

ADOPTED
MINUTES of the SALT SPRING ISLAND
WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY
Friday, February 28, 2014 – 10:30 AM
CRD PARC Meeting Room, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road

Members Present:

George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist
Justine Starke, Islands Trust Island Planner
John Stewart, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Present Via Video Conferencing and Telephone:

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

Others Present:

5 members of the public
Peter Grove, Island Trustee

Regrets:

Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director
Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality
Erwin Dyck, Vancouver Island Health Authority Supervisor of Health Protection
Michelle Kehler, Ministry of Environment, Impact Assessment Biologist

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 10:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following change was made to the agenda: addition of Item 5.1 – correspondence from M. Leichter.

By general consent, the agenda was approved, as amended.

3. MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT MEETING

3.1 Draft Minutes of the January 24, 2014 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting

By general consent the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority minutes of January 24, 2014 were adopted, as presented.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported twelve letters have been received regarding the SSI Special Property Tax Requisition Consultation Process; eight in favour, two opposed and two neutral. He has responded to each letter. The decision will be considered at the next Islands Trust Council meeting.

4.2 Current Condition of St. Mary Lake

Meghan McKee reported on the latest test results of St. Mary Lake. She noted St. Mary Lake is currently experiencing a bloom that is dominated by diatoms. The bloom is causing the filters to clog and has required additional staff time to clear the filters. The bloom does not affect water quality. The recent phosphorus results were lower than expected at this time of year. Levels in February typically predict spring and summer algal growth patterns. The recent precipitation filled Maxwell Lake and St. Mary Lake to seasonal levels.

4.3 Coordinator's Report

Shannon Cowan reviewed the Coordinator's Report dated February 28, 2014.

4.4 Watersheds 2014! Conference Debriefing

Shannon Cowan reviewed the Watersheds 2014! Salt Spring Satellite Forum notes dated January 27, 2014. The forum was a one-hour facilitated discussion following the conference. She reviewed the Watersheds 2014! – A Summary of the conference that was held January 27 – 29, 2014.

4.5 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair's Report

John Stewart reported the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is meeting twice per month. The focus is to identify and quantify the phosphorus sources that are entering St. Mary Lake with the data available. TAC is also looking at the runoff component of phosphorus loading to the lake. The next meeting will focus on internal loading mechanisms (sedimentation and re-cycling of phosphorus) levels of phosphorus. Remedial options are not being discussed until there is a consensus regarding the processes that are occurring to affect lake eutrophication. TAC will be addressing remedial options soon.

4.6 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Terms of Reference Change Request

Shannon Cowan reviewed the proposal to amend the Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference. Planner Starke advised that staff does not object to the proposal.

By general consent, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Terms of Reference are amended, as follows:

Meetings

TAC will hold periodic open meetings (a minimum of twice per calendar year). TAC will report monthly on its progress and current activities in SSIWPA monthly meetings, which are open to the public. Working meetings of the TAC will be closed to the public due to the scientific and

sometimes confidential nature of data analysis the TAC will be undertaking. Minutes of the TAC working meetings will be restricted to the TAC, since they may contain items of a sensitive nature (for example, preliminary cost estimates for remediation actions). TAC working meetings will be held a minimum of six times per year, and as frequently as required, at a location mutually agreed to by TAC committee members.

Notice of Meetings

Notice of the date, time and location of all TAC meetings will be posted by the Coordinator to the TAC Committee by email, including the Chair of SSIWPA. Notice of "Open" TAC meetings will be given on the SSIWPA website and advertised in the local media.

4.7 Community Engagement Plan

Shannon Cowan presented Planning for Community Engagement in SSIWPA - A Proposal dated February 26, 2014. The purpose is as follows: so the public will be informed and involved and have a sense of ownership of the decisions made by SSIWPA.

Planner Starke left the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Chair Grams cautioned that the plan is conditional upon approval of the tax requisition. He noted the important role TAC will have in the community engagement process and further work is needed to clarify the role of TAC.

It was noted the public awareness campaign regarding recreation in Maxwell Lake could be an opportunity for collaboration with SSIWPA.

4.8 Structured Decision Making – A discussion of the method and alternatives

Shannon Cowan advised there was a Structured Decision Making (SDM) training scheduled in April that has been cancelled. Compass Management has offered to design a training program for SSIWPA, and it would be an opportunity to train local facilitators.

4.9 SSIWPA Meeting Schedule 2014:

Shannon Cowan reviewed the proposed 2014 meeting schedule, as follows:

28/2/14

21/3/14

25/4/14

23/5/14

20/6/14

18/7/14

22/8/14

19/9/14

24/10/14

21/11/14 – Annual Public Meeting as well

December SSIWPA will not meet during winter holiday.

By general consent, the 2014 SSIWPA meeting schedule was approved.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Memo from Maxine Leichter – Public Involvement

Shannon Cowan reviewed the memo from Maxine Leichter dated February 28, 2014 regarding public involvement.

Discussion followed and the following items were noted:

- The cornerstone of public participation process is two-way information flow.
- Public awareness issues are sometimes called public participation.
- It is imperative to emphasize the technical component in the decision process.
- Public support is necessary when defining legislation or there may be non-compliance and/or non-conforming issues.

6. QUESTIONS / COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Shannon Cowan invited the members of the public to ask questions or provide comments. The following items were noted:

- The Chair of TAC will report at the monthly SSIWPA meetings to provide updates and recommendations;
- The minutes from the SSIWPA meetings are available online at ssiwatersheds.org
- There was question regarding why St. Mary Lake is still experiencing the algal blooms. The response was there is no clear answer to date, the situation is complex, each lake is complex and TAC is working to find answers;
- There was question regarding whether the diatoms are dead when they are backwashed back into the lake. The response was the diatoms are not necessarily dead;
- Lake Erie is experiencing very similar conditions and climate change has been identified as a major contributor. Climate change and the relationship between rising temperatures and algal blooms may be a local public awareness opportunity;
- Support was expressed regarding the initiative to get kids involved in remediation efforts;
- Support was expressed for the work of SSIWPA.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SSI Watershed Protection Authority is scheduled for March 21, 2014 at 10:30 a.m., at the CRD Parks and Recreation Commission office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road.

8. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

George Grams, Chair

Sarah Shugar, Recorder