenses on next page ...

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Program Expenses	Budget (\$)		Expenses (\$)		Variance (\$)
	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	
Water Quality Monitoring Program					
• Monitoring Group	7200	0	7493	0	(293)
• Water monitoring	2200	21,900	600	21,037	2463
• Annual Water Quality Report	5800	7200	4880	8402	(281)
Water Quality Protection Program					
• Advisory Committee	4200	0	4173	429	(402)
• Grant Program	9800	118,464	9827	52,849	65,588
• Wetland Strategy	12,600	51,400	11,280	36,398	16,322
• Climate change research (TRU)	600	3000	560	3000	40
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	6600	33,300	6800	34,251	(1151)
Safe Recreation Program	10,000	20,000	9920	13,925	6155
Communications & Advocacy					
• Communications collateral	6100	3250	5907	4509	(1065)
• Public, media engagement	17,400	9650	19,320	10,159	(2429)
• Advocacy	4200	0	3213	0	509
Management & Administration					
• Council meetings, work planning, liaison	20,800	2600	23,007	1405	(1012)
• Financial management, fund development	16,700	0	16,547	0	153
Sub-total operational expenses	124,200	270,764	123,527	186,363	85,074
2023-24 contribution to Operating Reserve		24,621		24,621	0
Summary of expenses		419,585		334,511	85,074

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Ms. Vieira gave a brief overview of 2023-24 activities and accomplishments, which will be covered in the upcoming Annual Report (publishing soon):

- The Shuswap Watershed Council facilitates collaboration on water issues. 10 organizations participate in the Council and 19 organizations participate in the Monitoring Group.
- The Water Quality Grant Program awarded five grants in 2023 worth \$52,760 which leveraged an additional \$56,869
- Development of a wetland strategy for the Shuswap began, with two preliminary phases complete that involved data collection and analysis
- The Zebra and Quagga Mussel Prevention Program supported early-detection monitoring on seven waterbodies in the Shuswap while the education and outreach had approximately 2.5 million impressions through articles, advertising, and billboards
- Safe boating campaigns had approximately 686,000 impressions
- Two new watershed research projects got underway with universities
- New and ongoing communiques and advocacy.

**Report from
Program
Managers:
Program
operations
update**

Erin Vieira presented an overview of work done since the last Council meeting in March:

- The new Community Water Monitoring Grants program is running. It has a \$3000 budget. Community and stewardship groups are invited to apply for a grant to support water monitoring. To-date, grants have been approved for Gardom Lake Stewardship Society and White Lake Residents' Association.
- The Water Quality Grant Program is also running; six projects have been recommended and approved for funding. Staff have contribution agreements in place with all applicants. The grant recipients are: Sunnybrae Winery, Gietema Farms, Syme Farms, Foxtrot Dairy, and Jeff Czepil.
- Phase 2 of the Wetland Strategy is complete. Associated Environmental submitted their report to staff, it contains four strategic direction to be incorporated into a strategy. Staff have completed reporting to the funder of this work, Environment & Climate Change Canada. Next step for staff is to convene the Wetland Strategy Committee to review the report and discuss next steps.
- Staff worked with graduate student Margot Webster, Royal Roads University, to sign a contribution agreement for funding support of her research project on floating treatment wetlands in the Salmon River. A media release about the project was sent out by staff and then a radio interview on CBC was done with Ms. Webster and SWC Chair Rhona Martin.
- Education/awareness campaigns for the prevention of zebra and quagga mussels are underway. Staff sent out articles and advertisements throughout the month of May, 'Invasive Species Action Month'. Campaigns will continue through summer into fall. Staff also relayed that the Province of BC has enacted a new prevention measure requiring travellers to pull watercraft drain-plugs prior to travelling on BC roads.
- The SWC is providing financial support to the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society who are monitoring 12 sites on six waterbodies in the Shuswap for invasive mussels in 2024

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- Boating and recreation safety campaigns launched on May long weekend. Campaigns promote 8 tips for safety and also promote the availability of lifejackets for kids from 20 loaner kiosks in the Shuswap.
- Staff reported that Transport Canada turned down the SWC’s application for \$24,000 federal grant funding due to the federal fund being oversubscribed.
- Staff have sent out four media releases since April and are working on the SWC Annual Report for 2023-24
- Staff have submitted a report to Elections BC for communication expenses incurred by the SWC during the CSRD referendum period, as required by the Local Elections Campaign Financing Act
- Staff are looking into a new funding opportunity from the Provincial Watershed Security Fund.

Revised budget for 2024-25

Erin Vieira presented a revised budget for 2024-25. Ms. Vieira explained that revisions were necessary to update actual expenses according to what was approved at the March SWC meeting and to adjust the revenue due to loss of funding from Transport Canada:

Revenue Source	Former budget (approved March 13 th 2024)	Revised budget
2023-24 operational surplus	20,410	25,113
2023-24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2024-25 projects	65,000	59,961
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>		
Columbia Shuswap Regional District (Areas C, D, E, F and the District of Sicamous)	0	0
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	0	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	0	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	0	1300
<i>Federal grant funding:</i>		
Transport Canada – Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,391	0
Grants-in-aid (potential multiple contributors)	40,000	
<i>SWC Operating Reserve:</i>		
Operating reserve balance from March 31 st 2024	174,987	174,987
Revenue for 2024-25	324,788	314,961

Program expenses shown on next page...

