

AGENDA PACKAGE FOR:

Council Meeting
Wednesday June 12th 2024 • 9:30 – 11:45 AM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE, Salmon Arm

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1.	March 13 th 2024 draft meeting summary for approval	9:30

Council Meeting
March 13th 2024 • 9:30 AM – 1:10 PM
Columbia Shuswap Regional District Boardroom
555 Harbourfront Drive NE
Salmon Arm, BC

Draft Record of Decisions and Action Items as at March 13th 2024
This record is subject to change at the next Council meeting

Meeting objectives

1. Receive update from program managers
2. Receive guest presentation from Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
3. Approve Water Quality Grant Program applications for 2024-25
4. Discuss and approve SWC work plan and budget for 2024-25
5. Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2024

SWC directors present

Jay Simpson, Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area F
Natalya Melnychuk, Vice Chair – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area G
Maria Otting – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area D (*alternate director for Dean Trumbley*)
Rhona Martin – Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Area E
Debbie Cannon – City of Salmon Arm
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*via Zoom*)
Lee Morris – Thompson-Nicola Regional District (*alternate director for David Lepsoe*)
Reid Hamer-Jackson – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
Robyn Laubman – Splatstine Secwepemc (*from 11:15 am to 12:50 pm*)
Rick Fairbairn – Regional District of North Okanagan, Area D
Brian Schreiner – Regional District of North Okanagan, City of Enderby
Kym Keogh – BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (*via Zoom*)
Lindsay Benbow – BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food (*via Zoom*)
Kelly Chiatto – BC Ministry of Forests (*via Zoom*)
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative (*to 12:00 pm*)
Phil Owen – Community representative (*via Zoom*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Linda Franklin
Terry Robert
Allysa Hopkins
Kevin Skrepnek
Rob Solinger
Kelly Chiatto
Daniel Selbie
Clyde Mitchell
Kimm Magill-Hofmann

Regrets

Erik Kok
David Lepsoe
Dennis Einarson
Marty Gibbons
Howard Nordquist
Dean Trumbley

Guests

Robyn Hooper

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Call to Order Chair Jay Simpson opened the meeting at 9:38 am. He acknowledged the meeting taking place on the historical and traditional lands of the Secwepemc and Syilx Peoples.

Adoption of meeting agenda **Moved/seconded** by Alternate Director Otting/Councillor Schreiner that:
The March 13th 2024 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

Adoption of meeting summary **Moved/seconded** by Director Fairbairn/Alternate Director Otting that:
The December 13th 2023 Shuswap Watershed Council meeting summary be adopted.

CARRIED

Correspondence **Moved/seconded** by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The correspondence be received for information.

CARRIED

Old business **Moved/seconded** by Councillor Cannon/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:

The draft summaries of the February 27th meeting of Water Monitoring Group and the February 28th meeting of the Water Protection Advisory Committee be received information.

CARRIED

Report from Chair Chair Simpson reported that the CSRD referendum regarding future taxation to support the future of the Shuswap Watershed Council was defeated on February 3rd. In light of this, the Chair asked staff to prepare different work plan and budget scenarios to reflect that the \$160,000 contribution from the CSRD will not continue. He commented that the SWC is an important organization and remarked that a future priority will be to secure new funding to keep the work going. Chair Simpson commented that he would like to discuss funding with the Regional District of North Okanagan. He remarked that 35% of the land base within the Shuswap watershed is within the RDNO, 38% is within the CSRD and 27% is within the TNRD.

Discussion:

Director Rick Fairbairn commented that he also participates on the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) on behalf of RDNO, and remarked that water is extremely important and the lakes are the centre-piece of summer recreation.

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He provided some historical context of the Regional District of North Okanagan’s involvement in the Shuswap Watershed Council. RDNO has participated in the SWC since 2016, but not as a regular financial contributor although former Director Delisle contributed discretionary funds to the SWC. He expressed his support for the SWC going forward.

Director Martin commented on the very low voter turn-out at the CSRD referendum. She is willing to commit grant-in-aid funds to keep the SWC going.

Mayor Hamer-Jackson commented on the opportunity to seek more funding from other communities such as those within the TNRD.

