

Council Meeting
March 5th 2025 • 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Chase Community Hall
547 Shuswap Avenue, Chase BC

Draft meeting summary as at March 12th 2025

This record remains a draft until it is approved at the next Council meeting

Present

Rhona Martin – Community representative (*from 10:15 am*)
Stephen Karpuk – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, City of Kamloops
David Lepsoe – Thompson-Nicola Regional District, Village of Chase
Cliff Arnouse – Adams Lake Indian Band
Robyn Laubman – Splatsin te Secwepemc (*via Zoom*)
Pam Beech – District of Sicamous (*via Zoom*)
Brian Schreiner – City of Enderby
Erik Kok – Community representative
Kimm Magill-Hofmann – Community representative
Diane Sutherland – BC Ministry of Environment & Parks (*via Zoom*)
Jeff Nitychoruk – BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship
Phil Owen – Agriculture representative
Megan Ludwig – Science/academia member
Daniel Selbie – Science/academia member (*via Zoom*)

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal – Fraser Basin Council

Observers

Fred Torbohm
Barbra Fairclough (Zoom)
Clyde Mitchell (Zoom)
Anne Grube (Zoom)

Regrets

Debbie Cannon
Rick Fairbairn

Guests

Tay Powrie and Tom Pypker

- Call to Order** Alex de Chantal called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. He acknowledged the meeting taking place on the ancestral traditional territory of the Secwepemc Peoples'. Tk-wemi'ple7 Cliff Arnouse provided welcoming comments and prayed a blessing over the meeting. Alex suggested that election of Chair and Vice Chair be postponed until more people arrive to the meeting.
- Adoption of meeting agenda** **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:
The agenda be adopted.
CARRIED
- Adoption of meeting summary** **Moved/seconded** by Brian Schreiner/Phil Owen that:
The draft meeting summary from December 11th 2024 be approved.
CARRIED
- New candidates for SWC membership** Program Manager Erin Vieira gave a brief overview of the SWC membership structure and introduced three new candidates for the SWC membership: Megan Ludwig, Jeff Nitychoruk, and Daniel Selbie. They each introduced themselves and provided a bit of information about their backgrounds and expertise.
Moved/seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:
Megan Ludwig, Daniel Selbie, and Jeff Nitychoruk be appointed to the SWC membership for three year terms commencing immediately.
CARRIED
- Correspondence** **Moved/seconded** by Stephen Karpuk/Kimm Magill-Hofmann that:
The correspondence be received for information.
CARRIED
- Old business** **Moved/seconded** by Kimm Magill-Hofmann/Erik Kok that:
The draft summary of the Water Protection Advisory Committee meeting held on February 20th 2025 be received for information.
CARRIED
- Report from Program Managers** Erin Vieira provided a financial report up to the end of the third quarter, April 1st – December 31st 2024:

Program	Annual Budget (\$)		Expenses (\$)	
	Disbursements	Program Mgmt	Disbursements	Program Mgmt
Water Quality Monitoring Program	33,059	13,725	31,763	9668
Water Quality Protection Program	124,821	20,250	47,270	18,027
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	27,432	7425	27,744	7605
Safe Recreation Program	9480	3713	8619	2835
Communications & Public Engagement	2725	16,763	2544	16,165
Administration	1850	38,131	758	28,760
Sub-totals	199,367	100,344	118,698	82,302

Erin Vieira and Alex de Chantal provided an update on work completed since the last Council meeting in December:

- The SWC Water Quality Grant Program is providing funding to six water protection projects on five farms in the Shuswap watershed. Five out of the six projects are complete, project reports have been received by staff, and grant payments have been issued. The deadline for the sixth project is March 31st, 2025.
- The Water Quality Grant Program was open for applications December 1st 2024 to January 31st 2025. The grant program was advertised locally, with up to \$45,000 available. A comprehensive program guide and application templates were available on the SWC website to prospective applicants.
- The Water Protection Advisory Committee met on February 20th to review the Water Quality Grant applications. The meeting was well attended and there was a thorough discussion on the grant applications received. The committee is recommending five projects for grant funding from the SWC, for a total grant budget in 2025 of \$34,645.89. Final grant approval is awarded by the Council and is subject to site visits by staff.
- The Fraser Basin Council (staff) have finalized a contribution agreement with the Canada Water Agency for a \$170,000 grant on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council. The funding will be reflected in the fourth quarter statement (January 1st – March 31st 2025).
- Early-detection monitoring for invasive mussels in the Shuswap watershed wrapped up late fall by the Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS). The CSISS receives funding from SWC for this work. All samples tested negative for invasive mussels (i.e., no mussels were found in any samples from the Shuswap watershed).
- Program Manager Erin Vieira participated in a Provincial Invasive Animals working group meeting in early February. Updates were shared from the Province of BC regarding the Watercraft Inspection Program. A 2024 summary report from the Province can be found [here](#). All meeting attendees from across the Province also shared updates on their monitoring programs and educational prevention campaigns.
- Program Manager Erin Vieira and SWC Chair Rhona Martin presented to the ProBus Club of Salmon Arm in early February. It was a positive meeting with good discussion and feedback.
- Fraser Basin Council submitted an application for funding to the Watershed Security Fund of BC on behalf of the Shuswap Watershed Council. Staff expect to receive notice in May.
- Staff will apply for grants-in-aid and discretionary funding from local governments within the Shuswap watershed
- Staff have and continue to work on recruiting potential new members to fulfill the SWC membership as defined in the new Terms of Reference.

