



# Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Adopted Minutes of a Regular Meeting

**Date of Meeting:** Friday, July 18, 2014 10:30 am – 12:30 pm  
**Location:** Harbour House Hotel  
121 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island

**Members Present:** Shannon Cowan, Coordinator  
Erwin Dyck, Vancouver Island Health Authority Supervisor of Health Protection (by phone)  
Deb Epps, Ministry of Environment, Section Head, Environmental Quality (by phone)  
George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee  
Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Integrated Watershed Management Program (by phone)  
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water District Commissioner  
Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director  
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Water Quality Specialist  
Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee

**Staff Present:** Stefan Cermak, Island Planner  
Sarah Shugar, Recorder

**Media and Others Present:** Don Hodgins, Chair, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Maggie Squires, member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
John Stewart, member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)  
Five members of the public

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 a.m.

## 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following changes were made to the agenda:

- addition of Item 5. Rise and Report;
- addition of Item 8.1 Letter from Deb Epps regarding Phoslock;
- addition of Item 8.2 Questions and Comments from public.

By general consent, the agenda was approved, as amended.

### **3. CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION**

At 10:34 a.m., it was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that 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 and that staff be invited to remain. **CARRIED**

### **4. OPEN MEETING RESOLUTION**

At 11:24 a.m., it was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority re-opens this meeting to the public subject to Section 89 of the Community Charter. **CARRIED**

### **5. RISE AND REPORT – none**

### **6. MINUTES**

#### **6.1 Draft Minutes of the May 23, 2014 SSI Watershed Protection Authority Meeting**

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority minutes of May 23, 2014 were adopted, as presented.

### **7. BUSINESS ITEMS**

#### **7.1 Chair's Report**

Chair Grams reported that he attended the Technical Advisory Committee public information session and congratulated Don Hodgins, John Sprague and Shannon Cowan on a successful event. He attended the Maude Barlow presentation. He has been contacted by a group of residents with regard to development densities in their locality that might be impacting ground water quality and is looking into the processes to investigate their concerns. He has been collaborating with Shannon Cowan and Mike Richards on the submission of the grant application for the Structured Decision Making process.

#### **7.2 Current Condition of St. Mary Lake**

Meghan McKee reported on the latest test results of St. Mary Lake. The most recent secchi depth reading has decreased slightly to eleven metres. Total phosphorus is less than 10 parts per billion (ppb) and the lake is fully stratified. The collection of TAC field data has begun.

It was noted that the Highland/Fernwood Water District has been experiencing a problem with colour and odor.

#### **7.3 Technical Advisory Committee Chair's Report**

Don Hodgins, Chair, provided the following report on TAC progress:

- TAC is reviewing the Internal loading report written by Maggie Squires;
- the monitoring program was launched this week and the new equipment has arrived;
- four primary properties have agreed to participate in the septic monitoring program and four properties are on reserve. Only three properties will be finalized for testing. TAC was unable to secure a property on Bradbury Road;
- will be meeting a hydrogeologist next week for guidance on placement of monitoring wells in relation to septicfields and the lake;
- the drilling contract has been awarded to Mud Bay Drilling;
- the lab contracts for septic monitoring will be finalized in the next two weeks;
- the well sampling program has been developed;
- Lisa Rodgers is scheduled to do the first-cut P-runoff modeling work in August.

#### **7.4 Coordinator's Report**

Shannon Cowan reviewed the Coordinator's Report for June 20 – July 18, 2014.

Please review the publications page of the website and forward any additions to Coordinator Cowan.

Director McIntyre will forward contact information for Sue Hallett, CRD Manager of Aboriginal Initiatives.

#### **7.5 Fall Fair – September 13 – 14, 2014.**

Coordinator Cowan proposed sharing a display booth with the Water Council and the Water Preservation Society at the Fall Fair.

The following items were noted in the discussion:

- there may be an opportunity to connect water and agriculture as a "theme";
- could include a map in the display for people to pin their watershed and/or pin their well.

Further information will be brought forward to the next meeting.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority supports the idea of sharing a booth with the Water Council and the Water Preservation Society at the 2014 Fall Fair.

#### **7.6 SSIWPA Watershed Priorities**

Coordinator Cowan facilitated a discussion to help SSIWPA establish the rationale for selecting the next watershed.

The following points were noted:

- Cusheon Lake has experienced an active algal bloom this year, does not have an authority to manage the lake level, is affected by beaver activity and is the second largest watershed on Salt Spring Island;
- Maxwell Lake needs work that will be done by NSSWD as funding resources become available; does not require the collaboration of agencies as much as do the other watersheds; may not require a collaborative management plan.
- the St. Mary Lake monitoring program will have a rollover to next year and there will be more funding needed;
- MOE has a template for creating technical scope and cost estimates for the collection of baseline data for lakes; this can be applied by Michelle Kehler of MoE for Bullock, Stowell and Ford lakes to create a proposal document for review by the TAC

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority refers an MoE proposal for the collection of baseline data for Bullock Lake, Stowell Lake, and Ford Lake to the Technical Advisory Committee.

By general consent, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority refers the Cusheon Lake Data review to the Technical Advisory Committee.

## **7.7 SSIWPA Outline 2015 and Appropriate Grants and Agency Funding Cycles**

Coordinator Cowan facilitated a discussion regarding the fiscal timeline for SSIWPA projects, grants and agency funding cycles.

Director McIntyre will forward the list to the CRD grant coordinator for review.

Further information will be circulated prior to the next meeting.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1 Letter from Deb Epps regarding Phoslock**

The letter from Deb Epps dated July 14, 2014 regarding the Ministry of Environment position on Phoslock, and suggestion for SSIWPA and SSIWPA TAC to consider plankton sampling and analysis as part of the field program was reviewed.

The following items were noted:

- the cost estimate of adding plankton sampling and analysis approximately \$1000 per month for five to six months;
- there is an opportunity to add plankton sampling and analysis to what Meghan McKee is already doing for the TAC field data collection program;
- the samples could be stored for six to twelve months until additional funding is available;

- M McKee noted that her office is not set up currently for sample processing and storage, so alternate arrangements will be sought with assistance from MoE..

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority supports the additional sampling of plankton as part of the 2014-2015 St. Mary Lake Field Data Collection Project. and will provide funding in the range of \$5,000 to \$6,000 to cover the cost of sample preparation, transport, storage and analysis.

## 8.2 Questions and Comments from Public

The following questions and comments were noted:

- A comment: the only problem with septic systems affecting Cusheon Lake is when storms overflow the upper watershed and concern was expressed regarding the possibility of a dam on Cusheon Lake.
- What were Dr. Mazumder's comments regarding the efficacy of the CANWET computer model and could these comments be provided? Reply: It was noted that the history of the computer model is on the developer's web site.
- A comment: Three properties will be a small but affordable beginning and the value of the data collected in the dry season will be minimal. Reply: It was noted that when the water table is very low, the chances of drilling and getting a sample is low, so TAC has determined a method of measuring the gradient of phosphorus in the soil. The sampling program has been scheduled to include sampling from the soil and groundwater.
- A comment: SSIWPA should defer any decisions regarding development adjacent to Bullock Lake until baseline data is collected. Reply: It was noted decisions regarding development adjacent to Bullock Lake should be directed to the Local Trust Committee.
- Please provide clarification regarding the lakes that are being considered for the establishment of baseline data? Reply: It was noted the lakes for consideration are Bullock Lake, Stowell Lake, and Ford Lake and there is a baseline data study, the McKean study, which is available on the SSIWPA website under "Publications: Technical Reports".

## 9. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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George Grams, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Sarah Shugar, Recorder