



# Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

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**Date of Meeting:** Friday, July 21, 2017

**Location:** School District Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Road  
Salt Spring Island

**Members Present:** George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee  
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed (via web conferencing)  
Doreen Hewitt, Beddis Water Service Area Commissioner (via telephone conferencing)  
Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) (via web conferencing)  
Ron Stepaniuk, District Manager, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD)  
Sharon Bywater, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner (alternate)  
Wayne McIntyre, Deputy Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director

**Regrets:** Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner  
Derek Masselink, Ministry of Agriculture

**Staff Present:** Shannon Cowan, Coordinator  
Justine Starke, Island Planner (North Pender Island)  
William Shulba, Islands Trust Freshwater Specialist  
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

**Technical Working Group Liaison:** Don Hodgins, Co-chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group

**Conservation Working Group:** Sandra Ungerson, Chair, SSIWPA Conservation and Efficiency Working Group

**Media and Others Present:** 1 member of the public

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Grams called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. and welcomed William to the meeting. Introductions were carried out.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following addition to the agenda was presented for consideration:

- 4.13 Correspondence dated July 20, 2017 from a member of the public regarding potential damage to fish habitat

**By general consent**, the agenda and addendum were adopted.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Draft Minutes of the June 23, 2017 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Regular Meeting**

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Minutes of June 23, 2017 were adopted.

### **4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **4.1 Chair's report**

Chair Grams reported he attended the Wells and Groundwater workshop on June 30, 2017. There were 24 members of the public that attended the workshop and it may be worthwhile to run a second workshop.

#### **4.2 St. Mary Lake water quality update – North Salt Spring Waterworks Representative**

NSSWD Board Representative Stepaniuk reported the level of St. Mary Lake is 40.5 meters and that is above the July 2014, 2015 and 2016 levels. Water Conservation Level 3 is now in effect. NSSWD is in the process of reviewing Bylaw No. 274 - Water Distribution Regulation Bylaw 2016 and will change "Water Conservation Level" to "Water Restriction Level" to reflect that it is a restriction and not optional. Rainfall in the last 30 days was 0% and Environment Canada is predicting hot and dry conditions. There are no toxins in the St. Mary Lake treated water although there are low levels of toxins in the raw water (0.17 to 0.19 per mcg per litre) and the level of toxins is well below the acceptable level of 1.5 mcg per litre. The level of Maxwell Lake is approximately 12 inches below the weir.

#### **4.3 Cusheon Lake water quality update – Beddis Water Commissioner**

Committee Member Hewitt presented an update regarding the Cusheon Lake Watershed and the following highlights were noted: The lake level on July 20, 2017 was 1.33 metres with a corrected level of 1.196 metres. The corrected level in 2016 was 1.008 metres. The Secchi disk measurement was 4.9 m on July 20, 2017, slightly higher than June 2017. The flow rate in Cusheon Creek is 0.07 metres/second. The flow is measured just downstream from Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society's hatchery, which features pumping from a well to a fish tank and it empties into Cusheon Creek, adding to the lake outflow volume. Lake outflow is also altered by beaver dam activity: the beaver dam was opened up at the top, approximately 15 cm wide and 5 cm deep. Precipitation received at Gulf Island Secondary School: July

2015: 10.6 mm; July 2016: 16.5 mm; July 2017: 0.2 mm. The Ministry of Environment has installed platforms as part of a research project to find Nutria. Residents have expressed concern regarding large masses of filamentous algae that is lime green, floating and submerged.

#### **4.4 Coordinator's report**

Coordinator Cowan presented the Coordinator's Report for the period of June 16, 2017 to July 15, 2017 and highlighted the following items: The Stream Monitoring program is ongoing and none of the streams have dried up yet, although McFadden Creek is expected to be dry soon. Last month it was reported that there was an issue with the monitoring equipment in Fulford Creek and the equipment was recovered and is now in place. There are temperature data loggers in four of the minor creeks and, level loggers in 2 of the major creeks. The FLNRO Fish and Wildlife aquatic ecologist will be conducting the third site visit, next week, to check on the water level data loggers and temperature data loggers. Data sharing with the community wells groups (improvement districts and private water systems groups) is ongoing and Coordinator Cowan will upload the data to a confidential online folder, so that it will be available to the Data Users that have signed a Terms of Use Agreement. SSIWPA will submit a request to North Salt Spring Waterworks District for two of the wells that the District manages. Eighteen groups (water districts, community groups) were formally invited to be part of the Rainwater Harvesting Tour and the Water Preservation Society agreed to co-host the event with SSIWPA. The Watermark newsletter was published on July 20, 2017. Islands Trust has requested that Coordinator Cowan attend the Planner in the Park events that will be held at the Tuesday Farmer's Market in Centennial Park in July and August 2017.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan would attend two or three "Planner in the Park" events in August, 2017.

