



# COUNCIL MEETING

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Shuswap Watershed Council  
December 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 • 9:30 – 11:45 AM



# ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING

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- Staff to invite Mr. Joshua Lindner, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, to the December SWC meeting by Zoom ✓
- Staff will share the Phase 2 report on the developing Wetland Strategy prepared by Associated Environmental ✓
- Staff will provide some background information on whirling disease for SWC members ✓
- Staff will send letters of introduction to newly elected/appointed Provincial Ministers ✓
- Staff to prepare list of requests of the Province regarding aquatic invasive species for the SWC members attending UBCM ✓



# PROGRAM MANAGERS' REPORT

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# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SECOND QUARTER

REVENUE SOURCE	BUDGET (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus	25,113
2023-24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2024-25 projects (water quality grants)	59,961
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous)	0
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
<i>Operating Reserve:</i>	
Full SWC Operating Reserve from March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	174,987
<b>Summary of revenue for 2024-25</b>	<b>314,961</b>

# FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SECOND QUARTER

WORK PLAN	BUDGET		EXPENSES	
	Disbursements	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Program mgmt.
Water Quality Monitoring Program	33,059	14,063	26,472	6480
Water Quality Protection Program	124,821	20,250	31,639	5287
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention Program	27,432	7425	25,244	6840
Safe Recreation Program	9480	3713	8291	2475
Communications & Public Engagement	2725	16,763	1910	10,302
Administration	1850	38,131	758	18,850
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>199,367</b>	<b>100,344</b>	<b>94,314</b>	<b>50,233</b>

Second quarter: April 1<sup>st</sup> – September 30<sup>th</sup> 2024

# PROGRAM OPERATIONS SINCE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

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- Water Monitoring Group
- Water Quality Grant Program
- Wetland Strategy
- Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention
- Communications and advocacy
- Fund development



# Water Monitoring Group

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- Shuswap Water Quality Monitoring Group had a bi-annual meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>
  - Great participation by Provincial government, municipalities, regional districts, Interior Health, First Nations Health Authority, DFO, community groups
- Discussed 2024 water monitoring activities by all organizations
- Heard a presentation from Dr. Dan Selbie, limnologist and researcher with DFO
- FBC staff provided an update on SWC initiatives



# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Six water quality improvement projects are underway or complete on five farms with funding (2024) from the SWC
  - Sunnybrae Winery – Fertigation and cover-crop management
  - Gietema Farms – installation of 'Precision GPS' on farm equipment – *complete*
  - Syme Farms – manure storage improvement
  - Foxtrot Dairy – new livestock fence along creek on farm
  - Jeff Czepil – new livestock fence along creek on farm - *complete*



Photo: Dan Gietema





# Water Quality Grant Program

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- Water Quality Protection Committee met in November to review and provide input to the 2025 grant program
- Intake opened on December 1<sup>st</sup>, will be open until January 31<sup>st</sup>
- \$45,000 available to be distributed in spring 2025
- Detailed Grant Program Guide is available online, along with link to online application, other resources including FBC staff contact information
- Grant program is being advertised locally through newspapers and social media
- What's next: WQ Protection Committee and staff will review applications in February, make recommendations for funding, and project approvals will be made at the March 2025 SWC meeting



# Wetland Strategy

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- Wetland Strategy Committee met on November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Discussion focused on the forthcoming grant funding of \$170K from Environment & Climate Change Canada for Phase 3 of the Wetland Strategy
  - Funding is ear-marked for the following: Water Monitoring Group, Community Water Monitoring Program, Wetland Strategy Phase 3, SWC Wetland Strategy document, and Indigenous-led Initiatives
  - Concerns about completing fieldwork component before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 due to weather
  - A Contribution Agreement is not yet in place, none of the funds have been spent yet



# Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

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- Educational ZQM prevention campaigns throughout the summer, wrapped up mid-fall
- Key messages:
  - Clean, drain dry watercraft
  - Pull the watercraft drainplug before travelling
  - Stop for watercraft inspection when travelling
  - \*These best practices stop the movement of ALL aquatic invasive species