Vice Chair Melnychuk commented on the importance of public assent for regional district services and taxation to support an organization like the SWC. She cited a few examples of regional governments that play an important role in water stewardship and water protection, such as the Okanagan Basin Water Board and the Regional District of Nanaimo. She remarked on the importance of the SWC to convene regional districts, First Nations, the Provincial and Federal government authorities and the opportunity to collaborate on core ideas.

The Chair thanked everyone for the comments and the discussion. He suggested a group of SWC members gather again soon to talk more about how to secure funding support for the SWC.

**Report from
Program Managers:
financial report to
end of third quarter
(December 31st,
2023)**

Ms. Erin Vieira, Program Manager, presented a financial report for the third quarter (April 1st – December 31st 2023):

Revenue for 2023-24 (no change from previous meeting):

Revenue sources	(\$)
2022-23 operational surplus	47,656
2023-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	53,004
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (confirmed)	0
Total revenue	379,585

Expenses shown on the next page ...

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**Report from
Program Managers:
financial report to
end of third quarter
(December 31st,
2023)**

Budget and actual expenses to end of third quarter (April 1st – December 31st 2023):

Program	Annual budget (\$)			Q1 + Q2 + Q3 actual expenses (\$)		
	Expenses	Program 5gmt.. (labour)	Sub-total	Expenses	Program 5gmt.. (labour)	Sub-total
Water Quality Monitoring Program						
Shuswap Water Monitoring Group	0	7200	7200	0	3120.00	3120.00
Water monitoring expenses	21,900	2200	24,100	20,828.08	600.00	21,428.08
Annual Water Quality Report	7200	5800	13,000	8401.63	4840.00	13,241.63
Water Quality Protection Program						
Water Protection Advisory Committee	0	4200	4200	0	1960.00	1960.00
Water Quality Grant Program	118,464	9800	128,264	42,908.43	6320.00	49,228.43
Wetland Strategy	18,400	5600	24,000	2316.50	4106.67	6423.17
Climate change impact study (with TRU)	3000	600	3600	3000.00	280.00	3280.00
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program						
Education and outreach campaigns	33,300	6600	39,900	34,248.30	5840.00	40,088.30
Safe Recreation Program						
Safety campaigns	20,000	10,000	30,000	12,612.73	4360.00	16,972.73
Communications, Public Engagement, & Advocacy						
Communications collateral	3250	6100	9350	2714.12	3440.00	6154.12
Public engagement and media	9650	17,400	27,050	7572.37	17,586.67	25,159.04
Advocacy	0	4200	4200	0	2453.33	2453.33
Administration						
Council meetings, work planning, staff liaise with Chair and Vice Chair	2600	20,800	23,400	915.22	16,260.00	17,175.22
Financial management and fund development	0	16,700	16,700	0	12,186.67	12,186.67
Sub-total expenses	237,764	117,200	354,964	135,517.37	83,353.33	218,870.70
Contribution to Operating Reserve			24,621			
Total budget for 2023-24			379,585			

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**Report from
Program Managers:
revised budget for
2023-24**

Ms. Erin Vieira reported that staff received notification in late December about a successful grant application to Environment & Climate Change Canada. The Shuswap Watershed Council, c/o the Fraser Basin Council Society, is receiving \$40,000 to go toward the Shuswap Wetland Strategy. The budget is updated effective January 1st, 2024, as follows:

Revenue sources	(\$)
2022-23 operational surplus	47,656
2023-23 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	53,004
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	160,000
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	40,000
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada – Boating Safety Contribution Program	24,025
Environment & Climate Change Canada – Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative	40,000
Total revenue	419,585

The Wetland Strategy budget – a project in the Water Protection Program – is revised as follows (all other work plan and budget items remain unchanged):

Work plan items	Annual budget (\$)			Revised annual budget (\$)		
	Expenses	Prog. Mgmt.	Sub-total	Expenses	Prog. Mgmt.	Sub-total
Water Protection Program						
• Advisory committee	0	4200	4200	0	4200	4200
• Grant Program	118,464	9800	128,264	118,464	9800	128,264
• Wetland Strategy	18,400	5600	24,000	51,400	12,600	64,000
• Climate change impact study (with TRU)	3000	600	3600	3000	600	3600
Sub-total	139,864	20,200	160,064	172,864	27,200	200,064

Ms. Vieira clarified that some of the SWC budget toward the Wetland Strategy will go toward a year-end surplus as a result of being replaced by federal grant funds.

