



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority

Minutes of a Regular Meeting

Date of Meeting: Friday October 20, 2017 10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Location: Portlock Park Portable,
143 Vesuvius Bay Rd,
Salt Spring Island BC

Members Present: George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Local Trustee
Dale Green, Capital Regional District (CRD), Integrated Watershed (via telephone conferencing)
Doreen Hewitt, Beddis Water Service Area Commissioner
Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNR) (via telephone conferencing)
Robert Steinbach, North Salt Spring Waterworks District

Regrets: Derek Masselink, Ministry of Agriculture
Wayne McIntyre, Vice-Chair, Director, CRD
Sharon Bywater, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner (Alternate for Lorrie Hunt)
Technical Working Group co-Chairpersons
Conservation and Efficiency Working Group Chairperson

Staff Present: Shannon Cowan, Coordinator, Recorder
Justine Starke, Island Planner
William Shulba, Freshwater Specialist, Island Trust
Ron Stepaniuk, North Salt Spring Waterworks District

**Technical Working
Group Liaison:**

**Conservation
Working Group:**

**Media and Others
Present:** Ralph Dom, Cedar Lane Commission Chairperson
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 10:32 am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following additions to the agenda were presented for consideration:

- 4.9.2 Budget request from Islands Trust staff for GW Monitoring Pilot REFBC application
- 4.10.2 A page of correspondence (summary) to accompany Appendix 8 (public announcement), was added late to the agenda prior to page 47.
- 4.10.6 Correspondence received by coordinator about Rainwater Rebate Program on SSI, from Outreach Coordinator at CRD, Victoria.
- 5.2 Proposal to transition SSIWPA website to a SSIWPA expense next fiscal.

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

3. MINUTES

3.1 **Draft Minutes of the September 22, 2017 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Regular Meeting**

One revision was suggested for accuracy: removal of "(via telephone conferencing)" beside Member Hewitt's attendance.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Minutes of September 22, 2017 were adopted, as amended.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 **Chair's report**

Chair Grams reported some website maintenance and correspondence in the past month. Website maintenance will be dealt with in item 5.2.

4.2 **St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake water quality, level and hydrology updates**

Committee Member Steinbach presented an update regarding the St. Mary Lake Watershed and Maxwell Lake Watershed, and the following highlights were presented:

St. Mary Lake level recorded October 20, 2017 was 40.206 m above sea level, which was up 5 cm from October 16th 2016. The lake was reported to be stratified and anoxic below 11 m of depth, as of October 18, 2017 (Mixing had begun but was incomplete).

Cyanotoxins: There were no toxins reported in St. Mary Lake raw water sample of October 2nd, 2017. On September 25th, 2017, 0.098 ug/L microcystin-LA were detected in a St. Mary Lake raw water sample.

Maxwell Lake level on October 20, 2017 was 314.1599 m above sea level, up 4 cm since October 11, 2017. It was noted that recent precipitation was having a direct impact on re-filling of the lake.

A member queried whether St. Mary Lake achieved the lowest possible level for the license in 2017? NSSWD staff responded 40.19 m was the lowest 2017 St. Mary level

reading; one of the lowest St. Mary Lake level readings, but not quite the lowest in recent years.

4.3 Cusheon Lake water quality update

Committee Member Hewitt presented an update regarding the Cusheon Lake Watershed and the following highlights were noted:

Cusheon Lake level on Oct 19, 2017 was 0.966 m. Lake level on Oct 20, 2016 was higher at 1.164 m. It was noted that the benefit of the recent precipitation has not been fully realized in lake level, yet. Secchi disk was 3.8 m on Oct 19, 2017, which is not as clear as last month. Flow rate in creek on October 19, 2017 was 0.07 m, unchanged from last month. Water is still being pumped from the hatchery's well into the creek for the hatchery fish. We cannot tell when the autumn flow starts because there is a tiny bit of flow maintained for the hatchery that is additional from a groundwater well, not lake outflow per se.

Precipitation yearly comparison for October, as received at Gulf Islands Secondary

School: Oct 2015 – 85.3 mm

Oct 2016 – 183.4 mm

Oct 2017 – 41.7 mm

The lake is the same temperature from top to bottom; which means it is not stratified. (It is mixed). There is no flow from Blackburn Creek or any of the other streams or culverts into Cusheon Lake. The aquatic weeds are still extremely prolific. When they die off and decay, they will use up a great deal of oxygen, which is not good for the health of the lake.

4.4 Coordinator's report

Coordinator presented an update of her activities, and the following highlights were noted:

- Community Well Consumption and Supply project – data collection from one water district outstanding; data organization underway for sharing with Golder Associates (other two users, TWG and FLNR have data already).
- Potential permanent monitoring site at Fulford Creek is being investigated by FLNR's Mr. Sczcot (Fish and Wildlife), which could be useful flow data for SSIWPA; may be a site for ongoing data downloading coordination through SSIWPA (all agencies could benefit from the data).
- October Rainwater Harvesting Tour 2017 a success (300 person visits reported; public feedback via email and website messages was all positive); public desires renewal of CRD's rainwater harvesting rebate program in 2018.

