Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting:	**Friday, March 18, 2016**
Location:	**145 Vesuvius Bay Road, CRD PARC portable** **Salt Spring Island**
Members Present:	George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee Shannon Cowan, Coordinator 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 Resources (via telephone conferencing) Wayne McIntyre, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director Jeff Thompson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
Staff Present:	Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager (RPM) Sarah Shugar, Recorder
Technical Working Group Liaison:	Don Hodgins, Chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group
Media and Others Present:	2 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 additional items were presented for consideration:

Item 6	Rise and Report
Item 7.9.2	St. Mary Lake Sign
Item 7.10.2	Technical Working Group New Member Announcement

By general consent, the agenda was adopted as amended.

3. MINUTES

3.1 Draft Minutes of the February 19, 2016 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Regular Meeting

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed that the Minutes of February 19, 2016 be amended by: adding "US Dollars" following "$119.40 and $14.95" in item 7.1; replacing "as alternate Trustee with "as alternate Committee Member" in item 7.1; deleting "level" following "St. Mary Lake" in item 7.2; and replacing "tquality" with "quality" in item 7.7 and that the minutes be adopted, as amended.

4. CLOSED MEETING RESOLUTION

At 10:33 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 being appointed by the Authority.
CARRIED

5. OPEN MEETING RESOLUTION

At 10:36 a.m., it was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority re-opens this meeting to the public subject to Section 89 of the Community Charter.
CARRIED

6. RISE AND REPORT

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to appoint Susan Fussell to the Cusheon Watershed Public Advisory Committee.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

7.1 Chair's Report

Chair Grams reported that he met with North Salt Spring Waterworks District regarding the Opus Dayton Knight Water Conservation and Demand Management Plan draft report and that the Saturna Island Local Trust Committee and North Pender Island Local Trust Committee have added water conservation to their top priority lists. He has been working with the Coordinator on the development of signage for St. Mary Lake and attended the 2016 Water Fair.

7.2 St. Mary Lake Water Quality Update – North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Jeff Thompson reported the level of St. Mary Lake is above the weir height and overflowing; lake turbidity is low due to high levels of runoff into the lake from heavy rainfall and continued monitoring of algal abundance. He noted the "A Guide to St. Mary Lake: Use, Misuse & Disuse of Artificial Aeration, What is Normal for SML, and Recommendations for Future Research" report by Maggie Squires.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to add a link to the "A Guide to St. Mary Lake: Use, Misuse & Disuse of Artificial Aeration, What is Normal for SML, and Recommendations for Future

Research" report by Maggie Squires on the website.

7.3 Cusheon Lake water quality update

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

- Secchi Disk measurement 3.4 metres on Jan. 18, 2.7 metres on March 6, 1.35 metres on March 14 (lake is turbid), 1.9 metres on March 16 (this is a better but not as good as earlier in the year.) The measurement historically is not usually this low unless there is a flood. During the flood, on Jan. 25, 2005 the secchi disk measurement was .74 M but on April 10 2005, it was up to 2.75 metres.
- The corrected Lake gauge measurement 1.406 metres on Jan. 18, 1.358 metres on Mar. 06, 1.386 metres on Mar. 14. The lake is flushing well but the colour is a very brownish green. This information was passed on to Jennifer Blaney at the CRD. It was reported to me on Mar.16 by Kristi Wilson that NSSWW staff took a field turbidity measurement on Cusheon Lake, Mar.15 and reported turbidity in the raw water was 4.7 NTU (definitely higher than in the last two months - January: 1.16 NTU & February: 1.34 NTU) (CDWS=1) but that the plant wasn't having any operational issues with the raw water. An algae sample came in on Mar.16 and our Aquatic Ecologist looked at it. She said there was almost no algal presence in the water. It appears that it was likely silt and sediment from the storm on the weekend that caused the turbidity spike. Raw water colour value exceeded the (CDWS) limit of 15 in both Jan (25) and Feb (22).
- There is an ongoing concern about the old landfill site located on Blackburn road. There are monitoring wells but no results have been given since 2001. During the past 15 years, old equipment and items may have deteriorated and could be leaching contaminants that pose a threat to water quality. The CLSC is planning to write a letter to the ministers and members of the Federal and provincial government as they feel this situation is a threat to our drinking water. This was an action objective under the 2007 Cusheon Watershed Management Plan and the committee feels they have waited long enough to see some results. So they are planning this letter and wanted me to ask for the endorsement of the SSIWPA SC or assistance in this matter. They do not feel that covering the landfill site with only 60 cm (about 2 feet) of soil is adequate especially since the wells have not been monitored.
- Restoration work is needed on Blackburn Creek and at the public dock area to prevent erosion. Is there any money set aside for this type of activity? The plants cost money but I have the people willing to work. What kind of permits would be required? Blackburn Creek actually has made a new braided stream about 1/3 from the lake. There is much erosion taking place.
- "Corrected" Measurement is calculated by taking the measurement from the lake gauge stick near Cusheon Lake Resort and subtracting .134 m. This gives the corrected measurement. Polaris surveyed the gauge stick in the fall of 2015 as the recorded measurements did not correspondent directly with the historical data from Water Survey Canada.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to forward the Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee request for support regarding the monitoring wells at the old landfill site on Blackburn Road to the Technical Working Group for consideration.