**Report from
Program Managers:**

Ms. Erin Vieira, Program Manager, presented a program operations update since the last Council meeting held in December:

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**program operations
update**

- The Water Quality Grant Program was open for applications from December 1st 2023 – January 31st 2024. The grant opportunity was advertised widely across the Shuswap and communiques targeted the local agriculture community. Staff provided applicants with a detailed program guide and provided support and assistance over the phone. Eight applications were received by the Jan. 31st deadline.
- There are five projects funded through the Water Quality Grant Program in 2023-24, all are complete. Projects led by Rivershore Nursery, Crystal Lake Ranch, Shuswap Organics, Fresh Valley Farms, and Iron Horse Ranch.
- The Shuswap Water Monitoring Group met on February 27th. Great participation, with staff from 13 different organizations in attendance to discuss water monitoring plans in 2024 across the Shuswap.
- The Shuswap Water Protection Advisory Committee met on February 28th to review in detail the SWC Water Quality Grant Program applications; the committee recommends six projects with a total ask of \$59,960
- Phase 2 of the Shuswap wetland strategy is progressing thanks to a \$40,000 grant from Environment & Climate Change Canada. A contract was awarded to Associated Environmental Inc. through a competitive process; the consultants are working on refining GIS wetland data, conducting a literature review and producing a discussion paper, doing a wetland prioritization and classification exercise and a phase 2 Wetland Strategy report. Work will be complete by March 31st, 2024.
- Staff participated in the inaugural ‘Okanagan-Interior Invasive Mussel Working Group’ meeting on March 8th hosted by the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB). The meeting featured workshop sessions to discuss and provide input to a regional strategy for the prevention, containment and management of invasive Zebra and Quagga Mussels; this work is being led by the OBWB.
- Staff worked with the Chair to write a letter to four Federal Ministers regarding long-term funding to the Province of BC to establish many more watercraft inspection stations around the perimeter of BC; the letter was sent on February 22nd
- Staff distributed two media releases: one on December 20th regarding the grant program and the other on February 22nd regarding a letter to the Federal government about funding for invasive mussel prevention and the establishment of more watercraft inspection stations
- Staff delivered a communications campaign throughout January leading up to the CSRD referendum. Communiques were approved by staff at Elections BC and were delivered by paid ads in newspapers, editorials, and social media campaigns. Staff will file a report with Elections BC per the requirements under the *Local Election Campaign Financing Act*.
- Staff prepared three different work plans and budgets for 2024-25, each suited to different revenue scenarios, for discussion and approval at this SWC meeting

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- Staff are working on amending the Contribution Agreement with funders to reflect the funding amounts from partners in 2024-25.

Robyn Laubman entered the meeting via Zoom at 11:15 am

**Guest presentation:
Robyn Hooper,
Columbia Shuswap
Invasive Species
Society**

Ms. Robyn Hooper, Executive Director of the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS), attended and gave an update on CSISS operations in 2023 with an emphasis on their aquatic program which included early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels at 15 sites in the Shuswap watershed and education and outreach to residents about aquatic invasive species.

Ms. Hooper requested a total of \$27,500 from the Shuswap Watershed Council to contribute to CSISS operations in 2024, which is consistent with the financial contribution for the past two years: \$17,5000 for monitoring and \$10,000 for education and outreach.

Discussion:

Director Fairbairn asked how monitoring for invasive mussels is done. Ms. Hooper explained that staff use plankton tow nets to collect water samples that are tested in a lab for the presence of mussel larvae, and substrate samplers are deployed in the lakes in several locations at varying depths which provide a surface for adult mussels to attach to. She also explained that water bodies are selected via a framework and matrix established by the Province of BC that consider water quality attributes such as pH and temperature as well as recreational use. Shuswap Lake is ranked as a high priority lake by the Province of BC for invasive mussel monitoring.

Councillor Cannon asked about the current status of invasive freshwater clams in Shuswap Lake. Robyn explained that the clams have been found throughout the Salmon Arm of Shuswap Lake. CSISS continues to raise awareness of the issue however she acknowledged the Province of BC, who has jurisdiction for invasive species, has not reacted to the discovery of invasive clams with any management actions. Robyn commented that Clean-Drain-Dry practices limit the spread of invasive clams.

Chair Simpson thanked Ms. Hooper for her presentation and for the important work done by CSISS to prevent aquatic invasive species.