Rhona Martin entered the meeting at 10:15

Discussion

A few people voiced their concerns over gaps in the Province's watercraft inspection program, including operational hours of the stations (not 24/7) and the many highway entry-points into BC that do not have a station.

There was also a discussion on fundraising for the Shuswap Watershed Council. Crowd funding was suggested as one strategy, and there was an inquiry about whether staff have applied to the Shuswap Foundation.

Elections

Program Manager Alex de Chantal presided over the election.

ELECTION of Chair for 2025 is Rhona Martin by acclamation.

ELECTION of Vice Chair for 2025 is Stephen Karpuk by acclamation.

Guest presentation

Erin introduced Tay Powrie and Tom Pypker from Thompson Rivers University.

Tay presented his research on glacier coverage and influence of glacial melt in the Adams River watershed. He presented some data about glacier coverage, and loss thereof, in his study area in the last 40 years. He explained the magnitude and timing of glacial melt, and illustrated how current glacial melt is increasingly contributing to seasonal discharge in the Adams River. Tay also showed some projections of glacier melt contribution to the Adams River. Changing river temperature and turbidity will have hydro-ecological impacts, such as on trout and salmon, algae, and macroinvertebrates.

There was a Q&A session. Chair Martin thanked Tay for his important research and for the presentation.

Report from Chair

Chair Martin reported that she attended and presented at a meeting of the ProBus Club of Salmon Arm with Program Manager Erin Vieira. It was a very good discussion with positive feedback from meeting attendees. She encouraged SWC members to invite a presentation from staff to their respective organizations.

New business: Water Quality Grant Program

Erin briefly reviewed the water quality grant recommendations from the WPAC.

Phil Owen left the room due to a conflict.

Moved/seconded by Brian Schreiner/Stephen Karpuk to accept the recommendations for awarding grant funding.

Tk-wemi'ple7 Arnouse asked about the purpose and impact of the grant program. Megan commented on the difficulty faced by small farms in accessing grant funding. She expressed her support for the SWC grant program providing funding for nutrient management. Erik asked Megan to comment on the

technical merit of the recommended applications; she briefly reviewed each one and gave positive feedback. Stephen remarked that he trusts the recommendations from the committee.

CARRIED

Action item: Staff will follow up with grant recipients, and schedule site visits and draft contribution agreements with the recommended applicants.

New business: SWC membership

Program Manager Erin Vieira provided an overview of the SWC membership including those members whose terms are ending March 31st 2025, members whose terms may be renewed, and the other vacancies. She explained that the new seat for a Youth was advertised across the Shuswap watershed in January and February, but no applications were submitted.

The following people will have their terms renewed:

Representing local government: Brian Schreiner, Stephen Karpuk, David Lepsoe, and Pam Beech

Representing First Nations, pending confirmation from their communities: Cliff Arnouse and Robyn Laubman.

The remaining vacancies in the membership include two more representatives from local government, one from First Nations, and one for Youth.

Action item: Staff will follow up with Tk-wemi'ple7 Arnouse and Robyn Laubman to confirm their terms renewing.

Roundtable updates

Erik suggested staff request a presentation from the Alberta 'Cows and Fish' organization at a future meeting of the SWC. Megan suggested that the BC Environmental Farm Plan program is very similar and getting a presentation from an EFP planner would be more suitable.

David reported that the Village of Chase received a federal grant for sewer upgrades.

Diane reported that the BC Ministry of Environment & Parks is continuing their twice-a-year water monitoring program on Shuswap Lake, and a new report summarizing the past two years of water monitoring is underway.

Megan reported that BC Wildlife Federation will have some staff working in the Shuswap this summer doing some wetland assessments work. She also reported that Farmland Advantage is a program that provides funding to farms for restoration works.

Stephen reported that the City of Kamloops is seeking clarity how to maintain the integrity of dykes without compromising riparian health. He also commented on recent research on wildfires and harmful chemicals in the environment; the City is pursuing some advocacy on this.

Jeff reported that the BC Ministry of Water, Lands & Resource Stewardship is working on foreshore guidelines. He also reported that the agency has some funding earmarked for work on Rocky Mountain Ridge Mussel (a native species mussel).

Phil reported that a Bessette Agricultural Sustainable Society has formed and received some Provincial funding for a water storage study. A new potential upland storage facility would sustain water flow for fish and agriculture.

Pam reported the District of Sicamous is working on a resolution to bring to the UBCM regarding Provincial watercraft inspection stations.

Robyn reported that she attended the BC Assembly of First Nations Water Forum earlier this week, it was attended with good presentations on water policy and other subjects. She also reported that BC Hydro is proposing a sediment release trial from upstream of the Wilsey Dam (Shuswap River) in May and June; there are concerns about the impact of large quantities of sediment on the downstream salmon habitat. She also reported that Splat-sin continues to work with the Province on the Hullcar aquifer.

Rhona reported on the significant efforts toward the Bruhn Bridge replacement in Sicamous.

Action item: Staff will reach out to the Environmental Farm Plan Program and request an introductory presentation at a future meeting of the SWC.

Adjourn

Moved/seconded by Stephen Karpuk/Erik Kok that:

The March 5th 2025 SWC meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council is June 11th at City Hall in Salmon Arm, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm.