



**SSIWPA
Annual Report - 2015**



Purpose of Report	Page 2
About SSIWPA	Page 3
2015 Goals	Page 4
2015 Achievements & Lessons Learned	Page 5
Workplan for 2016	Page 6
Financial Summary	Page 7

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to communicate an overview of the goals and achievements in 2015, SSIWPA's second full year. It will also expand on lessons learned, yielding next steps for the 2016 fiscal year, and provide a financial summary for 2015.

About SSIWPA

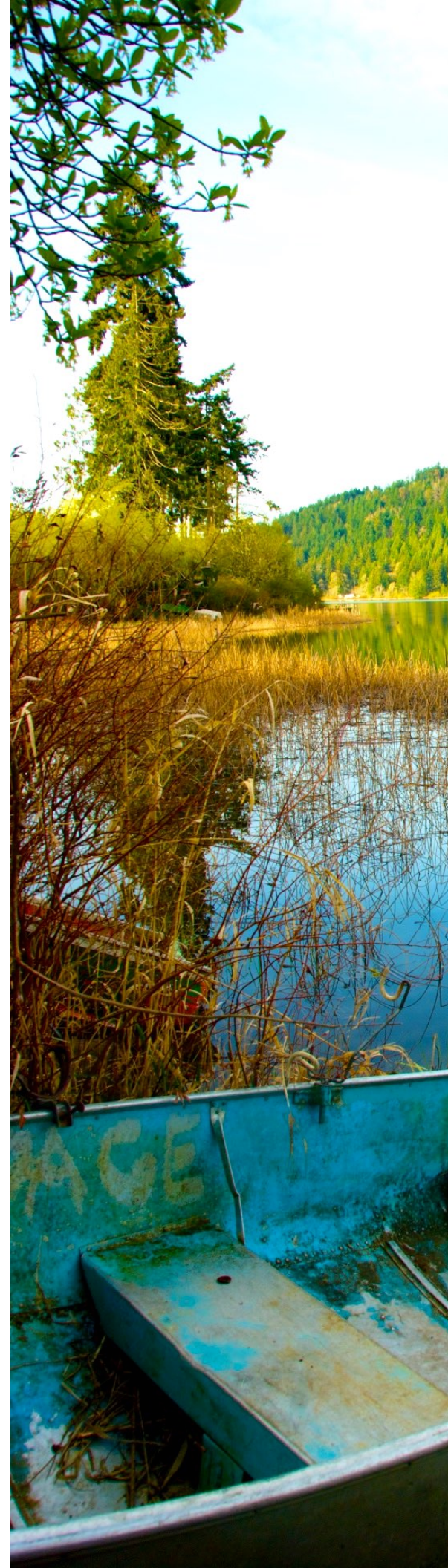
Formed of member agencies from local, regional and provincial governments, SSIWPA is a leader in collaborative watershed governance in the province of British Columbia. SSIWPA serves as a forum for the sharing of information between agencies responsible for related but distinct areas of watershed management. Collectively, SSIWPA formulates and recommends policies and strategies for watershed management, and engages multiple stakeholders for evidence-based decision-making that takes the breadth of local values into account, within an ecosystem health context.

“SSIWPA aims to cooperate on the development and implementation of policies and initiatives for improved raw water quality and coordinated management of quantity of Salt Spring Island’s water sources.”

SSIWPA’s Steering Committee meets monthly, and forms the main coordinating body of SSIWPA. While SSIWPA can coordinate communications and monitoring, outreach and education, as well as policy recommendations, any policies recommended by SSIWPA Steering Committee must be endorsed and/or implemented by individual member agencies.

SSIWPA’s multidisciplinary Technical Working Group is comprised of members-at-large, working together with government scientists, whose areas of expertise lie in the various fields of science related to water and watershed health (for example limnology, hydrogeology and geology, engineering, water chemistry, forest sciences, soil sciences, zoology, etc.).

The Steering Committee also relies on input from public advisory committees, that provide a perspective on locally-relevant community values and information with regard to proposed policies and planning and implementation in watershed management actions.



SSIWPA's primary goal for the year was the preparation of an integrated watershed management plan for the largest surface source of drinking water on Salt Spring Island, St. Mary Lake.

Subsidiary goals that were necessary in order to complete the management plan were several:

- the receipt of the Technical Advisory Committee's lake condition assessment with management action options for remediation identified and rated¹
- the establishment of an advisory body that was able to represent the public view to the steering committee and in the structured decision making process (see bullet below) in terms of how the management plan would align with the community's environmental, financial and social values.
- to use a structured decision making process to identify and sort appropriate management actions for stewardship or remediation of the lake.
- to increase the workload capacity and scope of the Authority through sourcing grants and outside funds to supplement the tax requisition.