**New business:
Water Quality Grant
Program**

Mr. Alex de Chantal, Program Manager, presented a brief overview of the Water Quality Grant Program purpose and how it is administered. He explained that the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee reviewed the applications according to a set of defined evaluation criteria. He provided a brief overview of each of the eight grant applications and highlighted whether the advisory committee recommended each for funding or not. In summary, the committee recommends \$59,960 be awarded to six grant applicants.

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Discussion:

Councillor Cannon asked how the grant funding is distributed to recipients. Mr. de Chantal explained that staff first do a site visit with the grant recipient, then set up a Contribution Agreement between the SWC and the recipient that lays out conditions of the grant funding and a payment schedule. 50% of the grant is advanced near the start of the project and the final 50% is paid upon completion and the provision of a final report with expenses and receipts to staff by the grant recipient.

Chair Simpson asked if fencing is a regulated requirement on farms. Lindsay Benbow indicated that under the *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice*, there are various setbacks for livestock from a waterbody according to how the density of livestock in the area. Phil Owen clarified that fencing is required in cattle over-wintering confined areas but fencing in range and pasture are at the discretion of the rancher or farm manager.

Vice Chair Melnychuk inquired if the SWC should approve all the recommendations today or if some of the recommendations can be approved while others receive further investigation before approval – the two being the fencing projects.

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Councillor Cannon that:

Four grant applications (Scott and Brittny Syme; Gietema Farms; Sunnybrae Vineyards and Winery x2) be approved, and that the applications from the Czepils and Foxtrot Dairy be held back until we have more information about them.

Further discussion:

Director Martin asked what new information the SWC desires from the fencing project. Chair Simpson clarified that the SWC would like a better interpretation of the regulations before funding fencing projects.

Councillor Cannon expressed her concern about the SWC spending money on projects or actions that may be regulated requirements on farms.

Kym Keogh clarified that cattle are allowed direct access to a watercourse, per the *Agricultural Environmental Management Code of Practice*, and that fencing is a 'best management practice' but not a regulated requirement.

Director Martin emphasized that the SWC's goal is improve water quality, and fencing helps protect water quality therefore it should support and approve these applications.

CARRIED (Director Martin and Councillor Beech opposed)

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Action item:

Staff will follow up with all grant applicants to schedule site visits and enter into Contribution Agreements with the four approved projects. Staff will gather more information about the two fencing projects and get clarity on agricultural regulations for fencing, and bring them back to the SWC via e-mail or at the June meeting for approval.

Kimm Magill-Hofmann left the meeting at 12:00 pm

**New business:
Work plan and
budget for 2024-25**

Erin Vieira explained that staff developed three different work plans and budgets for 2024-25: budget A is the fullest work plan with revenue from the Operating Reserve and sustained revenue from local government and First Nations partners except for the CSRD; budget B assumes no funding from local government or First Nations partners but does include the Operating Reserve as revenue and it accounts for new grant-in-aid funding; budget C is the leanest of the budgets with the Operating Reserve as the primary revenue for the year. Ms. Vieira commented that staff very recently received notification from TNRD administration that the \$53,600 funding from TNRD will continue in 2024-25. She presented budget B in detail.

Discussion:

Chair Simpson remarked that budget option B is a slight reduction from last year's budget. He also suggested that the SWC will need some time to address the funding gap beyond 2025.

Director Martin commented that Budget B has two sources of revenue that aren't confirmed: a grant from Transport Canada (\$24,000) and grants-in-aid. She suggested that in spite of this uncertainty, this is the best option and the budget can be revised at the next meeting if necessary.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The SWC approve and move forward with work plan and budget B as presented.

CARRIED

Moved/seconded by Vice Chair Melnychuk/Mayor Hamer-Jackson that:

A committee be established with representation from each of the funding partners to review the work plan and budget, and to investigate potential new funding partners.

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Discussion:

The following people volunteered to be part of such a committee: Natalya Melnychuk, Rick Fairbairn, Pam Beech, Reid Hamer-Jackson, and Brian Schreiner.

Director Martin expressed concern about the workload and cost of establishing this committee.

Vice Chair Melnychuk suggested that the committee focus on the strategy and future needs of the SWC, and that there needs to be a conversation to discuss and address the lack of funding in place for 2025 and beyond. She suggested that the elected officials manage this so that it doesn't become a lot of extra work for staff.

