



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Special Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday, July 29, 2016
Location: 145 Vesuvius Bay Rd., CRD 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, Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee
 Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner
 Ron Stepaniuk, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) Trustee
 Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources (via telephone conferencing)
 Stefan Cermak, Regional Planning Manager (RPM)
 Wayne McIntyre, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director

Technical Working Group Liaisons: Don Hodgins, Co-Chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group
 Ian deBie, Co-Chair, SSIWPA Technical Working Group

Media and Others Present: Sean McIntyre, Driftwood Gulf Islands Media
 3 members of the public

These minutes follow the order of the agenda although the sequence may have varied.

1. CALL TO ORDER and APPROVAL of AGENDA
 The meeting was called to order by Coordinator Cowan at 10:31 am. Agenda was adopted, as written.

2. BUSINESS ITEMS

2.1.1 IWM Purpose Statement

| What do we know? | What don't we know yet? |
|---|--|
| Surface water - Water budget for SML and Maxwell lakes - Water quality data SML (how quantity is linked to quality – some information) - Temperature and precipitation data SML - Max. capacity SML, and Maxwell lakes - Flushing regimes for these lakes, and Cusheon-BBurn | Surface water - Capacity in other watersheds (Cusheon-Blackburn, Roberts, Stowell, Weston, etc.) - Hydrological confirmation for Max, SML - Storage capacity all lakes - Demand vs. Capacity in lakes - Which lakes are fully allocated? - What is the measurable importance of Climate Change impacts on surface and GW hydro/geo. |

| | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Precipitation (have >30 yr record) - Jul-Oct driest months - Rainwater harvesting volumetric capacity | |
| <p>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - H. Greenwood's geological info is rigorous - Groundwater capacity depends on precip. - Precip. variably impacts watershed hydrology, ecology - SSI GW research needs to be assessed for relevance (Hodge 95 (1977-1992) & Allocation Barnett et al 1993) and compared with new recharge and storativity data (Allen, 2016) - GW vulnerability mapping exists (Cermak) - Land activity influences GW (more info surface-GW connect is needed) | <p>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Supply requirements to meet projected growth in consumption due to population growth, full buildout, and agricultural needs (towards sustainability, food secure) - Risk Analysis Framework to synthesize existing information on GW and overall supply-demand values - Peak summer supply - Demand projections (future) - How drought/climate chg. impacts demand -Specific area mapping (demand-based) -Current small water systems (GW) appear limited (e.g. Cedar Lane, Mt. Belcher, Scott Point, etc.) – need to quantify - supply impacts of commercial removal of resource off island - Water as a natural asset – valuation for ecological and economic services -Thorough literature review of existing quantitative data on current average annual GW and surface water available (precip, capacity, storativity and recharge) - Detailed ambient water quality issues (regions of GW concern – As, Fe, Mn, etc.) Detailed ambient saltwater intrusion in GW (Regions of concern) |
| <p>Socio-political</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soft Path Strategy 2010 (Maas and Porter-Bopp, U Vic) outlines conservation predictions and measures for allocation. - Rate of population growth 2011-current can predict future (?) | <p>Socio-political</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How conservation and efficiency measures already impact demand requirements (and in other regions, e.g. Mayne Island) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cost: Benefit of alternatives (wastewater reclamation and desalination) - Feasibility assessment of solutions implemented elsewhere |
| <p>Land Use Zoning bylaws for areas in Cusheon and SML may not meet the Islands Trust mandate to “preserve and protect”</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regulatory mechanisms used elsewhere to protect supplies (and to distinguish between domestic and industrial uses, etc.)(take into account new Water Sustainability Act provincially) <p>Do “other” (non-lake) surface water storage facilities meet safety standards for environmental impacts? Which?</p> |

2.1.2 Objectives (paired activity) and Purpose Statement:

Objectives: (Proposed, and revised) (Red text indicates phrases or terms that were questioned or edited in the meeting.)

| Obj. # | REVISED | ORIGINAL |
|--------|---|--|
| 1 | Assess renewable quantity of freshwater: surface sources, precipitation, groundwater | Quantify (within climate change extremes) the available freshwater resources that can be harvested from: lakes, groundwater, rain |
| 2 | Assess sustainable fresh water demand for human uses over time: domestic, agricultural, industrial and recreational. | |
| 3 | Promote efficient water use and build supply capacity through research, testing and policy development for: water conservation, distribution efficiencies, assessment of new potential water sources, rainwater harvesting & grey water recycling, incentivization measures | Promote efficient water use and build supply capacity through research, testing and policy development for: water conservation, distribution efficiencies, assessment of new potential groundwater sources, rainwater harvesting & grey water recycling, incentivization measures |
| 4 | Apply a Risk Analysis Framework to Program findings, and develop an Integrated Water Management Plan for Salt Spring Island. | |
| 5 | Assess the Integrated Water Management Plan for compatibility with the Official Community Plan (OCP), Land Use Bylaws and other local/regional legislation (and, provide recommendations to local government, as required). | Assess the current Official Community Plan (OCP) to determine whether it is compatible with the quantification of freshwater resources available and, if not, make recommendations that would reconcile the two. // Consider staged revisions to the OCP to allow development as and when progress with conservation and other efficiency measures permit. |
| 6 | Ensure outcomes of IWM Program meet objectives of British Columbia's Water Sustainability Act and other provincial legislation (and, provide recommendations to provincial level, as required.) | |

Purpose statement: (revised)

The SSI Integrated Water Management Program aims to ensure a sustainable supply of fresh water for human use, and to protect against degradation of the resource through over-demand.

Notes on purpose revision:

- Some contradictory input came from the committee members and TWG participants.
- Phrases/meanings recorded in the meeting that seemed to be agreed by general consent included: “to determine sustainable supply” and “to protect the natural fresh water resource against over demand, or degradation” as overarching purpose.
- The IWM program was not to be confused with the SSIWPA main goals or mandate.
- Some participants suggested that “preserve”, not simply protect was the purpose of this program, but that did not seem to be agreed by consent, and was left out of the revised purpose statement because “to preserve” implies no human consumption, and this program is designed to measure safe, reliable levels of human consumption from the current and/or alternative sustainable fresh water resources.

2.2 & 2.3 Task Lists and Sub-objectives

1 Steering Committee Tasks – change “IWM Plan to IWM Program”

Add to the document a Draft List of “Deliverables” for the IWM Program:

- Integrated Water Management Plan or Water Sustainability Plan (see new Act)
- Changes to Demand/Consumption Practices
- Changes to Land Use Bylaws, implementation of additional bylaws to promote water use efficiency
- Enhanced Bylaw Enforcement
- Public Education
- A system for IWM Program Outcomes to be Implemented by each SSIWPA Agency

The list of deliverables was not agreed by consent in this session. The draft list will need to be reviewed, especially with respect to the requirements for provincially-approved Water Sustainability Plans.

3. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent the meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Shannon Cowan, Recorder