

**ADOPTED
MINUTES of the SALT SPRING ISLAND
WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY MEETING
Friday October 18, 2013 – 10:15 AM**

CRD Parks and Recreation Commission – 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI

Members Present:

George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist
Justine Starke, Islands Trust Island Planner
Shannon Cowan, Recorder

Present Via Video Conferencing:

Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed Management Program
Erwin Dyck, Vancouver Island Health Authority Supervisor of Health Protection

Regrets:

Geneen Russo, Ministry of Environment Drinking Water Resource Specialist
Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality
Michelle Kehler, Ministry of Environment, Impact Assessment Biologist
Glenn Harris, Capital Regional District, Senior Manager, Environmental Protection Division
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner

Others Present:

Maxine Leichter, Ron Hawkins, Don Hodgins, Lisa Rodgers, Pravin Pillay

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.

3. CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION – IN CAMERA:

- 3.1 The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority closes this meeting to the public subject to Community Charter section 90(1)(a) *for the receipt of personal information about identifiable individuals who are being considered for positions appointed by the Authority.*

4. OPEN MEETING RESOLUTION

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority re-opens this meeting to the public subject to Section 89 of the Community Charter.

5. RISE AND REPORT

George Grams reports that interviews with the nominees of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) are ongoing. Three nominees will be interviewed informally in the coming week. A conclusion on the final makeup of the TAC could not be reached today.

6 MINUTES

6.1 Draft Minutes of the September 20, 2013 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting

By general consent the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority minutes of September 20, 2013 were adopted.

7 BUSINESS

7.1 Chair's Report

1. With select committee members, undertook assessment of the applications for the coordinator role, undertook interviews and confirmed the provisional appointment of Dr. Shannon Cowan. Staff is currently finalizing the contract conditions.
2. Received and forwarded three applications for seats on the Technical Advisory Committee. The applications and nominations are in today's agenda package and will be discussed in camera.
3. Trustee Grams and Justine Starke met with Dr. Asit Mazumder (Prof. Advanced Aquatic Ecology), University of Victoria for a reference for the TAC application by Lisa Rodgers, and to discuss his work with Res'eau Network.
4. Updating website and issuing press releases re: new Coordinator.

7.2 Delegations

Lisa Rodgers, an M.Sc. student, presented the goals and scope of her research project. By informal consent, it was agreed that her directions would be of use to the TAC and to the process of SSIWPA. Lisa aims to measure phosphorus loading into St Mary lake as a part of her comparative study of rural watershed nutrient loading, including other lakes on Vancouver Island. Dr. Mazumder is working with the RES'EAU research partnership. The UBC RES'EAU is looking for a pilot community watershed project, like Salt Spring St Mary Lake, to test a vacuum-UV filtration system.

7.3 Current Conditions of St. Mary's Lake

Meghan McKee gave the water quality update:

Toxins: There have been no toxins detected in St Mary Lake raw water since mid September, and toxin levels have been lower than the acceptable limit since mid July, 2013.

Biota: Zooplankton in St Mary Lake is much more diversified than it has been reported at other sampling sessions. Some parts are thick with zooplankton of various varieties. Meghan reports never having seen that before.

Tree seed pods are visible as black floating scum, over the last week. The species of cyanobacteria (microalgae) responsible for toxic blooms over the last two years has continued to drop.

Nutrients:

Phosphorus is at 151 ppb in the sediment-water interface. The lake is in the period of fall overturn (mixing). It will be fully mixed within a week or two. After overturn last year, P level was 66 ppb. Less than 10 ppb P is enough to create algal blooms.

Clarity: Two weeks ago, clarity in the water column hit an all time best measure (in a 10 year period), of just more than nine meters. (Note: This means that visibility at sample location, was to 9m depth, of total 12m depth). By comparison, clarity measure in April, 2013, was less than 1m. This week clarity measure was at 5m.

Turbidity: Uniform mixing through top 10m. Only the bottom 1m is over three NTU at sediment water interface.

Redox potential should be above 300 in a healthy lake: the top 3m of St Mary Lk. are nearing 300 Redox (which ranges 280 to -10 near the bottom of the lake). Mixing has helped the redox potential.

7.4 Letter to First Nations

Justine Starke reported that she received feedback from Islands Trust and the Capital Regional District on the content and tone of the invitation to local First Nations, as a result of previous direction from the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority. The invitation has been sent to everyone on the referral list who has a traditional relationship with the area. There has been no response to this letter, to date. Wayne McIntyre commented that he met with Sylvia Olsen (Tsawout First Nation). on strengthening the relationship between the CRD and First Nations in the southern gulf islands.

7.5 Coordinator – Welcome

Justine discussed priorities for the Coordinator's immediate role: the development of an annual work plan for SSIWPA and budget, organizing and leading the public presentation and introduction to SSIWPA in November, and assistance to the TAC for an inaugural meeting. Trustee Grams agreed to facilitate the process of an inaugural meeting of TAC, since the TAC is not yet finalized.

7.6 TAC – Welcome and Meeting Schedule

John Sprague and Chris Laughlin (VIH) sent regrets.

7.7 SSIWPA Annual Meeting/Consultation – November dates

The SSIWPA Terms of Reference require an Annual Meeting with the community Setting Annual meeting date depends on prior approval of budget and work plan for SSIWPA, which will need to align with Islands Trust Financial Planning Committee meeting in November.

Coordinator Shannon Cowan arrange a date for November SSIWPA meeting (Annual Meeting).

7.8 Terms of Reference

Justine Starke moved to approve the amended TOR. Changes in the amended version included a redundant and poorly worded paragraph in the Scope and Geographical Areas section. It was agreed by Consensus to approve the TOR.

7.9 Other Business

Wayne McIntyre reported his involvement with BC Small Water Systems Working Group (MOE, MNR and five electoral areas are represented; 3 years running). Best Practices documentation from this group will emerge shortly and may be useful to SSIWPA.

7.10 Questions/comments from the Public

Ron Hawkins (public) acknowledged SSIWPA for the work presented and its forecasted future directions. First Nations interest in the St Mary Lake watershed were discussed. George added that transparency and outreach have been important to the SSIWPA from the start.

Pravin Pillay (public) suggested that historical practice is important for setting up targets, and that SSIWPA process today seeds the process of the future.

8 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the SSI Watershed Protection Authority is scheduled for **November 22, 2013**. A consultation was discussed for November 23 or 24th, 2013, to be determined and confirmed by Justine.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:19 p.m.

George Grams, Chair

Shannon Cowan, Recorder