¹ 2014-15 monitoring program results interpretation (nutrient input quantities: in-lake, septic soil water samples, watershed runoff, atmospheric deposition, bird deposition, and phyto-and zoo-plankton samples)

SSIWPA achieved its goals for 2014-2015. The main achievement last year was the completion, publication and adoption of the St Mary Lake Watershed Management Plan which has some key messages. The main one is that there is no need for this community to incur the very significant cost that would be necessary to instal a central sewage system to serve properties around the lake. Septic systems contribute only minimally to the phosphorus load on the lake which field studies have demonstrated is stable over time, although phosphorus content varies seasonally.

Over the coming year the agencies that comprise SSIWPA will be working together, with our expert group of technical and scientific volunteers, with outside consultants and with our community to make progress in two important areas. The first is a review of the supply side of our island potable water resources and what measures need to be put in place to ensure we use those resources efficiently and sustainably. That exercise is crucial in ensuring future supplies for the likes of the affordable housing projects currently on line, and for other important initiatives that our OCP recognized as desirable.

SSIWPA has also begun the studies that will lead to the preparation of a revised management plan for the Cusheon Lake watershed which supplies potable water to the many dwellings around the lake. Like St. Mary lake, Cusheon Lake has been suffering algal blooms in recent years, some of which were toxic.

This year the Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resources has joined SSIWPA's steering committee. We have also successfully attracted several new members of the technical working group, thus increasing the array of technical and scientific skills available to our community.

Lastly, the Partnership of Water Sustainability in BC has featured SSIWPA on its website, describing our unique management model as a "Blueprint for a Resilient Response to Climate Change" and extolling our approach to watershed management. The article is available on the Partnership's website at <http://waterbucket.ca/>. It is because of the support of island residents that we are able to continue the work seen by the Partnership for Water Sustainability and others as an exemplar of good watershed governance. We extend our thanks to our community for funding the important work that SSIWPA undertakes.

Workplan for 2016



Activity	Management Action	Start Date	Finish Date	% Complete	Sept 15		Oct 15			Nov 15			Dec 15			Jan 16			Feb 16			Mar 16			Apr 16			May 16			Jun 16			Jul 16			Aug 16			Sept 16			Oct 16			Nov 16			Dec 16			Jan 17																				
					14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27	4	11	18	25	1	8	15	22	29	5	12	19	26	3	10	17	24	31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26
Coordination, Funding, Admin		11/16/15	5/31/16	27%																																																																				
LTC-SSIWPA project: Conservation and Supply Consulting NSSWD area																																																																								
Grant proposal: HCTF for SML IWMP actions, Cusheon survey and stewardship actions		2/1/16	5/31/16	0%																																																																				
Budget CRD for 2016		11/16/15	3/14/16	0%																																																																				
Tax Requisition funding request for SSIWPA		1/1/16	3/31/16	100%																																																																				
Outreach and Watershed Stewardship Education		9/21/15	6/30/16	4%																																																																				
Fall Fair		9/21/15	9/24/15	100%																																																																				
Water Fair (incl. IWMP workshop action)		1/1/16	3/31/16	0%																																																																				
MONAD		2/1/16	2/29/16	0%																																																																				
SML : Three common perceptions challenged by the SSIWPA 2014-15 monitoring program_M Squires		2/1/16	2/29/16	0%																																																																				
SML: Septic Final Presentation 2014-15_D Hodgins		2/1/16	2/26/16	0%																																																																				
SML Celebration at the lake		6/1/16	6/30/16	0%																																																																				
Open house		11/27/15	11/27/15	100%																																																																				
annual report		2/29/16	2/29/16	90%																																																																				
St Mary Lake		9/21/15	10/31/16	7%																																																																				
SSIWPA IWMP Final and Printing		12/1/15	12/1/15	100%																																																																				
Reporting: REFBC, Berman Fdn, Prov. Ministries		10/5/15	10/16/15	100%																																																																				
Press Releases: DW, Van Island		9/28/15	10/16/15	100%																																																																				
Public WQ sampling program presentation by Dr. Squires		10/5/15	10/9/15	100%																																																																				
Stormwater monitoring: TWG	MA1	10/26/15	3/31/16	0%																																																																				
Septic : TWG	MA2	10/12/15 11/9/15 1/1/16	10/16/15 11/13/15 2/29/16	100% 100% 0%																																																																				
Quality monitor: TWG, CRD, NSSWD	MA3																																																																							
BMP draft complete	MA4																																																																							
Survey - help to create BMPs brochures/education	MA5	2/1/16 7/4/16	4/29/16 10/31/16	0% 0%																																																																				
HCTF Seed Grant May	MA5, 6, 9, 12, 16	3/1/16	5/31/16	0%																																																																				
Workshops: March 13, another in fall 2016	MA6	3/1/16 5/2/16	3/31/16 5/31/16	0% 0%																																																																				
Cowichan Trip Report (Sept 18)		9/28/15	10/9/15	100%																																																																				
EFF Group workshop, SSIAA, David Tattam	MA7																																																																							
Signage - CRD (HCTF funding? May)	MA8	3/1/16	10/31/16	0%																																																																				
Committee meetings and coordination, event production	MA9																																																																							
Kids for Creeks - liaison, Water Fair	MA10	9/28/15 11/9/15	10/9/15 11/27/15	100% 100%																																																																				
Septic: existing septic brochure education (mail outs, events)	MA11	9/21/15 2/1/16	9/25/15 3/31/16	100% 0%																																																																				
SML Survey - includes septic question	MA11	8/1/16	9/30/16	0%																																																																				
Part of HCTF May grant	MA12	3/1/16	10/31/16	0%																																																																				
Apply Grant HCTF for MAs 10, 16	MA13	3/1/16	5/31/16	0%																																																																				
EcoAction Grant applied in 2016 (implement 2017)	MA14, 15	2/2/16 6/1/16	2/29/16 10/31/16	0% 0%																																																																				
keyline workshop: Hatchet n'Seed	MA16	3/1/16	3/31/16	0%																																																																				
POLIS Capacity Building Workshop	MA6	3/1/16	3/31/16	0%																																																																				
TWG Reports		1/1/16	3/31/16	48%																																																																				
Algae and phosphorus - Dhodgins		3/1/16	3/31/16	0%																																																																				
Can biomaniipulation alter algal blooms..? M Squires final others...		1/1/16	1/29/16	100%																																																																				
Cusheon Lake		9/18/15	1/31/17	5%																																																																				
Review Cusheon Management Plan 2007		11/2/15	1/29/16	0%																																																																				
Identify Data Gaps in 2007 plan		1/1/16	1/29/16	0%																																																																				
Survey pilot for BMPs and education info		11/23/15	1/29/16	0%																																																																				
Creek monitoring liaison with independent scientists		9/21/15	1/31/17	0%																																																																				
Cusheon public meeting, presentations to SSIWPA		9/18/15	10/23/15	100%																																																																				
Supply/Conservation		10/26/15	4/1/16	0%																																																																				
TWG problem identification, modelling project draft steps		10/26/15	4/1/16	0%																																																																				
Steering committee expansion for groundwater expertise		11/9/15	3/31/16	0%																																																																				