4.5 Technical Working Group update

A verbal report was delivered by Coordinator, reading from an email by TWG co-Chair Hodgins:

- TWG members are anticipating an answer to the question posed at last meeting regarding if, and how, the work of TWG will actually be used by the member agencies to benefit SSI.
- Well Inventory work ongoing, but TWG has not met about this (Sylvia Barroso co-lead FLNR).

4.6 Conservation and Efficiency Working Group update

A verbal report was delivered by Coordinator on behalf of the CEWG:

The interim report is very close to being compiled and is anticipated to be shared with Steering Committee by the next meeting. The report pertains to Task 8 – comparing alternatives for conservation and efficiency that are either in use or suitable for Salt Spring Island.

4.7 Technical Working Group Terms of Reference Revision

The Coordinator presented a proposed draft questionnaire about technical working group roles and responsibilities, for discussion. Planner Starke commented staff proposed it as an agenda item, in order to offer a tool to the Steering Committee, in support of efforts to reach a consensus on the Technical Working Group Terms of Reference that would be most feasible for all of the participating member agencies.

A typo was noted, and in response, Coordinator agreed to amend the list of those addressed on the questionnaire to include Beddis and Fernwood-Highland Commission representatives to SSIWPA Steering Committee.

Action 4.7a

By general consent, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed that Coordinator would send a letter to each member agency representative introducing the amended questionnaire as a template for use as a framework by SSIWPA member agencies to provide input and feedback on roles and responsibilities for it's Technical Working Group.

Action 4.7b

By general consent, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority member agency representatives agreed to receive the questionnaire, to use it as a framework for a response from within their member agency/board of trustees, and to dialogue directly with Coordinator, who will compile responses into a draft proposed TWG Terms of Reference.

4.8 2018-19 IWM Workplan and Budget

4.8.1 Workplan Draft 2018-19 – Table 1

Coordinator presented an orientation to the content of Table 1 (Appendix 4), and identified the rationale for priority line items in the ongoing current and proposed Integrated Water Management Program workplan tasks.

There was a discussion to clarify the Task 1a, and to clarify the nature of more than one deliverable. The following concerns or observations were noted by committee members or staff:

- Concern was noted over duplication of workplan deliverables by professional consultants and a working group, or members of the public.
- Early referral of terms of reference for technical work to the SSIWPA steering committee by member agencies may prevent duplication of effort

- It is common in engineering to receive more than one report or method of analysis for the same problem or question.
- A methods comparison by a qualified professional may be a valid means to adjudicate more than one technical report considering the same problem or question in terms of methodology or data resources used.
- It would be helpful for each member agency to share methods for it's commissioned work for infrastructure studies to avoid SSIWPA or it's working groups undertaking work that is duplicating efforts.
- It is not the intent to ratify this version, today.
- If CRD are within their license to draw from Cusheon and Weston lakes, there may be no need/responsibility to undertake safe yield analyses of those watersheds.
- FLNR does not have a program to undertake safe yield analyses of lakes, however safe yield information would be useful to FLNR programs, such as authorization of any application for increase usage of a lake resource.
- It may be more feasible for SSIWPA to coordinate a request for proposals from qualified professionals on safe yield of watersheds that are not in the purview of NSSWD than for such analyses to be undertaken by a working group, due to challenges with the acceptability of the deliverables by all member agencies.

Action 4.8.1a

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee agreed that SSIWPA Coordinator would convene a special meeting of the Steering Committee to consider the Workplan, and also would amend the Table 1 to reflect the following changes:

- Add column for lead agency, and another column for agencies affected
- Task 1a: agency responsible is NSSWD, agencies responsible FLNR, LTC and deliverable is ongoing
- Task 1b: agency responsible is NSSWD, agencies responsible FLNR, LTC

Action 4.8.1b

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee requested that the member representing NSSWD would consult with NSSWD Board, and report back to Steering Committee about the status of Task 1b Maxwell Lake Watershed Safe Yield analysis project.

Action 4.8.1c

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee requested that the member representing Beddis Water Service Area Commission would consult with Beddis Commission, and report back to Steering Committee about the potential interest or need for undertaking a safe yield analysis for Cusheon Lake watershed.

Action 4.8.1d

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee requested that the member representing NSSWD will consult with NSSWD Board and report back to Steering Committee about the status of Task 3a in Table 1, re: St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake hydrology studies.

4.8.1.1 2018-19 SSIWPA Coordination Budget

It was proposed to inflate the communications budget to include the engagement of a consultant to manage the website. It was noted that a robust content management system may be the greatest upfront cost for the transition of the websites to a new management system, and ongoing maintenance and moderation may be a much lower cost. It was noted that one aspect of content management is secure and complete, namely the document library maintained on the website.