Moved/seconded by Director Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The establishment of the above-mentioned committee be deferred to the June 12th Shuswap Watershed Council meeting.

CARRIED

The approved budget and work plan is on the last page for information.

Further discussion:

Director Martin recommended that staff prioritize grants-in-aid application. Vice Chair Melnychuk expressed her support of that and suggested that a CSRD Director bring it forward to the CSRD board for discussion. Director Fairbairn commented that RDNO has grants-in-aid, discretionary funds, and Community Works funds all of which may be suitable to support the SWC.

Action item:

Staff will look into grants-in-aid from regional districts and municipalities in the spring.

Robyn Laubman left the meeting at 12:50 pm

Election

Mr. Alex de Chantal, Program Manager, presided over elections.

Director Rick Fairbairn nominated Director Martin for Chair. Director Martin accepted.

Councillor Brian Schreiner nominated Director Melnychuk for Chair. Director Melnychuk respectfully declined due to conflict of interest with her vocation.

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ELECTION of Chair for 2024 is Rhona Martin by acclamation.

Director Martin nominated Director Melnychuk for Vice Chair. Director Melnychuk accepted.

ELECTION of Vice Chair for 2024 is Natalya Melnychuk by acclamation.

Roundtable updates Lindsay Benbow announced the BC Ministry of Agriculture & Food is hosting drought response and water management workshops throughout the region. All SWC members are invited to register and attend. More information on the workshops can be found online:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/agricultural-land-and-environment/water/drought-in-agriculture/2024-drought-and-water-management-workshops>

She emphasized the there is a workshop in Kamloops on April 3rd and one in Lumby on April 11th.

Adjourn **Moved/seconded** by Chair Martin/Councillor Cannon that:

The March 13th meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council be adjourned.

CARRIED

Adjourned at 1:10 PM.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Chair

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Approved budget and work plan as of March 13th 2024

Summary of key achievements and deliverables for 2024-25

- Administer the **Water Quality Grant Program** with up to \$65,000 grant funds distributed in 2024 and \$60,000 budgeted for 2025. Grants are available to farms and landowners to protect and improve water quality.
- Continue developing a **Wetland Strategy** for the Shuswap watershed
- Administer the **Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program**
 - Deliver educational campaigns about best practices to prevent the movement of invasive mussels into BC
 - Partner with the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society to monitor the Shuswap watershed 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 across the Shuswap watershed, 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 in the Shuswap through educational campaigns
- **Educate and inform** the public about water quality
- **Advocate for the Shuswap** watershed by corresponding with senior government agencies about critical concerns and threats
- **Communicate and engage** with the public about the SWC's activities and achievements
 - Publish an Annual Highlights Report for 2023-24
 - 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.

Budget tables shown on the next page

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Revenue sources – as of March 13 th 2024	(\$)
2023-24 projected operational surplus	20,410
2023-24 grant program funds carried forward to 2024-25 projects	65,000
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous	0
TNRD	0
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	0
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada Boating Safety Contribution Program – <i>not confirmed</i>	24,391
Grants-in-aid – multiple contributors – <i>not confirmed</i>	40,000
<i>Operating Reserve</i>	
Operating Reserve from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Total revenue	324,788

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Budget and work plan summary – as of March 13 th 2024	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program	14,063	33,559	47,622
Water Quality Protection Program	20,250	129,860	150,110
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	7425	26,220	33,645
Safe Recreation Program	9450	20,700	30,150
Communications and Advocacy	16,763	4900	21,663
Council Meetings, Administration, and Financial Management	38,131	1850	39,981
Sub-total	106,081	217,089	323,170
Surplus			1618
Total expenses			324,788

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.	Correspondence	9:35



Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A2
Via email : pm@pm.gc.ca

April 3, 2024

Prime Minister,

We are concerned regarding the inaction of your government to address the threats posed by aquatic invasive species (AIS), particularly zebra and quagga mussels (ZQM), to the aquatic habitats and ecosystems of Canada.

Harms inflicted by AIS on aquatic resources and communities where ZQM have taken hold are well documented. In Western Canada, the threat of this invading species will affect wild fish populations like Pacific salmon, lake trout, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon, and ZQM stimulate toxic algae blooms that kill migratory birds and contaminate drinking water.