#### **4.5 Technical Working Group update**

Technical Working Group Co-chair Hodgins presented the following report:

- Task 1 – Safe Supply from Surface water: The TWG assessment of the response to the Weijs review and the revised report is complete and the TWG met on July 11, 2017 to approve. Subsequent approval of resolution obtained by email (with two abstentions) as follows: "that the SSIWPA-TWG approve Appendix E document (authored by D. Hodgins, dated July 1 2017 version), and the Revised version of "Safe Water Yield Analysis for Surface Water Resources" (by D. Hodgins, dated July 1 2017) to be sent from TWG to Steering Committee as a response to the Weijs review of the original "Safe Water Yield Analysis for Surface Water Resources" dated December 2016."
- A comparison of the Kerr Wood Leidal 2015 "St. Mary Lake Water Availability and Demand Climate Change Assessment" with the TWG's "Safe Water Yield Analysis" is complete. The TWG approved the following resolution by email: "That SSIWPA - TWG approve the proposed memo to advise Steering Committee on comparative methods

used by Kerr Wood Leidal in the 2015 St. Mary Lake report, and by TWG's D. Hodgins in the draft 2017 St. Mary Lake Safe Yield Analysis report”.

#### **4.6 Conservation and Efficiency Working Group update**

Conservation and Efficiency Working Group Chair Ungerson reported the CEWG did not meet in July.

#### **4.7 Technical Working Group ‘Terms of Reference’**

The draft Technical Working Group Terms of Reference was presented. Coordinator Cowan presented the questions (1) “Is it the role of TWG to fill the critical information gaps and if yes, what methods are appropriate according to each agencies policies and procedures?” (2) “Are there any methods that would not be appropriate?” (3) “Is there a barrier for your agency to be able to use the data generated by such TWG action?” Committee Member Stepaniuk reported that a newly appointed NSSWD Trustee would likely be appointed to SSIWPA and requested that any decision about changes to the TWG Terms of Reference be tabled to the next meeting.

There was discussion and the following comments were noted:

- Identifying data gaps seems reasonable.
- There was question regarding whether it would be more appropriate to have a third party fill the data gaps.
- The TWG would receive a workplan from the Steering Committee regarding any work.
- It would be important to have a feedback loop to ensure that filling a data gap is a worthwhile activity and is in line with SSIWPA’s mandate and agreed workplan.
- The CRD would have concern if the data included personal information such as specific property owner information.
- It would be appropriate for some of the data gaps to be filled by the agency that needs the information.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to request that Coordinator Cowan revise the draft Terms of Reference to replace “To bring to SSIWPA Steering Committee suggested methods by which those gaps could be filled.” with “To bring to SSIWPA Steering Committee recommend options by which those gaps could be filled.” and to add an objective to indicate “the work of the TWG is directed by SSIWPA”.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to defer a decision on the revised draft of the Technical Working Group Terms of Reference until the next regular meeting.

#### **4.8 Technical Working Group ‘Response to Weijs’ review of Safe Yield Report’**

TWG member Beall presented the Technical Working Group ‘Response to

Weij's review of Safe Yield Report' and reported that the TWG has agreed it is ready for public distribution.

There was discussion and the following comments were noted:

- Concern was expressed regarding publishing the response at this time.
- Support was expressed to publish the response following receipt of the EcoFish report regarding Duck Creek and the Kerr Wood Leidal update in September/October 2017.
- Support was expressed to publish the review with the caveat that the reports are based on different data sets.
- The Kerr Wood Leidal report will be new work and will likely create confusion whenever it is released whether now or later.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to defer the 'Response to Weij's review of Safe Yield Report' to the next meeting.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan would forward the 'Response to Weij's review of Safe Yield Report' to William Shulba for peer review.

#### **4.9 Action 4.10 from Steering Committee meeting June 23, 2017**

On behalf of TWG, member Don Hodgins presented a method comparison between TWG's "Safe Water Yield Analysis" and Kerr Wood Leidal's 2015 "St. Mary Lake Water Availability and Demand Climate Change Assessment". In summary, the studies answer fundamentally different questions.

#### **4.10 'Well Inventory' project launch update**

Coordinator Cowan reported Task 5a - the Well Inventory project is moving forward. William Shulba reported he would like to use the Leapfrog Hydro model and suggested that the project be separated into two phases.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed William Shulba would update Sylvia Barroso regarding the Well Inventory project.

#### **4.11 'Groundwater Monitoring' Draft REFBC funding application**

Coordinator Cowan presented the draft General Grant Application Form for SSIWPA Groundwater Monitoring Project and noted that funding has been confirmed from all three matching funding partners (CRD, FLNRO and Islands Trust).

#### **4.12 Events and Announcements**

- 4.12.1 Royal Roads University - SSI Rainwater Project Final Presentation  
- Monday, August 28, 2017 - Invitation to attend for SSIWPA Steering Committee or Working Group members

4.12.2 Salt Spring Fall Fair booth September 16 and 17, 2017

Coordinator Cowan reported SSIWPA will have a booth at the 2017 Fall Fair and she will circulate a sign up sheet.

4.12.3 Rainwater Home Tour hosted by SSIWPA October 14, 2017 update

Sharon Bywater reported there are six participants confirmed and three more sites that have not been confirmed.

**4.13 Correspondence dated July 20, 2017 from a member of the public regarding potential damage to fish habitat**

It was noted the member of the public could contact the Report all Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line.

**By general consent**, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Committee Member Starke will refer this back to the Islands Trust.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

**5.1 Questions and Comments from Public**

One member of the public expressed support to defer the release of the Technical Working Group's 'Response to Weij's' review of Safe Yield Report' until following the Incorporation Referendum. The member of the public also expressed support to include a 100-year return period to reflect more extreme climate events and added that a precautionary approach is necessary.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 18, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the School District 64 Boardroom Portable, 112 Rainbow Road.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

**By general consent** the meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

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George Grams, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Sarah Shugar, Recorder