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Program Expenses - Summary	Former budget (approved March 13 th 2024)			Revised budget		
	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Sub-total	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program	14,063	33,559	47,622	14,063	33,059	47,122
Water Quality Protection Program	20,250	129,860	150,110	20,250	124,821	145,071
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	7425	26,220	33,645	7425	27,432	34,857
Safe Recreation Program	9450	20,700	30,150	9450	14,400	23,850
Communications & Advocacy	16,763	4900	21,663	16,763	2725	19,488
Council Meetings & Administration	38,131	1850	39,981	38,131	1850	39,981
Sub-total operational expenses	106,081	217,089	323,170	106,081	204,287	310,368
Surplus			1618			4593
Summary of expenses			324,788			314,961

Erik Kok proposed that, due to loss of funding from Transport Canada, the Safe Recreation Program be cut back while maintaining the focus on water quality and invasive mussels. Chair Martin explained that there is some strong – albeit mixed – support for the safety program. Councillor Cannon also commented that in her opinion water quality is the more important focus for the SWC. Phil Owen also agreed that without federal funding, the safety program be cut back.

Ms. Vieira explained that the revised budget needs to be approved, and reminded everyone present that the meeting attendance does not meet quorum for financial decisions.

Moved/seconded by Director Simpson/Director Hamer-Jackson that:

Staff be directed to reduce the safe recreation program to a minimum, direct the savings to the surplus, and that the budget go to an email vote.

CARRIED

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Action item:

Staff will facilitate an email vote for the revised budget.

Director Hamer-Jackson and Director Simpson left the meeting at 11:15 AM

Guest presentation: Update on Canada Water Agency

Mr. Ian Rogalski, Senior Ecosystems Analyst with Environment & Climate Change Canada presented an overview of the Canada Water Agency (CWA) and Fraser River Basin Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative. Creating the Canada Water Agency was a federal directive in 2019; it was created as a branch within Environment & Climate Change Canada in mid-2023 with a mandate to “*improve fresh water in Canada by providing leadership, effective collaboration ... improved coordination ... to proactively address national and regional transboundary freshwater and opportunities...*”. The federal Budget 2023 provided \$85.1M over five years and \$21M ongoing thereafter to support the CWA and \$650M over 10 years to support monitoring, assessment and restoration work. watershed restoration. Ian is leading the Fraser watershed work.

The CWA has national and regional initiatives. Of the latter, one is focused specifically on the Fraser River basin (which includes the Shuswap and Thompson watersheds), the *Fraser Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative (FEI)*. Priorities include restoration, water quality protection, science, monitoring, Indigenous knowledge, governance, knowledge and reporting, and improving climate change resiliency. He noted that algal blooms in parts of Shuswap Lake are a priority ‘hotspot’ for the Fraser FEI. Key strategies of the Fraser FEI include engagement with governments, sub-basin collaboratives, non-government organizations and academia; information sharing and coordination; and developing knowledge and restoration priorities.

There was a short question-and-answer period, and Chair Martin thanked Mr. Rogalski for his presentation.

Erik Kok left the meeting at 11:35 AM

Guest presentation: Compliance and enforcement within the BC MOECCS

Mr. Bryan Vroom, Section Head with BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy (MOECCS), presented an overview of the Ministry’s compliance management framework. The four-part compliance model includes setting requirements, promoting compliance through education, verifying compliance through inspections, and enforcing requirements. He outlined the non-compliance response which includes consideration of environmental and human health impacts. He also outlined complaint management. Complaints may be submitted to the Ministry via an online form or the RAPP hotline. Environmental Protection Officers review complaints, gather information, conduct inspections, and refer for enforcement if appropriate.

He explained how the Ministry verifies compliance with the *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice (AEMCoP)*, which is the Provincial regulation that ensures agriculture practices are consistent with the preservation of

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water and air quality. Compliance inspections are complaint-driven, and responded to by a dedicated team. AEMCoP requires all agricultural operations not to cause pollution, and there are requirements for record-keeping, nutrient management, plus special requirements for farms in vulnerable aquifers and high-risk areas.

There was a short question-and-answer period. Chair Martin asked Mr. Vroom if he could comment on some of the recent complaints related to sewage discharge into Shuswap Lake. Mr. Vroom replied that the Ministry responds to these issues through a set process with policies and procedures and he remarked that administrative penalties have been issued recently to some operations in the South Shuswap.

Chair Martin thanked Mr. Vroom for his presentation.

Kelly Chiatto left the meeting at 11:50 AM

Guest presentation: Adams River watershed glacier research

Mr. Tay Powrie, graduate student with Thompson Rivers University, introduced himself and thanked the SWC for the funding support of his research project. He explained that his research is investigating the future of glacier ice and melt processes in the Adams River sub-basin of the Shuswap watershed.

Mr. Powrie presented some data and charts about the general state of glaciers and their influence on runoff. He briefly explained that glacial coverage affects many attributes in a watershed including water quality and nutrient composition which in turn affect trophic systems (i.e., food availability). Additional potential regional effects of glacial melt will affect water supply/utilization and habitat.

His research project is attempting to answer the following questions: How will glaciers within the Adams watershed respond to future climate? Will changes in glacier run-off influence hydrological processes? Is management of water resources within the watershed necessary, and what management is suggested?

