

**ADOPTED
MINUTES of the SALT SPRING ISLAND
WATERSHED PROTECTION AUTHORITY
Friday January 24, 2014 – 10:30 AM
CRD Parks and Recreation Commission – 145 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI**

Members Present:

George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist
John Stewart – Chair, Technical Advisory Committee
Justine Starke, Islands Trust Island Planner, recorder
Shannon Cowan, Coordinator

Regrets

Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director

Present Via Video Conferencing and Telephone:

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

Others Present:

4 members of the public
1 member of Driftwood, reporter
Lisa Rodgers, University of Victoria Masters Student

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 10:30 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- Item 4.8.1 - Phosphorus Budget;
- Item 4.8.2 - Water Quality Objectives.

By general consent the agenda was adopted as amended.

3. MINUTES AND RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT MEETING

3.1 Draft Minutes of the November 29, 2013 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting – For Consideration

By general consent the Minutes of the November 29, 2013 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting were approved.

3.2 Draft Minutes of the November 29, 2013 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Annual Open House Public Meeting – For Approval

The following amendments were introduced:

1. Replace statement from M. Leichter on behalf of SSI Watershed Preservation Society (top of p. 3)

“WPS recommended that CRD form a Commission to oversee both public involvement and the work being done.”

With the following correction:

“Since the CRD is the delegated agency with the authority to fund and undertake action to cure the blooms on St. Mary Lake and the Authority can only coordinate, the CRD Director should form a commission to oversee public involvement and engineering work to remedy the lakes. “

2. Correct the response by Island Planner Starke to J. Slakov's question (top of p. 3):

Replace: “Island Planner Starke did not have an answer for this, but will investigate.”

With: “Island Planner Starke responded that funds for coordination can be used for coordination of policy development and carrying out the policies of other agencies. The use of the funds for other expenditures would have to be investigated.”

3. Correct the response by Island Planner Starke to W. Hewitt's question (top of p. 4):

Replace:

“Island Planner Starke advised that engaging the community for the watershed governance process (SDM) would need more active “legwork” and “phone calls” beyond what has already happened for this first open house.”

With:

“Island Planner Starke advised that engaging the community for the watershed governance process (SDM) needs more effective coordination, for example more active “legwork” and “phone calls” beyond what has already happened for this first open house.”

By general consent the Minutes of the November 29, 2013 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting Annual Meeting were adopted, as amended.

BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported on the following:

- Attendance at the SSIWPA annual meeting. He was impressed with the event and from comments received from community members following the event. He commented that the authority is on the right track;
- Attendance at two technical advisory committee (TAC) meetings. He was impressed with expediency and work done by the TAC so far;
- Meetings with staff on the community consultation process;
- Meetings with individuals from the Water Council to review opportunities for cooperation;
- Attendance at a Water Council presentation and update on the hydrogeological study conducted by Diane Allen and students from Simon Fraser University.

4.2 Current Condition of St. Mary Lake

Meghan McKee reported on the latest test results of St. Mary Lake. She provided a brief update on the lake conditions. She advised that the weir is not yet overflowing and that rain this year has not recharged groundwater on Salt Spring Island.

4.3 Coordinator's Report – Shannon Cowan

Shannon Cowan provided an overview of her status report dated January 24, 2014.

- She has been working on internal communications, administering TAC meetings, organizing events, liaising with the public and technical experts, researching literature, preparing a bibliography, drafting a stakeholder list and outreach plan, and assisting with the real estate foundation grant application.

4.4 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Chair's Report – John Stewart

Chair Stewart reported on behalf of TAC:

- Met four times in formal sessions as well as in informal sessions. Impressed by enthusiasm by colleagues;
- Still assessing current status of internal and external sources of phosphorus affecting lake;
- Evaluating a range of remediation options through assessment of past and current raw lake data and reports;
- Report from TAC will include factors affecting efficiency of artificial aeration
- TAC goal is to submit a report to SSIWPA by end March 2014;
- Notice that a written progress report is included in this meeting package Addenda.

