



# Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

Minutes of a Special Meeting

---

**Date of Meeting:** Friday, February 2, 2018  
**Location:** School District Boardroom, 112 Rainbow Road  
Salt Spring Island

**Members Present:** George Grams, Chair, Islands Trust Trustee  
Doreen Hewitt, Beddis Water Service Area Commissioner  
Michael McAllister, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Representative  
Pat Lapcevic, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations  
and Rural Development (FLNR), *ex officio*  
Wayne McIntyre, Deputy Chair, Capital Regional District (CRD) Director

**Regrets:** Sharon Bywater, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner  
Lorrie Hunt, Fernwood Water Service Area Commissioner  
Derek Masselink, Ministry of Agriculture, *ex officio*  
Robert Steinbach, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Representative

**Staff Present:** Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Environmental Protection (via  
web conferencing)  
Justine Starke, Island Planner (via web conferencing)  
Meghan McKee, North Salt Spring Waterworks District  
Ron Stepaniuk, North Salt Spring Waterworks District  
Shannon Cowan, Coordinator and Recorder  
William Shulba, Islands Trust Freshwater Specialist (via web  
conferencing)

**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 10:04 a.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED**,  
that the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance delay agenda item 3.5 to February  
16, 2018 meeting agenda

**CARRIED**

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

**3. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### 3.1 Workplan flowchart

The workplan flowchart (already published in spring 2017) was presented for review. The following points were raised in the discussion:

- Safe Yield should be replaced by a term representative of a range of values, and the scenarios that may affect measurements of “water availability” for a lake or watershed.
- It was noted that seasonal variability, and variability due to climate change both impact the available water quantities in a lake system.
- Alternative terms suggested to replace “Safe Yield” were: “Water Availability” or “Sustainable Storage”.
- Assumptions that lakes will fill to capacity are not a guarantee, and should be accounted for in any water availability scenario model analysis.
- Deputy Chair McIntyre requested advice from William Shulba regarding his staff opinion of the priority watershed areas for this type of analysis. Staff member Shulba responded that the seven drinking lakes, and the Fulford Creek (fed by Rosamugie Pond), and the Rippon watershed (Maxwell) were of priority for the island-wide IFWMP.

### 3.2 Integrated Water Management Program Objectives (Review)

The Coordinator presented a powerpoint slideshow of IWM Program Objectives from the Program Charter (published by SSIWPA in September 2016).

In discussion of the first slide, about the primary goal or vision, and the primary objective of the IWM Program, Trust staff expressed a suggestion that “protection of watersheds” be included in the primary program goal/vision.

**By general consent**, it was agreed the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance agreed members and staff advisory would suggest re-wording of the IWM Program Primary Goal and Primary Objective, email it to Steering Committee and Coordinator, and that Coordinator would distill the suggested revisions into a proposal for revision and circulate that to steering committee in advance of the next regular meeting.

The coordinator presented a slide with existing program objectives, and proposed that some of them read like a task list and that steering committee may consider suggested alternative broad objectives that relate to the primary goal. Coordinator’s suggestions were developed using Nanaimo’s Plan Objectives as an example.

Chair Grams requested that any new proposals for adoption be more clearly flagged in the agenda package, in future.

Deputy Chair McIntyre pointed out that it is important to discern between objectives and strategies. Objectives need to be measurable and time-bound, and some of the objectives in the current Program Charter appear hard to measure. The S.M.A.R.T. method was suggested (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound). Using other best in class examples might help the group to delineate between goals (simple, broad), strategies, and

actions or tasks.

**It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

that the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance requested that Islands Trust Staff would prepare a scope of work for a facilitated strategic planning day for the SSIWPA to work with a watershed management planning expert, and that staff would circulate the draft scope of work with steering committee for comments as soon as it can be prepared, in advance of the next meeting agenda release date (February 9, 2018).

**CARRIED**

**3.2.1 It was MOVED and SECONDED,**

that the Salt Spring Watershed Protection Alliance change the program name from “Integrated Water Management Program” (IWMP) to “Integrated Freshwater Management Program” (IFWMP).

**CARRIED**

**3.3** The coordinator presented the draft 2018-19 IFWM Workplan for discussion. The following points were raised:

- NSSWD Staff suggested that if it were feasible to put a transducer in Cusheon Lake, that action could be added to the Cusheon Lake hydrometric monitoring area of the workplan. The rationale is that such data would be necessary for analysis of water availability, which appears in the workplan for 2018-19 as well.
- Deputy Chair McIntyre indicated that before a commitment could be made about potential for CRD to be involved in hydrometric monitoring at Cusheon Lake, he would need to consult with staff about the suitability of the project within the CRD bylaw amendment about the CRD’s Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection service.
- A member queried the turbidity line item in the current draft 18-19 workplan, and coordinator explained that it represents the lake level and secchi measurements that are already being recorded and reported monthly by the Beddis Commission representative to SSIWPA. Coordinator clarified that the second Cusheon nutrient monitoring line item was set by steering committee in February 2017 and detail was intended that TWG and Beddis Commission would take action to recommend monitoring nutrient loading parameters, such as total phosphorus and other contaminants. She suggested that under the new TWG terms of reference parameters, steering committee may wish to revisit this and other TWG roles for the draft 2018-19 workplan.

**3.4** The 2017-18 Workplan Deliverables Status report was received for information.

- Under hydrometric monitoring, in the 2017-18 Deliverables Status report, the SML study (pending receipt at NSSWD in final form) will include Duck Creek flow measurements (2017). Habitat assessment and environmental flow needs were also studied. The workplan should reflect that the deliverable is a report, not data.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 4.1 Comments And Questions From The Public

A member of the public suggested that the term reservoir should be replaced with lakes in the proposed program objectives, as it indicates man-made systems as opposed to natural systems.

A member of the public commented that there is a difficulty measuring quantities of lake water withdrawals taken without a license, and that all licensed amounts should be metered for the purpose of effective water availability analysis, planning and allocations. A question was posed about potential for SSIWPA involvement in a Salt Spring Island Fire Department proposal for a large pond in Fulford valley. Chair and staff responded that it would fall to the member agency/ies responsible for surface storage, such as FLNR. Some books about drafting management plans have been shared with NSSWD and other groups in the past and may prove useful to steering committee.

A member of the public commented that it was important that the community values the tax funding to SSIWPA, and for that to occur, SSIWPA should identify if it is doing a program of data gathering, or generating a plan. Any gathering of data is important, but it should be done in order to solve identified problems, such as determining answers to planning questions to solve issues of affordable housing and more top priorities on Salt Spring Island. Trust staff replied that the current SSIWPA-coordinated groundwater program co-managed by Islands Trust and FLNR is an example of data collection required for answering some of the priority questions, and that the integration of it with other data at SSIWPA is what adds so much value.

It was noted that the outdated ssiwatersheds.ca website was still linked from the recent Islands Trust Special Tax Requisition newsletter link to SSIWPA, and that the same outdated link was in the coordinator's email signature.

5. The upcoming meeting of SSIWPA steering committee is Friday, February 16, 2018.

P. Lapcevic left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance meeting would adjourn at 12:04 p.m.

**CARRIED**

---

George Grams, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

Shannon Cowan, Recorder