Mr. Powrie explained the use of predictive models as part of his research methodology and shared some preliminary results. Generally, models predict that run-off will shift to earlier in the season, which will negatively impact ecosystem requirements such as water for salmon habitat. Models also predict that run-off will be driven more by precipitation than ice melt.

He concluded with an overview of the SWC funding, which included at \$3000 contribution in 2023 and a \$5000 contribution in 2024. The funding has gone toward equipment and data analysis for the project.

New business

Chair Martin suggested that the SWC members spend some time looking at the Terms of Reference, as well as how other watershed organizations are structured and funded. She proposed that there be some dedicated time on the September meeting agenda for this.

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Dennis Einarson commented that he was involved, as a staff biologist with the BC Ministry of Environment, prior to the formation of the Shuswap Watershed Council. He commented that it is imperative that the SWC – or something just like it – continue to function.

Roundtable updates

Lindsay Benbow reported that the Ministry has a Water Infrastructure Program for producers. The application period opens on June 20th. She also commented that the Ministry is hosting water management and irrigation field days later in the summer, and a phosphorus field day next week in the North Okanagan.

Phil Owen reported that a society is forming for the Bessette watershed to address water quantity issues, including considering water storage for irrigation and for fish habitat.

Dennis Einarson reported that a group from Cherryville contacted him about concerns related to farming and water quality, and he has since put them in touch with Lindsay Benbow.

Councillor Beech reported that she is working with the Sicamous Chamber of Commerce to deliver some information to residents about invasive mussels via in-person outreach.

Chair Martin reported that there have been two instances of high *E. coli* at CSRD beaches.

Councillor Cannon, Phil Owen, and Kimm Magill-Hofmann are unable to attend the September SWC meeting.

Action item:

Staff to collect comments from SWC members that can't attend the September SWC meeting.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Councillor Cannon/Director Lepsoe that:

The June 12th 2024 meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12:40.

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1.	June 12 th 2024 SWC meeting summary for approval	9:35

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

DRAFT

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.i	Correspondence: Response letter from Diane Lebouthillier	9:40



August 8, 2024

Mr. Jay Simpson
 Chair
 Shuswap Watershed Council
 c/o Ms. Erin Vieira
 < evieira@fraserbasin.ca >

Dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the prevention of invasive zebra and quagga mussels into British Columbia (BC), and specifically in the Shuswap watershed.

Effective management of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is a shared priority and responsibility across federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The Province of British Columbia is the lead for the management of AIS within BC's freshwaters.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) agrees that prevention is key to addressing the threat of zebra and quagga mussels to BC. DFO and the Canada Border Services Agency work closely together to implement protocols, training, tools, and procedures for the enforcement of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* at international borders, including with respect to recreational watercraft entering Canada at land crossings (such as trailered boats), and illegal imports.

In May 2023, DFO announced that it was investing \$36.6 million over five years to fight AIS in Canada, including \$8.75 million in contribution funding for the newly created Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund (AISPF). Thanks to these resources, DFO can undertake new activities focused on detecting and responding to reports of imminent invasions, including at international borders, and facilitating on-the-ground preventative action through partnerships. In addition, on February 14, 2024, I announced that DFO is funding through the AISPF, up to \$540,000 from 2023 to 2025 for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, to add to the ongoing efforts to prevent the introduction of zebra and quagga Mussels in BC.

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2.i	Correspondence: Response letter from Diane Lebouthillier	9:40

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I have forwarded your correspondence to my Senior Regional Advisor for British Columbia, Mr. Joshua Lindner, who can be reached at < joshua.lindner@dfo-mpo.gc.ca >. Thank you again for providing your thoughts on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions
and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Pablo Rodriguez, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Transport

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2.ii	Correspondence: Letter from Blair Ireland	9:40



Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

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Honourable Nathan Cullen
B.C. Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
PO Box 9012 Stn Prov. Govt.
Victoria, BC V8M 9L6

August 28, 2024

Honorable Grant Hunter
Chair, Alberta Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force
513-F Legislature Building
10800 97th Ave.
Edmonton AB T5K 2B6

Re: Inter-provincial cooperation to prevent invasive mussels

Dear Minister Cullen and MLA Hunter,

On behalf of the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB), I am writing to thank you for your engagement with our staff at the recent Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) summit in Whistler, B.C. in July. We believe PNWER is an excellent forum to engage on aquatic invasive species prevention and to discuss inter-jurisdictional cooperation in greater detail. We ask that you continue the work started at PNWER by collaborating at the political level on several opportunities to strengthen the prevention of invasive mussels into Western Canada.

Call for federal action

We ask that both provinces call on the federal government to provide resources for provincial invasive mussel programs, including direct federal funding to watercraft inspection programs. Federal funding for invasive mussels has largely been limited to detection, rather than prevention. As we know from Lake Winnipeg and countless other lakes, once a detection occurs, it is already too late.

As shown in the attached recent correspondence from Hon. Diane Lebovillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, although the federal government recognizes that "effective management of aquatic invasive species is a shared priority and responsibility," provinces are left to lead these management efforts within their boundaries. This apparent federal abdication of responsibility has helped invasive mussels continue their spread west. The spread has led to closed lakes in national parks, increased cost to drinking water and hydropower facilities, reduced commercial and recreational fisheries, and harmed water quality and quality of life for residents in affected watersheds. The federal government must do more to prevent, not just monitor, the spread of invasive mussels.