4.5 TAC Terms of Reference Amendment Proposal

Shannon Cowan provided an overview of the TAC proposal. Deb Epps advised that other TAC meetings, with which she is involved in other jurisdictions, are not open to the public.

Discussion ensued about the costs and merits of holding some TAC meetings as “working meetings” where information and preliminary results could be shared freely before they are in the public eye.

By general consent it was agreed to table the proposal pending further advice from senior Islands Trust staff.

4.6 SSIWPA November 29 Open House – Feedback and Discussion

- Some disappointment at the relatively low turn-out;
- Public was giving feedback on how it was being engaged;
- Need to look at engaging people on the weekends, when people aren’t working;

4.7 Public Engagement Plan for SSIWPA – Coordinator

- Summary of community engagement and outreach plan;
- Focus engagement towards World Water Day March 22 and Earth Day April 23;
- Gearing up to integrated watershed management planning process;
- Propose to involve Water Council;
- Engaging community in TAC’s field work;
- Engage youth, invite and engage GISS environmental club.

Consensus to have members email Shannon ideas for March 22 World Water Day.

4.8 Correspondence with SSIWPA - Coordinator

A process to streamline correspondence through the use of a template.

By general consent it was agreed that the template proposal be adopted.

4.9 Letter from Ms. J. Slakov dated 3 December 2013 and SSIWPA Chair’s response – for Review

Discussion about whether SSIWPA should adopt a policy to not engage in advocacy on provincial legislation. Advocacy is not currently a role SSIWPA as set by the Terms of Reference. No action was taken at this time.

4.10 Copyright

After the 29 November, 2013 Open House, SSIWPA responded to public request for SSIWPA presentations to be in the public domain on SSIWPA website. The SSIWPA Chair and Coordinator introduced the following watermark, to be placed on any document SSIWPA uploads that are not already in the public domain.

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By general consent it was agreed that this approach be employed.

4.11 Real Estate Foundation Grant Proposal Update

Overview by Island Planner Starke. The grant proposal was submitted January 9, 2013.

4.12 Next Steps for SSIWPA – Discussion

CRD will have responsibility for implementation and should begin preliminary preparations in order to expedite the process.

4.12.1 Integrated Watershed Management Process (Structured Decision-Making SDM)

- Chair Grams evaluated different processes;
- Deb Epps advised that other groups haven't experienced structured decision making and that what groups are doing is integrated watershed management planning. This involves gathering information, reporting back to the public, acquiring more information, engaging local governments;
- Chair Grams, sees SDM as one aspect of overall integrated management planning, is a process that can evaluate options according to community values;
- What does CRD think? Dale Green – uses watershed coordinators to run processes;

It was requested that Islands Trust CEO Linda Adams attend/skype into next SSIWPA meeting to offer some perspective on structured decision making and other processes aimed at environmental management.

4.13 Other Business

Island Planner Starke provided an update on the Special Property Tax Requisition. Coordinator Shannon Cowan provided information on a conference in Reno Nevada.

4.14 Questions/comments from Public

A member of the public raised the issue that the outreach process has to match funding and that the SSI LTC is an authority which can consult the public and that the Islands Trust's Trust Council can implement. However, should it come to referendum, and the public is not well engaged, they may not support it. We need to reach a broader public – we need to go to them.

Another member of the public spoke to the suggestion for world water day/earth day. Comments also included:

- to expect a small turnout that will not represent the broad community. Need to look at broad vehicles of communication. Driftwood, Island Tides cast broad net, Salt Spring Exchange, Trail and Nature Club list serve and other groups.
- Questions on the water levels in two lakes – Maxwell is at 13% of seasonal norm at Dec 2013?
- Meghan McKee (for NSSWD) responded that Maxwell Lake replenishes quickly when it fills, when there is sufficient rain.
- Maxwell was lower than traditionally, but has increased in volume recently

5. NEXT MEETING

- 5.1** The next meeting of the SSI Watershed Protection Authority is scheduled for Friday February 28, 2014, 10:30 a.m., at the CRD Parks and Recreation Commission office, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

George Grams, Chair

J. Starke, Recorder