



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, June 19, 2015 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

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
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed (via web conferencing)
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

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: John Borst, member of Public Advisory Committee (PAC)
Ron Hawkins, member of the public
Maxine Leichter, member of the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) & Water Preservation Society
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist
Usha Rautenbach, member of the Public Advisory Committee & Water Preservation Society
Maggie Squires, member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

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 May 25, 2015 Salt Spring Island Watershed

Protection Authority Regular Meeting

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Minutes of May 25, 2015 were amended by replacing “Stefan Cermak, Island Planner” with “Stefan Cermak, Acting Regional Planning Manager” and that the minutes were adopted, as amended.

3.2 Draft Minutes of the May 25, 2015 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Structured Decision Meeting Workshop III for St. Mary Lake

By general consent the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Structured Decision Making Workshop III Minutes of May 25, 2015 were adopted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair’s Report

Chair Grams reported that he has been working with Coordinator Cowan and staff regarding the St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP). He has been working with staff regarding the water conservation initiative that was prioritized by SSIWPA and the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee. As Chair of the North Pender Local Trust Committee, he has been asked to review the Trincomali Water Improvement District that is experiencing a declining aquifer that supplies the wells. He suggested a water conservation committee that would include representation from other islands for consideration. He will attend Trust Council on Galiano Island scheduled on June 24 – 25, 2015.

Director McIntyre noted a proposed residential water conservation grant program will be discussed at the next CRD Electoral Area Services meeting.

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

Jeff Thompson reported that St. Mary Lake is fully stratified and turbidity is below one NTU. North Salt Spring Waterworks District has put water restrictions in place due to the current class three drought conditions and the total rainfall in May was 3 mm.

4.3 Coordinator’s Report

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the Coordinator’s Report for May 25, 2015 to June 19, 2015. She noted communications with Fresh Water Alliance regarding the Water Sustainability Act and the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship society regarding their riparian restoration work. She presented an overview of the work plan for the Integrated Watershed Management Plan for St. Mary Lake and the Public Consultation schedule.

It was noted to consider the Ganges Fire hall as a site to set up a booth for public consultation.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to request Shannon Cowan to send a letter to the Salt Spring Island Fire Department regarding water conservation measures.

Coordinator Cowan presented the Community Event Final Plan Release. There was discussion regarding traffic, parking, lake levels, emergency planning, potential scheduling conflict with other community events and including historical photos from the public. Please email Coordinator Cowan with comments.

4.4 Technical Advisory Committee Chair's Report

Don Hodgins presented Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) progress and the following highlights were presented:

- Septic monitoring will be finalized within the next month. Storm water assessment is complete for this hydrological year;
- John Sprague completed the bird P-input estimate and bird P-input has been estimated to be approximately 13 kg per year. It is not clear if the P-input is new to the watershed or recycled;
- TAC has developed an initial list of reports following the monitoring program and analysis of the historical data sets. A report on the new data is complete and TAC is drafting a summary report.

He presented slides regarding the emerging results for Storm water P-runoff. Twenty-three sites have been identified; possible high impact sites will be determined through the planned 2015-2016 stormwater sampling program.

4.4.1 Can Bio-manipulation Reduce Algal Biomass in St. Mary Lake? – June 15, 2015 report by Maggie Squires to SSIWPA

The report was received.

4.4.2 Bird Nutrient Input Estimate to St. Mary Lake – TAC

The report was received.

4.4.3 Future Research Studies for St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan – TAC revision

The report was received.

4.5 “Bio-manipulation: Assessing Fish and Plankton at St. Mary Lake” – a presentation by Maggie Squires

Maggie Squires presented “Bio-manipulation: assessing fish and plankton at St. Mary Lake”.

4.6 St. Mary Planning Tasks

4.6.1 Structured Decision Making (SDM) Completion Tasks

The report was received.