Create "Western Canada Invasive Mussel-Free Zone"

We also ask you to consider the development of a "Western Canada Invasive Mussel-Free Zone" including B.C., Alberta, and potentially Saskatchewan. Participating provinces could act together to make inspections mandatory for all watercraft entering the zone, creating common policy and penalties between provinces. Further, private industries like marinas and environmental firms inside the zone could be certified to provide approved inspections when watercraft are not stopped at provincially run seasonal stations. This approach would not increase provincial enforcement costs but would provide a second layer of inspections that would

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Okanagan Basin
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make mandatory inspections more achievable. Industry partners could charge a fee for this service and make it available year-round. A similar model is used in Arizona.

As an alternative to mandatory inspections, provinces in the Western Canada Invasive Mussel-Free Zone could work together to ban watercraft from outside the zone. While there may be effects on tourism, it could mean less restrictive travel within the zone, and support for industries such as watercraft rentals and local watercraft sales. Rules for mandatory inspections would remain in place for anyone travelling with watercraft out of the zone and then returning.

Align penalties and fines across provinces

Finally, we ask that the provinces work together to have consistent policies, fines and penalties whenever possible across Western Canada. Alberta has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing these efforts, recently introducing the highest fines in North America with the fine for failing to stop at an inspection station at \$4,200 and failure to pull the drain plug at \$600. We urge B.C. to match these levels. Large powered watercraft represent the highest risk of transporting invasive mussels, and those who can afford to own these craft and transport them between provinces may not be deterred by a fine of a few hundred dollars – less than a tank of fuel for their boat.

Public support

In March, OBWB convened the Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group, attended by more than 100 people representing 58 local governments, First Nations, marinas and yacht clubs, businesses, tourism associations, chambers of commerce, invasive species and conservation groups and other organizations. This level of participation shows the seriousness of the issue, and that as legislators, you have the public support and social capital to protect our western waters from this significant threat. OBWB will continue to provide advice and support within our mandate, and we look forward to increased collaboration and continued leadership from both your governments on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Blair Ireland, Chair
Okanagan Basin Water Board

CC:

- Okanagan MLAs: Harwinder Sandhu, Norm Letnick, Renee Merrifield, Ben Stewart, Dan Ashton, Roly Russell
- Okanagan Nation Alliance, Chiefs Executive Council and Natural Resources Council
- Okanagan Indian Band
- Westbank First Nation
- Penticton Indian Band
- Osoyoos Indian Band
- Lower Similkameen Indian Band

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Okanagan Basin
WATER BOARD

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- Okanagan Local Government Chairs and Mayors
- Okanagan MPs: Mel Arnold, Tracy Gray, Dan Albas, Richard Cannings
- Pacific NorthWest Economic Region: Matt Morrison, Chief Executive Officer
- Invasive Species Council of B.C.: Gail Wallin, Executive Director
- Okanagan Chambers of Commerce
- Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association
- Union of BC Municipalities
- Shuswap Watershed Council
- Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society
- Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group members

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.ii	Correspondence: Letter from Blair Ireland	9:40

Minister of
Fisheries, Oceans
and the Canadian Coast Guard



Ministre des
Pêches, des Océans
et de la Garde côtière canadienne

August 9, 2024

Mr. Blair Ireland
Chair
Okanagan Basin Water Board
c/o Ms. Corinne Jackson
< corinne.jackson@obwb.ca >

Dear Mr. Ireland,

I am writing in response to correspondence dated January 18, 2024, from Ms. Sue McKortoff, former chair of the Okanagan Basin Water Board, regarding the prevention of invasive zebra and quagga mussels from entering British Columbia (BC) waters.

Effective management of aquatic invasive species (AIS) is a shared priority and responsibility across federal, provincial, and territorial governments. The Province of British Columbia is the lead for the management of AIS within BC's freshwaters.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) agrees that prevention is key to addressing the threat of zebra and quagga mussels to BC. DFO and the Canada Border Services Agency work closely together to implement protocols, training, tools, and procedures for the enforcement of the *Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations* at international borders, including with respect to recreational watercraft entering Canada at land crossings (such as trailered boats), and illegal imports.

In May 2023, DFO announced that it was investing \$36.6 million over five years to fight AIS in Canada, including \$8.75 million in contribution funding for the newly created Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Fund (AISPF). Thanks to these resources, DFO can undertake new activities focused on detecting and responding to reports of imminent invasions, including at international borders, and facilitating on-the-ground preventative action through partnerships. In addition, on February 14, 2024, I announced that DFO is funding through the AISPF, up to \$540,000 from 2023 to 2025 for the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, to add to the ongoing efforts to prevent the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels in BC.

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Canada

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I have forwarded your correspondence to my Senior Regional Advisor for British Columbia, Mr. Joshua Lindner, who can be reached at < joshua.lindner@dfo-mpo.gc.ca >. Thank you for bringing the Okanagan Basin Water Board's concerns to DFO's attention.

Yours sincerely,



The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: The Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., K.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions
and Intergovernmental Affairs
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Environment and Climate Change

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3.	Old business: results of June 19 th email vote re: revised budget for 2024-25	9:40

June 19th 2024 e-mail vote re: revised budget

At the June 12th 2024 SWC meeting, Program Manager Erin Vieira presented a revised budget for 2024-25. Revisions were necessary to update actual expenses according to what was approved at the March 13th 2024 SWC meeting and to adjust the revenue due to loss of funding from Transport Canada.

