

ADOPTED
MINUTES of the SALT SPRING ISLAND
WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY
Friday, April 25, 2014 – 10:30 AM
CRD PARC Meeting Room, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road

Members Present:

Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Leah Hartley, Islands Trust Regional Planning Manager (RPM)
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner
Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director
John Stewart, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Present Via Video Conferencing and Telephone:

Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed Management Program
Erwin Dyck, Vancouver Island Health Authority Supervisor of Health Protection

Others Present:

Don Hodgins, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Maggie Squires, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Ron Stepaniuk, North Salt Spring Waterworks District
Gulf Islands Driftwood Reporter
Three members of the public

Regrets:

Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist

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 10:35 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft Minutes of the March 21, 2014 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority minutes of March 21, 2014 were adopted, as presented.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported the following two items:

1. Attended the Association Vancouver Island Coastal Communities conference. One resolution relevant to SSIWPA and the LTC was raised:

Therefore be it resolved that UBCM request the Ministry of Environment to proceed in its efforts to modernize the Water Act including full consultation with First Nations, to ensure that the new Water Sustainability Act establishes strong framework, in the context of provincial and federal oversight and regulatory backstop that: increases the local role in key decisions affecting the health of watersheds; ensures protection for water for fish and the environment in the context of local conditions; regulates groundwater; promotes water conservation; recognizes first nations rights and title; establishes a meaningful role for local government, first nations, and local watershed authorities regarding approvals and control. That motion carried.

2. Work done revising the website and uploading documents.

4.2 Current Condition of St. Mary Lake

Ron Stepaniuk reported on the latest test results of St. Mary Lake. He noted St. Mary Lake is currently experiencing a bloom that is not toxic. The most recent secchi depth reading was between 50 to 60 inches (to be confirmed by Meghan McKee). The first phase of fencing Maxwell Lake is complete with additional signage. Vandalism and trespassing are reported to the RCMP when they occur at Maxwell Lake.

4.3 Water Quality Objectives

Dale Green reported last year the Ministry of Environment undertook the development of a Water Quality Objectives report. The draft report is now complete. It was requested that the TAC designate one person to review the draft report. Chair Grams noted the next TAC meeting is scheduled on April 28, 2014 and this item would be added to the agenda. Chair Grams acknowledged CRD funded the water quality objectives report.

4.4 Technical Advisory Committee Chair's Report

John Stewart provided a report on TAC progress regarding working on an understanding of the St. Mary Lake nutrient budget (especially phosphorus inflow, lake stock and outflows). At the last TAC meeting, they discussed the TAC proposal for a Sampling Program to collect empirical evidence of phosphorus and nitrate inputs and outflows in St. Mary Lake that was presented at the March 21, 2014 SSIWPA meeting and developed a list of working papers that TAC is developing to formally record its progress. TAC will begin to put the proposal into action as funding becomes available. TAC will spend the next series of meetings writing, reviewing and approving reports on various aspects of the scientific review that has lead to the rationale for the current need of a Sampling Program; these include the current state of the septic phosphorus inputs, assessment of the use of aerators in the Lake, and internal phosphorus cycling and its function in cyanobacterial bloom cycles.

Director McIntyre advised that the TAC proposal would be on the early May 2014 CRD Board meeting agenda for final approval of the cash contribution that CRD is making to the TAC sampling project.

Chair Grams noted the management of funds will be discussed further and the funding

has come through in time for data collection of the current season. There will be an announcement for the public participation portion of the project and it was noted that it could be beneficial to have an ongoing nomination process for public participation.

4.5 Coordinator's Report: Community Engagement and Earth Day Update

Shannon Cowan reviewed the Coordinator's Report dated April 16, 2014. She requested submissions for The Watermark newsletter. She noted the Real Estate Funding of BC (REFBC) funding has not yet been received.

4.6 Website Proposal

Chair Grams reported the new website is ssiwatersheds.ca. The information is being transferred from the ssiwatersheds.org, and that address will be set to forward to the new address in June 2014. The new website is live although it is presently hidden from search engines. It contains Committee pages that are password protected, and the Steering Committee has been sent those passwords in an email from Chair Grams.

4.7 SSIWPA SDM Revised Workplan from REF BC Proposal

Shannon Cowan reported the funding has been approved but it is not yet received. The work plan will begin when the funding has been received. She noted the Structured Decision Making (SDM) workshops have been pushed ahead two months, to begin in June 2014. The first workshop will be to get to know St. Mary Lake, the second workshop will be to integrate the TAC findings and the third workshop will be to ratify the plan. **Action By Steering Committee Members before end May 2, 2014:** Please forward comments to Shannon Cowan.

4.8 SSIWPA Budget

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the SSIWPA Draft budget for April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015. It was noted that the CRD Gas Tax is \$35,000 and the CRD Stormwater is \$10,000. **Action By Steering Committee Members before end May 2, 2014:** Please forward comments to Shannon Cowan.

4.9 Questions / Comments from Public

The following questions and comments were noted:

- Is there a more detailed budget for the TAC proposal available to the public? It was noted this would be an item for the next meeting of the TAC.
- A comment: The process of appointment to the Public Advisory Committee would be better expressed as an invitation for representatives, rather than an application or nomination process to SSIWPA. The comment was taken under advisement.
- There was question regarding what additional measures could be done to protect the Maxwell Lake watershed? It was noted North Salt Spring Water Works reports vandalism and trespassing to the RCMP and has a security company patrol the area during the summer season.
- There was question regarding the public cooperation during the septic monitoring portion of the study. It was noted that public support is expected.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Justine Starke

The letter from Justine Starke was received. The Chair sent best wishes to Justine Starke on behalf of SSIWPA.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SSI Watershed Protection Authority is scheduled for May 23, 2014 at 10:30 a.m.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

George Grams, Chair

Sarah Shugar, Recorder