

ADOPTED MINUTES
SALT SPRING ISLAND WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY (SSIWPA) MEETING
November 29, 2013 10:30 am
Lion's Hall, 103 Bonnet Avenue, Salt Spring Island

PRESENT:

George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Dale Green, CRD, Integrated Watershed Management Program
Erwin Dyck, Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) Supervisor of Health Protection
Michelle Kehler, Ministry of Environment (MOE) Impact Assessment Biologist
Meghan McKee, NSSWD Water Quality Specialist
Shannon Cowan, Coordinator SSIWPA
John Stewart, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)
Justine Starke, Islands Trust Island Planner
Neva Hohn, Recorder

REGRETS:

Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD)
Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality

OTHERS PRESENT:

5 members of the public

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following were added to the agenda:

- 4.7 add Discussion of a Satellite Event
- 4.7 add Coordinator's Report

By General Consent the Agenda was approved as amended.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft Minutes of the October 18, 2013 SSIWPA Meeting

The following was added to the minutes:

- at 7.3, "The black scum was determined to be seed pods, not algae".

By General Consent the Minutes of the October 18, 2013 SSIWPA Meeting were approved as amended.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported his attendance at the inaugural TAC meeting and introduced John Stewart, TAC Chair, who will liaise between the TAC and SSIWPA. He also reported on his meeting with Coordinator Cowan in preparation for the upcoming Public Open House meeting.

4.2 Current Condition of St. Mary Lake

M. McKee reported that not much has changed since her last report. She observed that findings seem to show that phosphorus levels tend to follow cyanobacterial bloom rates (higher shortly after bloom begins and lower after die-off), and not the other way around. TAC work to review phosphorus-cyanobacterial relationships and to analyse aerator function and outcomes will be invaluable.

4.3 SSIWPA Draft Work Plan

Coordinator Cowan outlined all the work she has been doing and then went through the draft work plan as circulated, referring to planned events. She invited questions and comments by email; endorsement is required to move forward. M. McKee asked if the March 2014 deadline for TAC recommendations to SSIWPA was realistic. TAC Chair Stewart replied that he would like to see this deadline kept as an incentive to TAC.

By General Consent the Draft Work Plan was endorsed as circulated.

4.4 Technical Advisory committee (TAC) Chair's Report

TAC Chair Stewart asked about the protocol for requesting additional funding or further studies and consultants. Chair Grams said he should come to the Steering Group with a list and Islands Trust Staff would facilitate. Planner Starke reported on how contracts are administered.

TAC Chair Stewart then outlined the preliminary work undertaken by TAC to review reports and research that exists in an effort to define the problem priorities, and to consolidate the information. M. McKee said that she would be working with TAC member Squires to consolidate some of the raw data into a more convenient format for interpretation and analyses.

TAC Chair Stewart identified the TAC members and gave some historical information about St. Mary Lake. He showed on a map the area surrounding the lake from which mobile phosphorus, vegetation, sewage and drainage from roads would enter the Lake. Thus far, one of the TAC goals is to quantify inflow of phosphorus to the Lake and also review historical methods used to reduce phosphorus. Members of the TAC asked questions about groundwater monitoring and requested that reports be forwarded to them.

4.5 TAC Meeting Schedule

The next TAC meeting will be December 5, 2013 and there would try be two meetings per month, coordinated by S. Cowan. These will be posted to SSIWPA's Website as soon as they are confirmed (for 3-6 months at a time).

4.6 Real Estate Foundation Grant Application

Planner Starke explained the Grant Application and circulated budget, which targets costs for Structured Decision-Making. She requested that the various organizations in the Steering Group identify what in-kind amounts they would be able to give towards this project, and what matching cash amounts. The Foundation will only consider funding projects where the Foundation portion of total cash is equal to or less than 50%. The CRD would like to see more of the agencies at the table showing cash participation. The due date is January 10, 2014, so Planner Starke requests SSIWPA member agencies to give her their answer by January 4. E. Dyck will ask Island Health. M. Kehler will present this to D. Epps (MOE) who will consider this request in the process of MOE restructuring.

4.7 Other Business

4.7.1 Satellite Event

There is a conference in Duncan on January 27-29: Watersheds 2014. Live-streaming of the event will happen locally on January 27th, and the Coordinator will make an invitation to local groups and citizens to participate. Salt Spring will be considered to be one of the roundtable discussions of the main conference for the morning of January 27th, and will be able to view conference proceedings via a web-casting system on that day. Members of SSIWPA and TAC are scheduled to attend. S. Cowan will facilitate. There is no cost associated with being a satellite event. Planners and Islands Trust staff will also attend this event.

4.7.2 Coordinator's Report

This occurred at 4.3.

4.8 Questions/Comments from the Public

There were none.

5. NEXT MEETING

5.1 The next meeting of the SSIWPA is scheduled for January 24, 2014.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Shannon Cowan, Coordinator

Neva Hohn, Recorder