In order to adjust to the loss of grant funding from Transport Canada, the following motion was moved and carried:

THAT staff be directed to reduce the safe recreation program to a minimum, direct the savings to the surplus, and that the budget go to an email vote.

The budget was revised accordingly and staff sent it via email to the SWC funders along with the question:

Do you approve the revised budget: yes or no?

The vote took place via email on June 19th 2024 and passed with eight in favour and zero opposed.

The budget is on p.29 of this agenda package.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Report from Program Managers	9:50

Report from Program Managers – Financial report for the first quarter, April 1st – June 30th 2024

Program	Annual budget (\$)			Q1 actual expenses (\$)			
	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	Expenses	Program mgmt.	Sub-total	
Water Quality Monitoring Program							
	Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	6637.50	6637.50	0	315.00	315.00
	Water monitoring expenses	26,209.00	2025.00	28,234.00	18,901.18	1395.00	20,296.18
	Annual Water Quality Report	6850.00	5400.00	12,250.00	400.00	585.00	985.00
Water Quality Protection Program							
	Water Protection Advisory Committee	400.00	5050.00	5450.00	0	0	0
	Water Quality Grant Program	115,421.00	8062.50	123,483.50	26,638.56	2475.00	29,113.56
	Wetland Strategy	4000.00	6462.50	10,462.50	0	880.00	880.00
	Climate change impact study (with TRU)	5000.00	675	5675.00	0	135.00	135.00
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program							
	Education and outreach campaigns	27,432.00	7425.00	34,857.00	22,430.99	5130.00	27,560.99
Safe Recreation Program							
	Safety campaigns	9480.00	3712.50	13,192.50	7126.45	2070.00	9196.45
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy							
	Communications collateral	225.00	3475.00	3700.00	1650.25	2520.00	4170.25
	Public engagement and media	2500.00	10,587.50	13,087.50	0	3101.67	3101.67
	Advocacy	0	2700.00	2700.00	0	45.00	45.00
Administration							
	Council meetings	1850.00	14,825.00	16,675.00	532.37	4078.33	4610.70
	Administration (budgeting, staff liaise with chair and vice chair, membership and governance, etc)	0	3693.75	3693.75	0	855.00	855.00
	Financial administration	0	19,612.50	19,612.50	0	7020.00	7020.00
	Sub-total expenses	199,367.00	100,343.75	299,710.75	77,679.79	30,605.00	108,284.79
	Surplus			15,250.25			
	Total budget for 2024-25			314,961.00			

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.i	New business: Items for information: SWC Terms of Reference	10:10

Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

The Shuswap Watershed Council (SWC) was established in 2014 as a watershed-based partnership to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap. The SWC is a collaborative, non-regulatory group. It works alongside organizations that have regulatory roles in managing the Shuswap watershed, complementing their work and carefully avoiding duplication.

During 2014 – 2015, the SWC developed new programs and work was done to ratify the governance and funding model. In 2016, the SWC began implementing programs for water and safe recreation, according to a five-year plan for 2016 - 2021. As of April 1st 2021, the SWC is implementing its [Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2026](#).

This Terms of Reference sets the governance framework for the Shuswap Watershed Council.

2. Shuswap Watershed Council Purpose

The SWC provides direction to the creation and implementation of its programs for water quality, safe recreation, invasive species prevention, public engagement and communications, and advocacy, as set out in [the Strategic Plan for 2021 - 2026](#).

3. Shuswap Watershed Council Role

The roles of the SWC are to:

- Increase collaboration of all relevant interests in the Shuswap watershed
- Provide direction and oversight for the implementation of its programs
- Monitor risks and quality of program implementation, and provide course corrections as needed
- Approve budgets and annual reports
- Receive scientific and technical input, and approve plans and budgets (as appropriate) from the Water Quality Monitoring Group and the Water Protection Advisory Committee for implementing the water quality program.

All SWC members sign and abide by a guiding [Principles Document](#).

4. Shuswap Watershed Council Membership

The SWC is comprised of up to 22 members:

Columbia Shuswap Regional District	4 members ¹
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	2 members
City of Salmon Arm	1 member
District of Sicamous	1 member
Secwepemc Nation	4 members ²
North Okanagan Regional District	2 members

¹ Specified as the directors of Areas C, D, E, F

² Specified as one each from Adams Lake Indian Band, Little Shuswap Lake Band, Splatins, and Neskonlith

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BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy	1 member
BC Ministry of Agriculture, Food, & Fisheries	1 member
BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development	1 member
Community Representatives (public)	up to 4 members
Senior Scientific Advisor	1 member

4.1 Recommendations and appointments

Recommendations to the SWC are made as follows, and appointed by the CSRD Chair³:

- Members from regional and municipal governments must be elected officials
- Representatives from the CSRD are those directors representing Areas C, D, E and F
- Representatives from the Secwepemc Nation are recommended by Pespesellkwe
- Other than the CSRD, representatives from regional and municipal governments are recommended to the SWC at the discretion of their respective Council or Board
- Representatives from provincial agencies are recommended to the SWC by their respective agency
- Community representatives are recommended to the SWC through a process of evaluating Expressions of Interest.