7.4 Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Cowan presented the Coordinator's Report for February 15, 2016 to March 11 2016.

7.5 Technical Working Group Report

Don Hodgins presented Technical Working Group (TWG) progress and the following highlights were presented:

- Current Activities:
  - Cusheon Lake – review of background technical material ongoing;
  - St. Mary Lake – feasibility testing of soil samples for septic impacts (nutrients, other); scope and cost underway / applicability to Cusheon Lake to be determined; problem definition and scope for sediment core sampling (IWMP MA);
  - Groundwater Quantity – scope of possible approaches
- St. Mary Lake Monitoring and Reporting:
  - Runoff measurements complete, analysis and report writing underway;
  - Rainfall – measurements complete, analysis and results rolled into runoff report;
  - Septic – report under final edit, ready for public release in March.

7.6 Amended Workplan 2016

Coordinator Cowan presented the SSIWPA Workplan 2016-2017.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to add: the Water Fair, the Cusheon Watershed Survey and an "achieved" bar to show progress in items on the Fastrack Workplan.

7.7 Test Survey Cusheon Watershed

7.7.1 Revised Survey Questions

Coordinator Cowan presented the preliminary results of the Cusheon Watershed test survey and highlighted the survey was sent to 27 residents and 11 responses were received. It was noted to include low flush / dual flush toilets.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Coordinator Cowan and D. Hewitt would edit the Cusheon Watershed survey, as discussed, forward to the Technical Working Group for review, and send the survey to the Cusheon property owners mailing list.

7.8 St. Mary Lake watershed residents mail out

Coordinator Cowan presented the St. Mary Lake watershed residents mail out and noted she would contact the Capital Regional District (CRD) regarding addition of CRD water conservation grant program information.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority approved the St. Mary Lake watershed residents mail out with the addition of CRD water conservation grant program information.

7.9 POLIS March 8, 2016 capacity-building workshop

7.9.1 Coordinator's invited presentation notes

Coordinator Cowan presented notes from the POLIS March 8, 2016 capacity-building workshop and noted Polis is preparing a follow up webinar that will be presented at a future meeting.

7.9.2 St. Mary Lake Sign

Coordinator Cowan presented the draft St. Mary Lake sign for discussion and the following items were noted for consideration:

- remove the bird hunting logo
- reverse the "seasonal Nutrient Cycles Explained" panels with winter on the left
- replace "it's" with "its"
- include title over third panel such as "Duck Creek"
- include a representation of the shoreline that reflects the low water level in the summer panel
- include a fourth panel to include a representation of a stream entering the lake
- include a representation of P-release
- include the watershed boundary in the map
- add logos
- add link to SSIWPA website
- move the icon panel to the bottom

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed Chair Grams and Coordinator Cowan would provide a redraft of the St. Mary Lake sign for consideration at the next meeting.

7.10 Correspondence

7.10.1 Re: Review request by member of the public for SSIWPA review / response to two articles in 24 Feb 2016 Driftwood Newspaper

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to direct the coordinator to reply to the correspondence.

7.10.2 Technical Working Group new member announcement

Pat Lapcevic reported Sylvia Barroso, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations Regional Groundwater Hydrologist has been appointed to the Technical Working Group.

Chair Grams expressed appreciation to Pat Lapcevic and the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations for the expertise they are contributing to the Technical Working Group and the Steering Committee.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Questions and Comments from Public

One member of the public asked (1) Could the St. Mary Lake sign include a larger format, more detailed watershed map as the back of the sign and (2) Could nitrogen be added to the legend on the sign?

One member of the public asked if the St. Mary Lake sign watershed map include property boundaries?

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled Friday April 22, 2016 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the CRD portable, 145 Vesuvius Bay Road.

10. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

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George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

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Sarah Shugar, Recorder