



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, May 19, 2017

Location: School District Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island

Members Present: George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed (via telephone conferencing)
Doreen Hewitt, Beddis Water Service Area Commissioner
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner
Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) (via telephone conferencing)
Wayne McIntyre, Deputy Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director

Regrets: Derek Masselink, Ministry of Agriculture
Ron Stepaniuk, District Manager, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD)

Staff Present: Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
Justine Starke, Island Planner (North Pender Island)
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

Technical Working Group Liaison: Don Hodgins, Co-chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group

Conservation Working Group: Sandra Ungerson, Chair, SSIWPA Conservation and Efficiency Working Group

Media and Others Present: 1 member of the public; Driftwood Reporter

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 10:37 a.m. and welcomed Committee Member Hunt following an absence due to illness.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was adopted.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft Minutes of the April 21, 2017 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Regular Meeting

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Minutes of April 21, 2017 were adopted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported he has rebuilt the SSIWPA website due to another security breach and additional security software has been purchased for \$9.00 per month. The Watermark newsletter will be redesigned to be consistent with other SSIWPA materials. Chair Grams met with North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee Robert Steinbach regarding the work of SSIWPA. It was noted all the data on the SSIWPA website is public information.

4.2 St. Mary Lake Water Quality Update – NSSWD Board Representative – none

4.3 Cusheon Lake Water Quality Update – Beddis Water Commissioner

Committee Member Hewitt presented an update regarding the Cusheon Lake Watershed and the following highlights were presented:

- The lake level was 1.173 metres on May 4, 2017. In 2016 the lake level was 1.226 metres. The lake level was 1.224 metres on May 18, 2017. In 2016 it was 1.194m. This shows that the lake level has gone up just a little and is controlled by the beaver dam even though the dam is small right now.
- The creek level out flow was 0.13 metres on May 18, 2017. There is evidence that the beavers are slowly building a dam but the water is still flowing out. Tyler Brook is still flowing.
- Precipitation received at Salt Spring Elementary: April 2017: 79.5 mm. The comparison for May is as follows: May 2015: 5.3 mm; May 2016: 6.3 mm; May 2017: 31.5 mm.
- There has been considerable rain in May but this does not accumulate very much in the lake.
- A report has been received about the dead beaver. The report indicated that the beaver died of staphylococcus and pneumonia.
- On May 1, 2017, Committee Member Hewitt met with Rosie Barlak at the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) in Nanaimo. She checked the instrumentation that the CLSC uses. It was noted that there would be no water quality monitoring done on Salt Spring Lakes by the Ministry over the next 18 months, as it has no staff. She was going on maternity leave for 18 months and would then return. The MOE has not replaced Michelle Hawryluk's position.

4.4 Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Cowan presented the Coordinator's Report for the period of April 1, 2017 to May 12, 2017 and highlighted the following items:

- The community well data project is underway. There are nine community wells: two are complete, three are in process and 4 are pending more discussion. The data that has been received has been aggregate, by user and will be useful for updating the wells database.
- There is a new stream monitoring initiative led by FLNRO that will align with a SML work plan task. A Fish and Wildlife aquatic ecologist will install water level data loggers at Cusheon Creek at the outflow of Cusheon Lake and Fulford Creek near its source at Ford Lake as well as some of the feeder creeks. Fulford Creek has been identified as one of the most sensitive salmon bearing streams in BC. McFadden Creek, Ganges Creek and Bullock Creek will also be monitored.

There was question regarding creek accesses on private land. A property owner will monitor Bullock Creek and volunteer(s) will monitor Reid Creek. There was question regarding liability protection for fieldwork. There was question regarding whether the Squires/Bodaly report regarding the Blackburn Watershed has been shared with SSIWPA.

It was noted that Committee Member Lapcevic would look into liability protection for fieldwork for the stream flow citizen science project. It was noted that the Squires/Bodaly report had been shared with SSIWPA via email.

4.5 Technical Working Group Report

Technical Working Group Co-chair Hodgins presented the following report:

- D. Hodgins met with Francis Zwiers Executive Director of the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium at UVIC regarding the global climate models that TWG proposed could be applied to specific watershed datasets for workplan task 2. The feedback was positive and the analysis will begin July/August 2017.
- The TWG is reviewing the external review of SML water quantity study by Weijs and a written response is expected within a week and will go to TWG for review and assessment. D. Hodgins will present the response at the next TWG meeting. The TWG recommendations would be presented to SSIWPA in June.
- The scope of work has been completed for the groundwater tasks.
- The next Technical Working Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 13, 2017.

4.6 Conservation and Efficiency Working Group update - CEWG Chair

Conservation and Efficiency Working Group Chair Ungerson presented an update. It was noted the draft scope of work will be circulated to SSIWPA and will be on the next SSIWPA meeting agenda.

4.7 Golder Phase 1 - IWM Workplan Task #7a - Update

Committee Member Lapcevic reported Golder Associates has completed phase one and FLNRO has completed review and comment of phase one. The Golder phase one report and FLNRO review of phase one will likely remain in draft form until phase two is complete. The Ministry of Environment is in the process of allocating funding for phase two – from the groundwater science program.

There was question regarding whether the Golder Associates draft report of phase one can be forwarded to SSIWPA and shared with the public. It was noted the draft phase one report by Golder Associates was shared with the Technical Working Group, who did not provide any comments to FLNRO or to the consultants, and since the report is in draft form it is not a public document at this stage.