Your inaction also hurts our local economies. Ongoing maintenance to remove ZQM from in-water infrastructure continues to cost Canadians and this invading species is degrading the quality of shoreline environments for human enjoyment. In the Great Lakes region alone, the annual cost of managing these invasive mussels exceeds \$500 million per year.

ZQM continue to move westward across Canada and north from the United States, encroaching ever closer to Western Canadian waters. If you continue to turn a blind eye to these ongoing failures, Western Canada will soon face an irreversible invasion of ZQM that will permanently damage more ecosystems and economies beyond the Great Lakes.

Your Minister of Fisheries and Oceans has a mandate to sustainably manage fisheries and ensure aquatic ecosystems are protected from harms such as those caused by ZQM. The Public Safety Minister through the Canada Border Services Agency is mandated to ensure invasive mussels are not imported into Canada. Despite these responsibilities for protecting Canada's freshwaters from invasive mussels, your ministers continue to fail to deliver their mandates.

This has been confirmed by the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) in a 2019 report which shows your ministers have neglected our front-line enforcement officers and failed to take proper steps to stop the spread of invasive species.

Since 2016, common sense Conservatives have repeatedly pleaded for your government to prevent the spread of ZQM. We have joined voices with conservation organizations, municipalities, and water management agencies, but you and your ministers have ignored them, and the problem faced by our communities.

We call on your government to finally prioritize resources and initiate urgent, immediate actions necessary to prevent permanent ecological and economic damages that will be inflicted if your government continues in its failure to provide the leadership required to protect our waters.

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2.	Correspondence	9:35

Now is the time for focused and effective leadership and actions to protect our waters.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mel Arnold, M.P.
North Okanagan-
Shuswap



Marc Dalton, M.P.
Pitt Meadows—Maple
Ridge



Len Webber, M.P.
Calgary Confederation



Kevin Waugh, M.P.
Saskatoon-Grasswood



Larry Maguire, M.P.
Brandon-Souris



Martin Shields, M.P.
Bow River



Hon. Don Plett
Senator for Manitoba



Hon. Ed Fast, PC, KC, MP
Abbotsford



Hon. Tim Uppal, M.P.
Edmonton Mill Woods



Blaine Calkins, M.P.
Red Deer-Lacombe



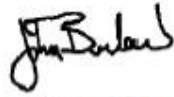
Dan Albas, M.P.
Central Okanagan-
Similkameen- Nicola



Rob Morrison, M.P.
Kootenay-Columbia



Tracy Gray, M.P.
Kelowna- Lake Country



John Barlow, M.P.
Foothills



Brad Redekopp, M.P.
Saskatoon West



Stephanie Kusie, M.P.
Calgary Midnapore



Glen Motz, M.P.
Medicine Hat- Cardston-
Warner



Dan Mazier, M.P.
Dauphin-Swan River-
Neepawa



Warren Steinley, M.P.
Regina-Lewvan



Tako Van Popta, M.P.
Langley-Aldergrove



Earl Dreeschen, M.P.
Red Deer-Mountain View



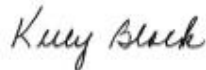
Gary Vidal, M.P.
Desnethé-Missinippi-
Churchill River



James Bezan, M.P.
Selkirk-Interlake-Eastman



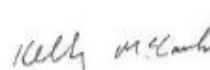
Rachael Thomas, M.P.
Lethbridge



Kelly Block, M.P.
Carlton Trail- Eagle Creek



Laila Goodridge, M.P.
Fort McMurray- Cold
Lake



Kelly McCauley, M.P.
Edmonton West



Cathay Wagantall M.P.
Yorkton-Melville

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
2.	Correspondence	9:35

 Gerald Soroka, M.P. Yellowhead	 Michael Kram, M.P. Regina- Wascana	 Ted Falk, M.P. Provencher	 Dane Lloyd, M.P. Sturgeon River- Parkland
 Damien Kurek, M.P. Battle River- Crowfoot	 Ziad Aboultaif, M.P. Edmonton Manning	 Greg McLean, M.P. Calgary Centre	 Ron Liepert, M.P. Calgary Signal Hill
 Mike Lake, M.P. Edmonton- Wetaskiwin	 Shivaloy Majumdar, M.P. Calgary Heritage	 Garnett Genuis, M.P. Sherwood Park- Fort Saskatchewan	 Rosemarie Falk, M.P. Battlefords- Lloydminster
 Branden Leslie, M.P. Portage-Lisgar	 Arnold Viersen, M.P. Peace River- Westlock	 Michael Cooper, M.P. St. Albert- Edmonton	 Robert Kitchen, M.P. Souris—Moose Mountain