STOP THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

- ✓ **Clean, drain and dry** your boat or watercraft and gear when you move it from one waterbody to another
- ✓ **Pull the watercraft drain-plug** prior to driving on BC roads
- ✓ Stop for **watercraft inspection** when you travel

 **SHUSWAP**  
watershed council

**shuswapwater.ca**

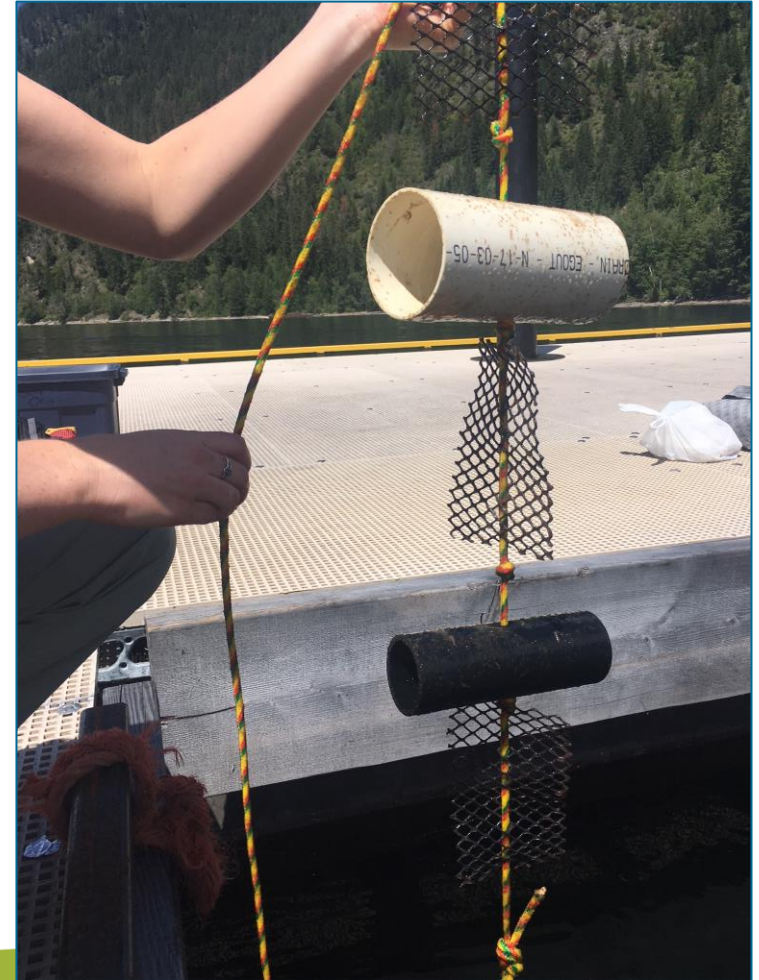
The graphic features a blue wave at the top, silhouettes of various watercraft (canoe, kayak, sailboat, motorboat) on a light blue water surface, and a light blue background for the text. The bottom section contains the SHUSWAP logo and website address.



# Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention

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- Early-detection monitoring for ZQM wrapped up this fall
  - Partnership with Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society, SWC provides funding
  - 12 sites on six Shuswap waterbodies
  - Lab results will be available soon
  - FBC staff have received CSISS' year-end report





## Update on whirling disease

- Whirling disease was confirmed in Yoho National Park, in the Columbia River watershed in December 2023
- On December 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 the Province of BC issued a bulletin announcing that trout samples taken from Kootenay Lake tested positive for whirling disease
  - Unknown if this new detection is linked to the Yoho Park infestation
- Background: whirling disease is caused by a parasite that damages the brain stem and spinal cord in juvenile fish, causing erratic 'whirling' swimming patterns. Not a health risk to humans or pets.
- Best practices: Clean-drain-dry watercraft and gear, watercraft inspection, watercraft drain-plug pulled prior to travel