4.2 Community representatives

Community representatives must:

- Be prepared to commit time and energy to participate on the SWC without remuneration
 - Travel expenses will be compensated at a rate of \$0.50/km (See Article 10)
- Be committed to examining issues and ideas objectively

The participation of a community representative on the SWC includes:

- Attendance at quarterly meetings, held within the Shuswap area or held virtually with remote participation (see Article 11)
- Serving for a three-year term
- Receiving and responding to communications by e-mail.

It is desirable for a community representative on the SWC to show that he or she:

- Has a demonstrated track record of commitment to the community, and/or
- Has experience working in a collaborative setting, and/or
- Resides in the Shuswap watershed.

4.3 Terms

Members' terms are as follows:

- Representatives from regional, First Nation, and municipal governments serve one-year terms, and may be recommended for subsequent terms at the discretion of their respective Council, Board, or organization
- Representatives from provincial agencies and the community serve 3-year terms

³ This conforms with CSRD Bylaw 5705 that establishes the Shuswap Watershed Council Service (refer to Bylaw Article 7 for more information)

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- o Representatives from provincial agencies and Community Representatives may be re-appointed for subsequent terms
- The term for the Senior Scientific Advisor is on-going (no expiry).

4.4 Chair and Vice Chair

The SWC will elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members for one-year terms (see Article 6).

5. Decision making

The SWC makes decisions by consensus whenever possible.

5.1 Voting rights

When a vote is required, rights are granted on the following basis:

- All rights (i.e., financial and non-financial decisions) are granted to elected officials (or their alternates) and other representatives of organizations that make a financial contribution (see Article 10)
- Voting on non-financial issues is granted to representatives from the Secwepemc Nation, North Okanagan Regional District, and Community Representatives
- Representatives of provincial agencies and the Senior Scientific Advisor do not have voting rights.

5.2 Financial and non-financial decisions

Financial decisions are made by vote in a SWC meeting as follows:

- Quorum for financial decisions is 75% of SWC membership with financial voting rights
- Financial decisions are made by two-thirds majority of those present with financial voting rights.

When a vote is required, non-financial decisions are made as follows:

- Quorum for non-financial decisions is 50% of SWC membership with voting rights
- Non-financial decisions are made by simple majority of those with voting rights.

Approval of minor expenses can be done in between SWC meetings as follows:

- The Chair and Vice Chair can approve additional workplan expenses brought forward by staff, up to a maximum of \$1000 quarterly, so long as the item(s) are aligned with the Strategic Plan. Staff are required to report these additional approved expenses to the SWC.

5.3 Casting votes

Each member with voting rights is assigned one vote. Participation in meetings, including voting, may take place via tele-conference.

5.4 Alternates

The SWC will honour alternates set up by the members' organizations, which includes elected members of the SWC representing regional districts, municipalities, and the Secwepemc Nation. Alternates are selected by the respective organization. Community representatives, representatives of provincial agencies, and the Senior Scientific Advisor do not have alternates.

6. Chair and Vice Chair

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5.i	New business: Items for information: SWC Terms of Reference	10:10

The SWC will elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members for one-year terms.

6.1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Following the terms for non-financial decisions (per Article 5.2), the election of a chair and vice chair will take place as follows:

- Elections will take place at the first meeting of the calendar year, presided over by the program managers
- Chair and Vice Chair appointments are for one year
- Nominees for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair must be present at the meeting, or nominations may be submitted to the Program Manager in advance of the SWC meeting at which elections take place. The latter requires a letter of nomination from the nominator and a letter of acceptance from the nominee.
- Elections will take place by secret ballot, unless election is made by acclamation
 - If the meeting is being held virtually with remote participation, elections may take place by submitting votes via confidential emails or messages
- Election of Chair and Vice Chair is a non-financial decision, therefore simple majority is required for election and quorum is 50%.

6.2 Chair and Vice Chair roles and responsibilities

Further to the purpose and role of the SWC described in Article 3, the roles of the Chair are:

- Be an ambassador for the SWC and its programs
- Ensure Council members are aware of their roles and responsibilities
- Bring issues and correspondence before the SWC for discussion
- Be a spokesperson
- Chair SWC meetings
- Liaise with program managers on the following, but not limited to:
 - Setting meeting agendas
 - Key program deliverables and achievements
 - Controversial issues
- Collaborate with program managers on communications materials
- Approve invoices from the program managers.

The roles of the Vice Chair are:

- Support the Chair in the activities described above
- Act as Chair in the Chair's absence.

7. Liaise with Water Quality Monitoring Group and Water Protection Advisory Committee

The SWC will be supported by the Water Quality Monitoring Group and the Water Protection Advisory Committee, each of which have their own committee Terms of Reference. From time to time, the SWC may refer information or requests to the Monitoring Group or Advisory Committee for discussion and recommendations.

Summaries from the Monitoring Group and Advisory Committee meetings will be included in SWC agenda packages, to be received for information.

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5.i	New business: Items for information: SWC Terms of Reference	10:10

8. Comments in public or the media

Council members should refer all questions and inquiries from the media to the Chair, Vice Chair or program managers. When speaking publicly, Council members must convey the interest of the SWC.

9. Term

The term for this document is April 1st 2021 - March 31st 2026. The Terms of Reference are subject to revision.

10. Funding and compensation

The Contribution Agreement sets out the financial contributions from the funders⁴.

Community representatives and the Senior Scientific Advisor will receive compensation for travel expenses incurred for attending SWC meetings at a rate consistent with BC Government travel and reimbursement rates.