Cc: Hon. George Heyman, British Columbia Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
Hon. Rebecca Schulz, Alberta Minister of Environment and Protected Areas
Hon. RJ Sigurdson, Alberta Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation
Hon. Christine Tell, Saskatchewan Minister of Environment
Hon. Jamie Moses, Manitoba Minister of Economic Development, Investment, Trade and Natural Resources
Union of BC Municipalities
Okanagan Basin Water Board
Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society
Shuswap Watershed Council
Fraser Basin Council
Okanagan and Similkameen Invasive Species Society
B.C. Wildlife Federation
Association of Alberta Municipalities
Rural Municipalities of Alberta
Alberta Invasive Species Council
Alberta Irrigation Districts Association
Canadian Prairie Chapter Irrigation Association
Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association
Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities
Saskatchewan Irrigation Projects Association
Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council
Association of Manitoba Municipalities
Invasive Species Council of Manitoba
Electricity Canada

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
3	Old business: Results of April 23 rd email vote re: water quality grant applications	9:45

Background

At the March 13th 2024 SWC meeting, Mr. Alex de Chantal, Program Manager, presented an overview of the Water Quality Grant Program purpose and how it is administered. He explained that the SWC Water Protection Advisory Committee reviewed the applications according to a set of defined evaluation criteria. He provided a brief overview of each of the eight grant applications that were received by staff during the application period, and highlighted whether the advisory committee recommended each for funding or not. In summary, the committee recommended \$59,960 be awarded to six grant applicants.

The following motion was carried at the March 13th SWC meeting:

That four grant applications be approved, and hold back two applications [from the Czepils and from Foxtrot Dairy] until we have more information about them.

The following action item was captured:

Staff will follow up with all grant applicants to schedule site visits and enter into Contribution Agreements with the four approved projects. Staff will gather more information about the two [held back] fencing projects and get clarity on agricultural regulations for fencing, and bring them back to the SWC via e-mail or at the June meeting for approval.

Update and results of email vote

Staff met with all grant applicants and completed site visits on April 17th. Staff also reviewed agricultural regulations for fencing (thanks to Kym Keogh, BC Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy, for sharing the relevant legislation with staff).

Staff shared project updates with SWC members via email on April 23rd and requested an email vote to approve the two outstanding projects. Staff made the following recommendations:

That the grant application from Jeffrey Czepil in the amount of \$20,000 be approved, AND

That the grant application from Foxtrot Dairy in the amount of \$6351 be approved.

The vote passed with seven in favour and one opposed.

Staff have signed Contribution Agreements with all grant recipients and work is underway on all projects. The total value of SWC Water Quality Grant Funding be awarded in 2024 is \$59,961.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
4	Memo from CSRD Chief Administrative Officer	10:00



**COLUMBIA SHUSWAP
REGIONAL DISTRICT**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Director Gibbons
Director Trumbley
Director Martin
Director Simpson
Director Melnychuk
Director Anderson

AND TO: Shuswap Watershed Council Staff
Chair Flynn

DATE: May 2, 2024

RE: AFTER THE REFERENDUM – WHAT COMES NEXT?

As everyone is aware, elector consent to adopt the service establishment bylaw enabling continued taxation support and CSRD official involvement in the Shuswap Watershed Council was not successful.

The bylaw establishing the original service and the CSRD participation had a “sunset clause” that required voter assent. The original date was during the COVID pandemic, and while the voting started in the fall of 2023, it was suspended due to the wildfire situation. The Province granted approval to continue the service into 2024 while we completed the suspended referendum. That process was completed in February 2024.