Committee Member McIntyre reported the CRD is conducting drilling for water in Ganges and has requested data from the Ministry (FLNRO). It was noted that the Ministry staff had corresponded with project managers for this CRD initiative and that staff member Sylvia Barroso (also SSIWPA-TWG member) had offered assistance and follow up with CRD project managers, as necessary. Committee Member McIntyre and Committee Member Green would contact the project manager to discuss recent well activity and sharing of data between the Ministry and the CRD.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority requested that TWG Co-chair Hodgins and Committee Member McIntyre would discuss recent CRD well activity in the Ganges area.

4.8 CRD Bylaw Amendment No. 4178 re: Extension of Stormwater Service on SSI

Committee Member McIntyre and Committee Member Green reported the CRD Bylaw amendment No. 4178 is in process and will provide more flexibility for participation in the SSIWPA mandate. The CRD has no plans to bring in a groundwater specialist at this time.

Committee Member McIntyre reported the CRD has commissioned a report regarding the potential for water reclamation for processed water in the Ganges Harbour area and the report is available online. There was question regarding whether the report includes a feasibility analysis. It was noted the report does not address feasibility and it may be useful to refer the report for CEWG review and comment.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan would circulate the CRD report regarding Ganges Wastewater to SSIWPA members.

4.9 Budget

4.9.1 Year End Report 2016-17

Coordinator Cowan presented the SSIWPA Year End Report 2016-17 to March 31, 2017. It was noted there is a surplus that could be used for an existing SSIWPA program. If SSIWPA would like to use the surplus for a new program, it would need SSI Local Trust Committee approval.

4.9.2 Budget for IWM Workplan Tasks - Draft

Coordinator Cowan presented the Draft SSIWPA Budget for IWM Workplan Tasks.

4.9.3 Budget Categorization for IWM Workplan Tasks - Draft

Coordinator Cowan presented the Working budget – SSIWPA Integrated Watershed Management Program.

Planner Starke reported that the existing referendum funds can be used for coordinating the work of the member agencies of SSIWPA, and cannot be used for assisting the work of the agencies. There was question regarding (1) whether the matching cash needs to be “cash” or can be “in kind”; (2) whether FLNRO can administer a REFBC grant.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Planner Starke would discuss funding options with Islands Trust Local Planning Services.

4.10 Scope of Work Memos for Approval

4.10.1 IWM Task 5a “Wells Inventory - Phase 1”

Coordinator Cowan presented a memorandum dated April 24, 2017 regarding the Work scope for Objective 1: safe supply from groundwater – Wells Inventory Task 5a.

There was question regarding (1) whether the \$12,000 required cash in the Task 5a draft budget could fall within the constituency fund (2) whether the CRD could provide funding for this project and (3) what are the management responsibilities for the activity.

Planner Starke reported the constituency fund could be used for this project. It was noted the wells monitoring program is not a time sensitive program and the groundwater monitoring estimated cash cost is \$3,060.00 per well.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to approve the Integrated Watershed Management Task 5a “Wells Inventory - Phase 1” Scope of Work as presented, subject to the acquisition of funding.

4.10.2 IWM Task 5b “Well Monitoring Program”

Coordinator Cowan presented a memorandum dated April 24, 2017 regarding IWM Task 5b “Well Monitoring Program”.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to approve the Integrated Watershed Management

Task 5b “Well Monitoring Program” as presented, subject to acquisition of funding.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan would proceed with drafting the content of the REFBC grant for IWM Task 5b.

4.11 TWG Terms of Reference

Coordinator Cowan presented the TWG Terms of Reference and reported the document is out of date.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan and Chair Grams would update the TWG Terms of Reference.

4.12 SSIWPA Materials, Outreach products for approval

4.11.1 IWM Project Charter Updated Version for approval

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to approve the IWM Project Charter Updated Version and the document will be posted to the SSIWPA website.

4.11.2 Best Management Practices Draft version 2

The draft Living With Water: Information Links to Policy, Regulations and Best Practices for Water Resource Stewardship on Salt Spring Island was presented. It was noted this could be a resource to be distributed for new property owners.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to add the “Living With Water: Information Links to Policy, Regulations and Best Practices for Water Resource Stewardship on Salt Spring Island” to the SSIWPA website and to refer the document to the CEWG to explore how to integrate the information.

4.11.3 IWM Workplan (public) Final

The IWM Workplan (public) was presented.

4.13 Correspondence

4.13.1 Letter to Steering Committee from Lorrie Hunt in his capacity as Water Council Treasurer

The correspondence was received. Chair Grams reported the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority is not authorized to cover the expense.

4.14 Events and Announcements

4.14.1 Well Owner Workshop - Friday, June 30, 2017 – the Hart Bradley Hall 10:00 to 12:30 p.m.

4.14.2 Islands Trust posts Senior Freshwater Specialist Position

Chair Grams reported the Islands Trust posts Senior Freshwater Specialist Position is posted on the website and in the Watermark Newsletter. The application deadline is May 25, 2017.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Questions and Comments from Public

One member of the public (1) asked for clarification regarding the CEWG technology categories (municipal, agricultural, industrial/commercial, residential) and whether the categories collectively represent the total water consumption on Salt Spring Island and (2) commented that realtors are the front line entry point for people coming to and leaving Salt Spring Island and this information needs to be in realtors hands so that people who are considering living on Salt Spring Island do not pay the price of not knowing the information regarding water.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, June 16, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the School District 64 Boardroom Portable, 112 Rainbow Road.

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at p 12:22 p.m.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Sarah Shugar, Recorder