All other SWC members or their respective organizations will fund their expenses related to their participation.

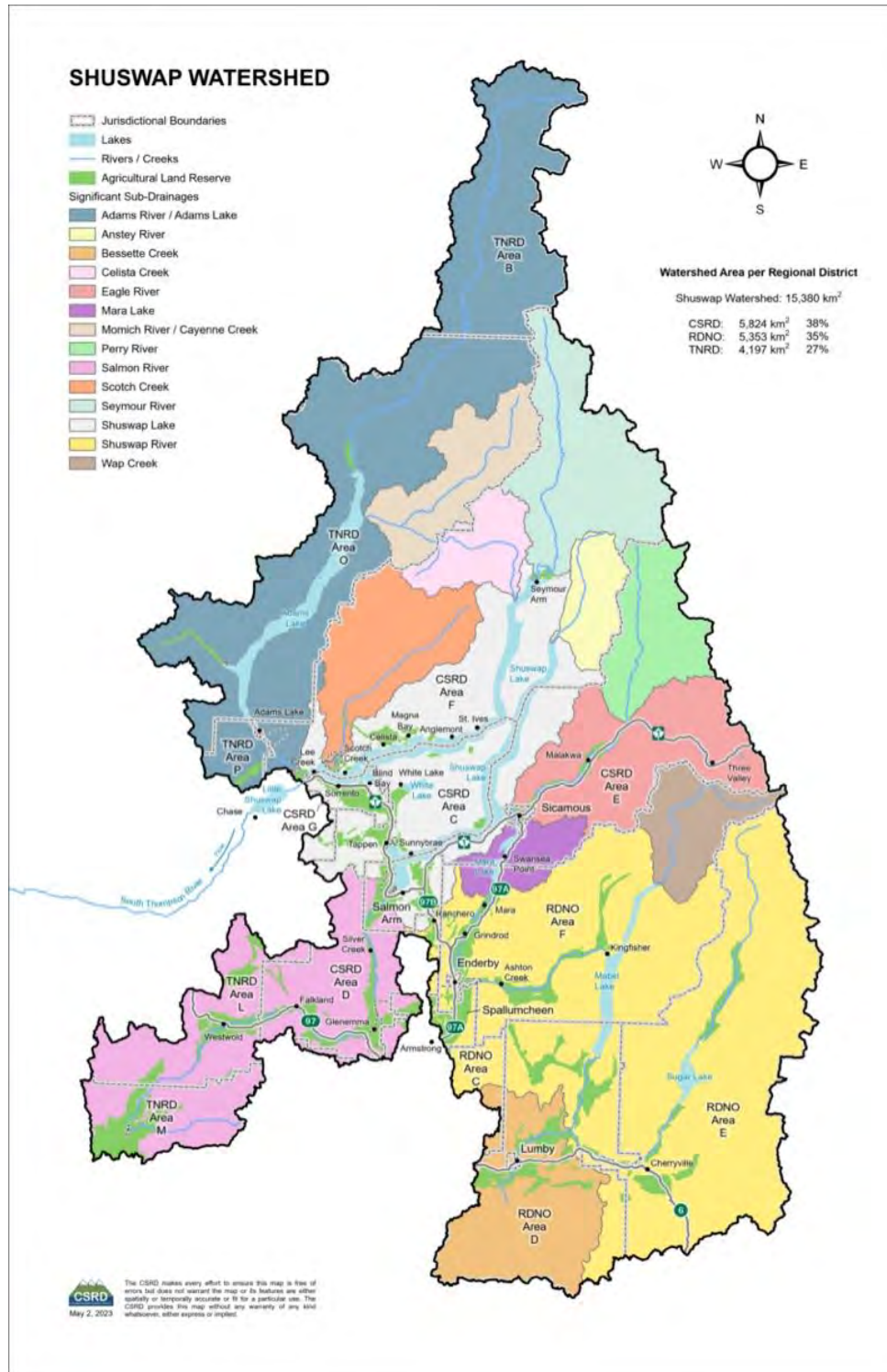
11. Shuswap Watershed Council administration

- The SWC will meet quarterly
- Meeting dates will be convenient to the majority of the members
- Meeting dates will be set for a calendar year, early in that year
- Meetings will be open to the public and advertised in a manner consistent with CSRD Bylaw 5648, Regional District Board and Committee Procedures Bylaw
- Meetings may take place virtually, with remote participation (e.g., Zoom Meeting)
- The program managers will be responsible for:
 - Preparing meeting agendas, with the Chair and Vice Chair, and distributing meeting materials
 - Recording decisions and action items, and preparing meeting summaries
 - Making arrangements for meeting venues and refreshments.