It was noted that the committee would do well to evaluate the outreach and events of the past year in order to effectively allocate for events and outreach in the next fiscal year.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee agreed that Coordinator would organize for Steering Committee to have a debriefing on events and outreach for 2017-18 fiscal as part of planning events and outreach in 2018-19.

4.8.1.2 2018-19 SSIWPA IWM Draft Project Budget

The budget was received as a draft, and was used as a framework only, for discussion of the budget requests 4.9.1 and 4.9.2. There was no further discussion of the next fiscal budget draft, during this meeting.

4.9 2017-18 Income Statement Year to Date

The item was received for information.

4.9.1 Budget request (2017-18) – Wells Inventory project currently underway

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee agreed to allocate \$5,000 from the Province of B.C. Grant (received by Islands Trust April, 2017 for SSIWPA Integrated Water Management Program) in financial support of the Wells Inventory and Survey project currently underway.

4.9.2 Budget request (2018-19) – REFBC application for funding (added late agenda item)

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority Steering Committee agreed to allocate \$5,800 from the Province of B.C. Grant (received by Islands Trust April, 2017 for SSIWPA Integrated Water Management Program) as matching cash amount towards equipment expense in Real Estate Foundation of BC grant application (submitted by Islands Trust August 31, 2017; revised October 20, 2017).

Robert Steinbach left the meeting at 12:00pm.

4.10 Correspondence

4.10.1 Royal Roads University Program Feedback

Item was received for information.

4.10.2 Summary and Notice of October 26th presentation of Safe Yield method/model to

Water Preservation Society by TWG Co-Chair Hodgins

Item was received for information. Chair Grams noticed he planned to attend.

4.10.3 SSIWPA Chair letter to Water Preservation Society, October 12/17

Item was received for information.

4.10.4 St. Mary Lake water quality and aeration; two reports prepared for NSSWD are public.

Item was received for information.

4.10.5 Item of correspondence between Cedar Lane Water Commission Chair Mr. Ralph Dom and SSIWPA Coordinator, October 3, 2017

Coordinator outlined that the correspondence was requesting: 1) Whether and how SSIWPA might assist with the issue of Cedar Lane groundwater well levels resting at many meters lower than normal in 2017. And, 2) whether there was any means under the Water Sustainability Act to protect the Cedar Lane resource that had been in place for more than 50 years.

In response to questions posed by members, the following clarifications were provided:

- Both of the systems referred to in the correspondence would need to comply to the licensing requirements under the Water Sustainability Act.
- CRD would be the appropriate agency to deal with the Cedar Lane system, and if there was a need for CRD or the Cedar Lane Commission to seek provincial involvement, the appropriate provincial contact for the request would be Darryl Slater, Water Authorizations, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.
- Cedar Lane well data that SSIWPA has obtained for the IWM Work Programme includes consumption statistics to 2016, but does not include any hydrogeological or groundwater level data or reports about the water resource.
- Islands Trust has a considerable amount of hydrogeological reports and aquifer testing done to emulate full buildout at Bullock Cottages. These are in the public realm as Islands Trust staff reports (2014).
- Cedar Lane Commission Chairperson Mr. Dom confirmed that the Commission was requesting that SSIWPA coordinate further investigation to better assist the Cedar Lane Commission to access and understand year-to-year changes in groundwater levels and their implications.
- Concern was expressed about involvement of SSIWPA in one or the other water system involved in the current issue, as SSIWPA's responsibility is to all water resources on the island. Clarification was made that SSIWPA was being asked to determine whether, in principle, such a request for assistance was something Steering Committee was capable of accepting.

By general consent, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed that each member would consult with their agency to determine whether that agency was in support of SSIWPA Steering Committee assuming the Cedar Lane Commissioners' request as a project for SSIWPA to coordinate, and each would report back to SSIWPA.

4.11 Events and Announcements

4.11.1 Watersheds 2018! June 3-5 2018, biennial conference.

Support for a SSIWPA to offer a presentation at the conference was expressed by one member. Islands Trust Staff noted that depending on the theme of the conference, staff may also be interested in attending and/or presenting at the conference. Chair Grams clarified that such a conference might fall into “outreach to other communities”, and that it was important to discern whether such outreach falls within the SSIWPA coordination mandate. It was clarified that attendance at the conference for Islands Trust staff could be facilitated by the Local Trust Committee.

By general consent, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Authority agreed to support attendance at the conference by the SSIWPA Coordinator, in principle.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Questions and comments from members of the public.

None.

5.2 Website

By general consent, SSIWPA Steering Committee agreed that SSIWPA Coordinator would provide the Committee with 2-3 expense quotes for website hosting, management and maintenance for the period of next fiscal year.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 17th, 2017, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm School District 64 Boardroom Portable, 112 Rainbow Road.

7. **By general consent**, the meeting was adjourned at 12:28 pm.

George Grams, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Shannon Cowan, Recorder