4.6.2 Structured Decision Making (SDM) Final Report from Compass Resource Management (Draft)

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding the SDM Final Report from Compass Resource Management. There was discussion regarding the aerators in St. Mary Lake.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to recommend Compass Resource Management amend the draft Structured Decision Making (SDM) Final Report to:

- remove “Aerator Engineering Study”;
- remove Table #6, as both nitrogen and chlorophyll fall into the Table #5. Item #5 “Water Quality Monitoring”. This water quality monitoring is specifically to do a) more frequent data collection at turnover and immediately following, and it is b) to measure N, and Chlorophyll, in addition to all of the current parameters that are measured when NSSWD collects water quality data at the lake;
- indicate that study no. 2 in Table 5 is the exact same thing as Step 1 in MA 1 (Stormwater). The words “Monitoring portion of MA#1” are unclear. This step is the first step of MA#1, and there is no second step unless the first step reveals information that could be interpreted in such as way as to warrant Step 2. Make this more clear in MA#1. Also, in Table 2, the steps are called phases (Ph1 and Ph2), and this should be consistent throughout (either phases or steps, but not both).

4.6.3 Draft SML Management Plan (IWMP)

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion regarding the Draft St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan from Compass Resource Management.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to amend the draft St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan to:

- add table of contents;
- add opening statement;
- add “Existing Bylaws” section.

Please send additional edits to Coordinator Cowan.

4.6.4 Agriculture Education Component – Details v2.0

Coordinator Cowan presented the Agriculture Education – Component Details.

4.7 Demand Management Update

Planner Cermak reported the Request For Proposals (RFP) for the Water Conservation and Demand Management Plan has been posted. Coordinator Cowan will add a link to the SSIWPA website.

4.8 Technical Advisory Working Group Proposal

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

4.9 Cusheon Lake Watershed Management Discussion

Coordinator Cowan led a discussion to analyze the St. Mary Lake Structured Decision Making (SDM) process.

The following strengths were identified: structure of SSIWPA worked well overall; next time will be easier; driving force for speed of process; building knowledge base; good team building exercise; TAC and PAC interaction added value; and public response helps validate for governing agencies.

The following negatives were identified: SDM was obscure; Ministry Of Environment's (MOE) lack of chemical treatments affected the efficacy; and the process diluted the science at times.

The following opportunities were identified: to determine the extent of the decision table before beginning; MOE is a key player; efforts to understand the problem should take majority of first step; to review Terms of Reference for all three working groups (SSIWPA, TAC and PAC); spend time on education before engagement; and Cusheon Lake has long standing Stewardship Group.

4.10 Letters Received

4.10.1 From Erwin Dyck – Retirement from Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) and Steering Committee - Action: Invite Craig Nowakowski at VIHA to replace?

The correspondence was received.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to invite Craig Nowakowski to provide input when necessary, and to receive minutes and updates.

4.10.2 From Maggie Squires - Letter June 4 2015

The correspondence was received.

Chair Grams acknowledged Maggie Squires for her contribution as a member of the Technical Advisory Committee.

4.10.3 From Shannon Cowan - Shoreline Plants From A Paddle on St. Mary Lake

The correspondence was received.

4.10.4 From BC Climate Action Funds Manager

The correspondence was received.

4.10.5 From Water Council President John Borst – Appeal for funding support for July 19, 2015 Proposed Water Conservation Forum.

John Borst presented the letter regarding Water Council's Water Conservation Forum event.

A/RPM Cermak advised the letter is on the next Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee agenda.

The correspondence was received.

4.10.6 Open Letter Connecting Water Restrictions and Water Sustainability Act (from Susie Porter-Bopp Canadian Freshwater Alliance to SSIWPA, and other local water groups across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands). See also response from SSIWPA.

The correspondence was received.

4.11 Meeting Schedule

Coordinator Cowan presented the following meeting schedule:

Next Steering Committee (with both PAC and TAC) IWMP Draft Review Meeting: Monday, July 6, 2015, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Library Program Room, 123 McPhillips Avenue.

Steering Committee Meeting: Friday July 17, 2015, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 pm - SD64 Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Road. Please be prepared to discuss Implementation for IWMP, and Budget 2016 fiscal.

Steering Committee Meeting: Friday August 21, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - SD64 Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Road. Budget finalization for CRD and MOE.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Questions and Comments from Public

The following comments were noted:

- Usha Rautenbach noted that her well is dry and that the low water levels may have caused the well pump to fail. She noted that during the recent rainfall she was able to collect a high volume of water in various water catchment containers.
- One member of the public advised that Salt Spring Island is going to have a major problem with low levels of groundwater this year.
- Maggie Squires noted that a hydrological study for Roberts Lake, Blackburn

Lake and Cusheon Lake is underway.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:31p.m.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Sarah Shugar, Recorder