⁴ *Shuswap Watershed Council Contribution Agreement 2021 - 2023 SIGNED.pdf*


Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.ii	New business: Items for information: Map of watershed with local government boundaries and Agricultural Land Reserve	10:10

Map of Shuswap watershed showing CSRD, TNRD, and RDNO and the Agricultural Land Reserve



Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.iii	New business: Items for information: SWC budget overview for 2024-25	10:10

Shuswap Watershed Council Work Plan and Budget overview for 2024-25



Work Plan and Budget for 2024–25

REVENUE—Source	(\$)	EXPENSES	Expenses (\$)		Sub-total (\$)
2023–24 operational surplus (from March 31 st , 2024)	25,113		Disbursements	Program mgmt	
2023–24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2024–25 projects	59,961	Water Quality Monitoring	33,059	14,063	47,122
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>		Water Quality Protection & Improvement	124,821	20,250	145,071
CSRD	0	Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	27,432	7425	34,857
TNRD	53,600	Safe Recreation	9480	3713	13,193
City of Salmon Arm	0	Communications & Advocacy	2725	16,763	19,488
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300	Council Meetings, Administration & Fund Development	1850	38,131	39,981
<i>Operating Reserve:</i>		Sub-total Program Operations Expenses	199,367	100,344	299,711
Full SWC Operating Reserve from March 31 st , 2024	174,987	Surplus / (Deficit)			15,250
Total revenue	314,961	Total expenses			314,961

1 The fiscal year is April 1, 2024–March 31, 2025

Key Tasks and Deliverables for 2024–25

- Administer the **Water Quality Grant Program** to support farms and stewards to carry out projects and adopt new practices that protect and improve water quality
 - \$59,961 grant funds distributed in 2024 to five grant recipients
 - \$55,000 grant budget in 2024–25 (to be distributed in 2025)
- Continue developing a **Wetland Strategy** as an important new step to protect and improve water quality
- Implement the **Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program**
 - Deliver educational campaigns to educate the public about prevention measures for aquatic invasive species
 - Partner with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to monitor for invasive mussels
- Administer a **community water monitoring grant fund** to support community-based stewardship and water monitoring
- Facilitate bi-annual meetings of the **Shuswap Water Monitoring Group** to discuss water monitoring, collaborate and share information

- Provide financial support for **watershed research** by partnering with academic institutions and graduate students
- Promote safe boating** and water-based recreation through educational campaigns
- Advocate** for the Shuswap watershed by corresponding with senior government agencies about critical concerns and threats, and ask for more action to address these issues
- Communicate and engage** with the public about the SWC's activities and achievements
 - Publish an Annual Highlights Report for 2023–2024
 - Publish media releases and newsletters
 - Maintain a website and social media
- Hold four Council meetings** per year
- Track and report** expenses
- Apply for grant and foundation funding** to support the Shuswap Watershed Council in 2024 and beyond.

Who We Are

About the Shuswap Watershed Council

Staff

Vision

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.iv	New business: Items for information: Review of other watershed organizations	10:10

Review of governance structures and funding for other BC watershed organizations

Okanagan Basin Water Board

The Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) was initiated in 1968 as a valley-wide partnership to identify and resolve critical water issues in the Okanagan watershed. The OBWB was established under Provincial legislation in 1970 as a unique form of local government with taxation powers to support its work.

OBWB membership includes representatives from the Regional District of North Okanagan, Central Okanagan Regional District, Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District, Okanagan Nation Alliance, Water Supply Association, and Okanagan Water Stewardship Council (a multi-stakeholder group established by the Board to provide independence science-based advice on water issues) for a total of 12 appointed directors.

The OBWB operations are led by an Executive Director and nine other staff.

Nechako Watershed Roundtable

The Nechako Watershed Roundtable (NWR) is a collaborative initiative to protect and improve the health of the Nechako Watershed (*upper Fraser watershed*) for future generations. It was established in 2015.

Membership in the NWR is open and currently includes representatives from First Nations, local and regional governments (i.e., elected officials including the Chair of Fraser Fort George Regional District), Provincial and Federal government agencies, industry (e.g., New Gold, Rio Tinto), academia (e.g., UNBC), stewardship organizations, Northern Health, consultants, and sporting associations (e.g., Steelhead Society of BC).

The NWR structure includes a core committee that oversees and advances operations. It is comprised of 9-12 members affiliated with local government, First Nations government, and non-government

The NWR is funded by diverse sources through fundraising including local/regional government grants-in-aid, Provincial and Federal grant funding, and foundations.

The Fraser Basin Council provides secretariat support to the Nechako Watershed Roundtable.

Cowichan Water Board

The Cowichan Water Board (CWB) is a collaborative governance partnership between Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District (*Vancouver Island*). It facilitates collaborative management and decision-making to protect and enhance the health of the whole Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds. The CWB was established in 2010.

The CWB is co-chaired by the Chief of Cowichan Tribes First Nation and the Chair of the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Up to 14 additional members are appointed by the co-chairs from the following organizations / agencies: Cowichan Tribes, Cowichan Valley Regional District, Federal government, Provincial government, and members-at-large.

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5.iv	New business: Items for information: Review of other watershed organizations	10:10

The CWB receives funding from a variety of sources including annual contributions from Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District, project grant funding, sponsorships, and more.

The CWB staff team consists of an executive director and three other staff.

Elk River Alliance

Operating since 2010, the Elk River Alliance is a community-based water charity that connects people to the Elk River (*East Kootenays / Fernie*) using science, education and community collaboration to ensure sustainable stewardship of the Elk River watershed.

The ERA uses education and outreach programs that raise watershed literacy, inform sustainable water decision-making and collects science to prioritize community involvement that protects, enhances and restores aquatic ecosystems. The ERA facilitates dialogue, collaboration and community engagement across the watershed; it collects, interprets and uses scientific data to protect and restore the Elk River watershed; and it promotes safe and environmentally responsible use of the Elk River.

The ERA is governed by a board of directors, and their programs and projects are led by an Executive Director and nine staff.