## Communications

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- Letters of introduction sent to Shuswap-area MLAs in November
- Media release on December 1<sup>st</sup> re: Water Quality Grant Program
- Presentations/meetings with Neskonlith and T'kemplups te Secwepemc tentatively scheduled for early in the new year
- Presentation to ProBus Club of Salmon Arm scheduled for February



# Administration and fund development

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- FBC staff will sign a contribution agreement with Environment & Climate Change Canada for \$170,000 imminently – funds for this fiscal year
- FBC staff submitted an application to the Provincial Watershed Security Fund for next fiscal year
  - Requesting \$400,000 over two years
  - Funding will go toward many items in the SWC Strategic Plan including watershed collaboration, planning and governance, monitoring and assessment, restoration, and knowledge sharing
  - Funding announcement expected in April or May
- FBC staff intend to apply for grants-in-aid from all local/regional governments in the Shuswap watershed early in 2025



**NEW BUSINESS**

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# REVISED BUDGET FOR 2024-25

REVENUE SOURCE	BUDGET (\$)
2023-24 operational surplus	25,113
2023-24 funds allocated and carried forward to 2024-25 projects (water quality grants)	59,961
<i>Per Contribution Agreement:</i>	
CSRD (Areas C, D, E, F, G and District of Sicamous)	0
TNRD	53,600
City of Salmon Arm	0
Adams Lake Indian Band	1300
Grant funding:	
<b>NEW:</b> Environment & Climate Change Canada – Fraser River Freshwater Ecosystem Initiative	170,000
<i>Operating Reserve:</i>	
Full SWC Operating Reserve from March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024	174,987
<b>Summary of revenue for 2024-25</b>	<b>484,961</b>

# REVISED BUDGET FOR 2024-25

PROGRAM	Original budget		
	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	3713	9480	13,193
Communications & Public Engagement	16,763	2725	19,488
Administration	38,131	1850	39,981
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>100,344</b>	<b>199,367</b>	<b>299,711</b>
Surplus			15,250
<b>Total</b>			<b>314,961</b>

# TABLE

PROGRAM	SWC funding		New ECCC funding		Sub-total
	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	Program mgmt.	Disbursements	
Water Quality Monitoring Program	8687	26,684	11,000	32,000	80,372
Water Quality Protection Program	15,725	120,821	14,000	100,000	250,546
Zebra & Quagga Mussel Prevention	7425	27,432	0	0	34,857
Safe Recreation Program	3713	9480	0	0	13,193
Communications & Advocacy	16,763	2725	0	0	19,488
Council meetings, governance, and financial administration	38,169	1850	3000	10,000	53,019
<b>Sub-total expenses</b>	<b>90,482</b> (-9862)	<b>190,992</b> (-8375)	<b>28,000</b>	<b>142,000</b>	<b>451,474</b>
Surplus					33,487 (+18,237)
<b>Total</b>					<b>484,961</b>

## SWC Terms of Reference

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- Governance committee was established at the September 11<sup>th</sup> SWC meeting to review and recommend updates to the TOR
- Staff review and research of other collaborative watershed organizations informed some updates to the TOR
- Committee, along with FBC staff, met October 30<sup>th</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>
- Discussions centered on SWC membership and decision-making



# SWC Terms of Reference

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Section 4. Proposed SWC membership, effective April 1<sup>st</sup> 2025:

- Local government (municipalities and/or regional districts) – up to 3
- First Nations – up to 3
- Provincial government – up to 3
- Community reps – up to 3
- Science/research/academia – up to 2
- Agriculture sector – 1
- Youth – 1

Section 4.3

- 3-year terms, ideally staggered to allow for succession and smooth transitions

# Meeting schedule for 2025

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- Quarterly meetings, on the second Wednesday of the month in March, June, September and December
  - March 12<sup>th</sup>
  - June 11<sup>th</sup>
  - September 10<sup>th</sup>
  - December 10<sup>th</sup> – meeting via Zoom
- Potential locations:
  - Salmon Arm City Hall, Room 100
  - CSRD Boardroom? Others?

