



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, July 17, 2015
Location: School District #64 Boardroom
112 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island

Members Present: George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director
Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee

Members Regrets: Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality Management Program
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed
Craig Nowakowski, Vancouver Island Health Authority

Staff Present: Stefan Cermak, Acting Regional Planning Manager
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Technical Advisory Committee Liaison: Don Hodgins, Technical Advisory Committee Chair

Media and Others Present: Maxine Leichter, member of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
4 members 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.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent the agenda was adopted.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft Minutes of the June 19, 2015 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Regular Meeting

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Minutes of June 19, 2015 were adopted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported that he has been working with staff and the SSIWPA coordinator on the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for St. Mary Lake.

4.2 St. Mary Lake Water Quality Update – North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Jeff Thompson reported that the level of St. Mary Lake is 40.374 meters below average for this time of year. Currently, the water quality is in good condition with no significant algal blooms and turbidity is below one NTU. The NSSWD water conservation restrictions have had an impact on lowering water usage.

4.3 Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the Coordinator's Report for June 19, 2015 to July 17, 2015.

4.4 Technical Advisory Committee Chair's Report

Don Hodgins reported that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been working on reviewing, editing and finalizing the TAC components of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for St. Mary Lake. TAC hosted a public information meeting on July 7, 2015 regarding the septic systems on St. Mary Lake that was well attended.

4.5 Draft Integrated Watershed Management Plan – Final Draft for Approval

4.5.1 Public Advisory Committee (PAC) suggested changes to IWMP

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the PAC suggested changes to the IWMP.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to:

1. add: DAF NSSWD plant will no longer let any backwash from filter cleaning re-enter the lake (also-F-H plant), which will result in more P removal from SML. (beside the description of plants);
2. add a map of the stormwater sampling sites (Don Hodgins will provide);
3. support in principle "Water Council and SSIWPA to undertake a survey to establish baseline data for social science" and add the 2012 Water Council survey of lakeshore property owners to the appendix;
4. replace "protecting ecological fundctions" with "to improve and protect ecological functions that impact raw water quality".

4.5.2 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) suggested changes to IWMP

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the TAC suggested changes to the IWMP.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to accept the Technical Advisory Committee suggested changes to the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

4.5.3 Format of IWMP

Coordinator Cowan presented the draft format of the IWMP.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to the draft format of the Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

4.5.4 Implementation workplan proposed

Coordinator Cowan presented the proposed Implementation workplan.

4.5.5 Identify St. Mary Lake IWMP 2016 funds that require forwarding for consideration by Capital Regional District (CRD) and Ministry of Environment (MOE)

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding the IWMP 2016 funds to identify lead agency, grants and funding for each of the following items:

1. Stormwater Water Quality Monitoring (Phase 1)
2. Verification of Septic Nutrient Input Study - *add (under review) after \$10,000*
3. SML Water Quality Monitoring
4. Water Quality Best Management Practices (SSIWPA website)
5. Survey of Quality / Quantity Improvement Activities by SML Landowners
6. Watershed Stewardship Workshops
7. Environmental Farm Plan Program – Group Plan Workshop
8. Water Quality Signage - *add grant funding*
9. Island Wide Water Fair - *add grant funding*
10. Youth Watershed Stewardship Activities - *add grant writing assistance*

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to forward the St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan 2016 funds list to the Islands Trust Grants Administrator.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority requested the Coordinator to add a symbol to indicate the items that have secure funding identified.

4.6 None

4.7 Summer Workplan for SSIWPA (Public consultation on Draft IWMP)

Coordinator Cowan presented the St. Mary Lake IWMP Public Release - SSIWPA Summer Workplan 2015.

4.7.1 St. Mary Lake IWMP Public Release and Celebration Event

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding the St. Mary Lake IWMP Public Release and Celebration Event.

There was discussion and concern was expressed regarding capacity to host a public event, finding a suitable location, parking and the weather for an outdoor event.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed the St. Mary Lake IWMP Public Release will be at the 2015 Fall Fair.

4.7.2 Cowichan Field Trip

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding a proposed field trip to the Cowichan Lake and River Watershed regarding riparian restoration work.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to schedule the Cowichan Lake and River Watershed field trip on September 18, 2015 and reschedule the regular SSIWPA meeting.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to invite TAC members and PAC members on the Cowichan Lake and River Watershed field trip.

4.7.3 Talking Points for public outreach

Coordinator Cowan presented the SSIWPA Outreach Talking Points dated July 9, 2015.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to the SSIWPA Outreach Talking Points dated July 9, 2015 and Chair Grams will add the document to the SSIWPA website.

4.7.4 SSIWPA Watershed Stewardship Brochure – sent via email July 8

The SSIWPA Watershed Stewardship Brochure sent via email July 8, 2015 was received for information.

4.8 SSIWPA Advisory Committees as Working Groups

A/RPM Cermak presented an update regarding the SSIWPA Advisory

Committees.

4.9 Cusheon Watershed Workplan Next Steps

4.9.1 Defining the Problem: Facilitated Meeting to Determine Emergent Stakeholder Interests

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding the Cusheon Lake Workplan Next Steps and Wayne Hewitt and Doreen Hewitt of the Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee were invited to present. The following items were noted:

- Cusheon Lake experienced a big algal bloom in 1999;
- activities such as tree cutting in Roberts Lake directly affect Cusheon Lake;
- Cusheon Lake typically has algal blooms in September;
- the largest farm in the watershed switched to phosphorus free fertilizer;
- the new Beddis Water Treatment Plant does not backwash the waste into the lake;
- there is a need for public education to help residents know what watershed they live in;
- there is a need to address the disconnect between lakeshore residents and residents in the upper watershed.

The following to do items were noted:

- to host an issues and concerns meeting with stakeholders and residents and invite Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee to present at the meeting;
- to do a mail out including the Cusheon Watershed map to residents in the watershed to invite participation in the process;
- to identify the watershed as Cusheon/Blackburn/Roberts Watershed.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority requested the Coordinator to schedule a Cusheon/Blackburn/Roberts Watershed meeting following the release of the St. Mary Lake IWMP and invite the Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee to present at the meeting.

4.9.2 Identify 2016 Fiscal Budget Needs

Chair Grams spoke to the process to identify the 2016 fiscal budget needs.

Director McIntyre spoke to the CRD budget timeline and requested the budget item for Cusheon Lake Watershed 2015/2016 be received within three weeks.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority requested a budget update at the next meeting to inform the budget of the Cusheon Lake Watershed project.

4.10 Letters Received

4.10.1 From O. McOuat July 10 to Coordinator (and her reply) *already forwarded to Chair who forwarded to Islands Trust Bylaw Enforcement Officer

The correspondence was received.

4.11 Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is scheduled on Friday, August 21, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. - SD64 Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Rd.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Questions and Comments from Public

The following comments were noted:

- Maxine Leichter expressed support for the PAC recommendation to have a more rigorous process regarding the public education objective in the SML IWMP and that it would be an excellent project for grant funding and could be a model for other communities;
- One member of the public asked about the timing of the storm water runoff data collection. Answer: The storm water monitoring was done January 2015 to April 2015 and will continue from November 2015 to April 2016 for a complete data set.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Sarah Shugar, Recorder