DRAFT

Financial Summary

SSIWPA's core funding of \$119,500 was provided by Salt Spring Island taxpayers in the form of a special property tax requisition raised through the Islands Trust. In addition, SSIWPA member agencies provided considerable financial support for integrated management planning, research and monitoring related to the preparation of the St. Mary Lake Integrated Watershed Management Plan.

SSIWPA would like to acknowledge the generous grants awarded during 2015 towards its project areas. Thanks to British Columbia Real Estate Foundation for its grant of \$20,000 to Islands Trust for the unique St. Mary Lake multi-stakeholder planning process. Thanks to the Province of British Columbia for a Water Protection and Sustainability Grant of \$7,000 through the Ministry of Environment to Capital Regional District for the completion of plankton sampling and analysis at St. Mary Lake. Finally, SSIWPA acknowledges the generous donation of \$10,000 to Islands Trust from the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation, \$7,500 of which was used in support of the multi-stakeholder planning process and \$2,500 of which was used in support of water quality monitoring.

With the generous grants mentioned above, SSIWPA was able to reduce the special property tax requisition amount in 2015-16.

SSIWPA would like to thank its member agencies, especially the contributions by Capital Regional District (\$35,000 in gas tax revenues and \$10,000 in stormwater program revenues) and the public (whole property taxes accounted for \$119,500 in revenues to Islands Trust). Without these operating funds, SSIWPA would not have been able to achieve any of its goals.



Financial Summary



Revenues	Budget Amounts ²	Actuals (December 31, 2015)
Tax requisition	119,500	119,500
Grant Revenues ³	30,000	37,000
CRD (Monitoring - gas tax + stormwater)	45,000	45,000
CRD (IWMP planning)	3,500	3,500
Island Health (Monitoring)		4,620
Islands Trust (IWMP - Special Operations)	22,043	22,043
NSSWD (IWMP)	500	500
Total	220,543	232,163
Expenditures		
Coordination (includes meetings, events)	97,000	87,506
IWMP Consultant	28,000	49,376
Administration (Trust)	12,000	5,564
SML Monitoring - plankton	7,000	7,000
SML Monitoring - water quality *	44,920	28,384
SML Monitoring - septic *	25,000	25,073
Contingency	10,000	0
Total	223,920	202,903
% remaining	8%	

² The budget is for January 1- 2015 - December 31, 2015. Some revenues were received partially in 2014.

³ REFBC - \$20,000; Philip and Muriel Berman Fdn - \$10,000; British Columbia Ministry of Environment Watershed Sustainability Grant - \$7,000

* significant portion of expenses were incurred in previous calendar year for monitoring at St. Mary Lake, but included here as related to total revenues on that project