Respecting the decision of the voters the CSRD has made the following decisions:

- The CSRD did not tax for a contribution in 2024.
- The CSRD will ask the Shuswap Watershed Council to use existing surplus funds to operate in 2024.
- The CSRD will not be in a position to officially participate in or enter into agreement concerning the Shuswap Watershed Council.
- The CSRD will not be appointing representatives to the Council. Directors that may involve themselves will have to be careful to balance individual interest with their responsibilities to the Regional District.
- Individual Directors may choose to financially support the Shuswap Watershed Council through grant-in-aid assistance. It must be acknowledged that this funding is discretionary and must be approved annually.
- We would ask that the Council use 2024 to transition to whatever form they feel is appropriate moving forward.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. MacLean
Chief Administrative Officer

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.i	Report from Program Managers: year-end financial report	10:00

Program Managers' Report: Year-end Financial Report (April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024)

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

Program	Budgeted (\$)	Expenses (\$)	Variance (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program	44,300	42,412	1888
Water Quality Protection Program	200,064	118,516	81,548 ²
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	39,900	41,051	-1151
Safe Recreation Program	30,000	23,845	6155
Communications & Advocacy	40,600	43,108	-2508
Management & Administration	40,100	40,958	-858
Sub-total operational expenses	394,964	309,890	85,074
2023-24 contribution to Operating Reserve	24,621	24,621	0
Summary of expenses	419,585	334,511	85,074

Operating Reserve ³	(\$)
Balance at April 1 st 2023 (carried forward from March 31 st)	150,366
2023-24 contribution	24,621
Balance as at March 31 st 2024	174,987

¹ The Water Quality Protection Program often ends the year with a surplus due to funds that have been approved for spending but not carried out until the following year. \$53,004 were carried forward from March 31st 2023, dedicated to projects that were completed in 2023-24. Also see note #2.

² Of the \$81,548 surplus in the Water Quality Protection Program as of March 31st 2024, \$59,961 is allocated to projects that will be completed in 2024-25.

³ The Operating Reserve has been growing since 2016 as a result of annual surpluses.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
5.ii	Report from Program Managers': revised budget for 2024-25	10:10

Program Managers' Report: Revised budget for 2024-25

REVENUE

Source	Amount (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus (carried forward from March 31 st , 2024)	25,113
2023-24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2023-24 projects	59,961
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
Columbia Shuswap Regional District	0
Thompson-Nicola Regional District	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Grant funding:</i>	
Transport Canada – Boating Safety Contribution Program	0
Grants-in-aid	0
<i>Operating Reserve:</i>	
Operating Reserve balance from March 31 st 2024	174,987
Revenue for 2023-24	314,961

EXPENSES

Program	Program mgmt. (\$)	Disbursements (\$)	Sub-total (\$)
Water Quality Monitoring Program	14,063	33,059	47,122
Water Quality Protection Program	20,250	124,821	145,071
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	7425	27,432	34,857
Safe Recreation Program	9450	14,400	23,850
Communications & Advocacy	16,763	2725	19,488
Council Meetings & Financial Administration	38,131	1850	39,981
Sub-total operational expenses	106,081	204,287	310,368
Surplus			4593
Summary of expenses	106,081	204,287	314,961

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
6	Guest presentation: Ian Rogalski, Environment & Climate Change Canada	10:45

Ian Rogalski will present on the status and priorities of the Canada Water Agency nationally and focus on efforts to develop and implement a nascent Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative in the Fraser River Basin. The discussion will acknowledge the past and current relationship between the Canada Water Agency / Environment & Climate Change Canada and the Shuswap Watershed Council, and focus on opportunities to build on this to advance shared objectives for water quality, ecosystem health, and collaborative watershed governance in the Shuswap and throughout the Fraser River basin.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.i	For information: Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference	11:30

For information: Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TOR) sets the governance framework for the Shuswap Watershed Council. The TOR were first adopted in 2015, and have undergone minor revisions until the most recent revision in December 2021.

The Terms of Reference are on the following pages. Additionally, staff have provided governance/membership information about three other watershed-based organizations beginning on p. 27.

SWC members are asked to read and review the material to prepare for a roundtable discussion about the future membership of the SWC.



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

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

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.i	For information: Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference	11:30



North Okanagan Regional District	2 members
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

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



- Representatives from provincial agencies and the community serve 3-year terms
 - 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.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.i	For information: Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference	11:30



6. Chair and Vice Chair

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.

Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference v.6
Updated and approved December 8th 2021



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

Shuswap Watershed Council Terms of Reference v.6
Updated and approved December 8th 2021

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.ii	For information: Other watershed organizations in BC	11:30

For information: 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 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. 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.

Item No.	Agenda item	Time
7.ii	For information: Other watershed organizations in BC	11:30

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.