



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

Regular Meeting Minutes

- Date of Meeting:** Friday, April 29, 2022
- Location:** Electronic Meeting
- Members Present:** Laura Patrick, Chair, Islands Trust Trustee
Sylvia Barroso, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNR)
Karla Campbell, Capital Regional District, Electoral Area Senior Manager
Alan Martin, Fulford Water Service Area Commission
Mike McCormick, Beddis Water Service Area Commission
Sandra Ungerson, North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustee
Gary Holman, Vice Chair, Capital Regional District SSI Electoral Area Director
Tim Slaney, Scott Point Waterworks District
Margaret Thomson, Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance
- Member Regrets:** Dale Green, Capital Regional District, Senior Environmental Science Officer, Environmental Protection
Jason Griffin, Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission
- Members At-Large:** Deborah Miller, Transition Salt Spring Society
Doreen Hewitt, Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee
Ian Peace, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society
Pierre Mineau, Salt Spring Island Conservancy
- Members At-Large Regrets:** Rhonan Heitzmann, Salt Spring Water Company
Gayle Baker, Transition Salt Spring Society
- Technical Working Group Liaison Present:** John Millson, Technical Working Group Chair
- Staff Present:** Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
William Shulba, Senior Freshwater Specialist
Jason Youmans, Islands Trust Island Planner
Jenn Baddeley, Recorder
- Others Present:** Kirk Stinchcombe, Econics
Two members of the public

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Patrick called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and welcomed everyone to an electronic meeting. Chair Patrick acknowledged the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance is meeting on Coast Salish First Nations treaty and traditional territory. Introductions were carried out.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was approved.

3. MINUTES

3.1. Draft minutes of the January 28, 2022 Regular Meeting of the SSIWPA Steering Committee

By general consent, the minutes of the January 28, 2022 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Regular Meeting were adopted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1. Chair's Report

The Chair advised that there is no Chair Report.

4.2. Informal Member Updates

Member Martin readdressed the ongoing upgrades to the Vortex project infrastructure. Member Martin reported that there are no new issues.

Member Miller reported on the ongoing project at the Maxwell Lake Area, stating that there is a serious problem with drought and fire-related issues than original thought.

Member Hewitt reported on the conditions of the lakes, including Tyler Brooke which has a trickle and mentioned that North Salt Spring has already put in place conservation measures. Member Hewitt reported that there is no evidence of a bloom as of yet, but the flow rate is low so the bloom may come early. Member Hewitt reported that there is a problem with the new dock installed on Cusheon Lake as it is located in the area where restoration work was scheduled.

Member Holman reported that he responded to a question from a Fulford water district ratepayer regarding the approval process for new entrances to the service, specifically regarding the Vortex and if the water district can deny the application. Member Holman asked Chair Patrick if the new Accessory Dwellings Bylaw would include the Fulford Village area.

Chair Patrick responded that the current draft of the Accessory Dwellings Bylaw requires permission from any water district in which the accessory dwelling is located.

Member Peace asked Chair Patrick for information on the meeting they attended with the Lyackson First Nation.

Chair Patrick responded that the meeting was a Community-to-Community Forum for Thetis Island to relationship build and understand concerns.

~~Member~~ **TWG Liaison** Millson reported on a fundraising effort for a documentary film and work on the Maxwell Creek Watershed area as part of the Freshwater Catalogue project.

Member Campbell introduced herself and what her role is.

Member Thomson introduced herself and what her role is.

Member McCormick noted he'll report under section 4.2.1.

Member Ungerson reported on the water levels at St. Mary Lake and Mount Maxwell Lake.

Member Mineau noted he'll report under section 4.2.1. Member Mineau commented on Member Hewitt's report regarding the new dock on Cusheon Lake, noting that the old dock is an environmental hazard for the lake and needs to be removed. Member Mineau reported on the conservation of Mount Maxwell Watershed and the research being conducted that relates the Mount Maxwell Watershed with the other watersheds on Salt Spring Island.

Staff Youmans noted he'll report on items featured later in the agenda.

Member Barroso reported on the new Provincial Ministry transitions.

Staff Shulba reported on the Proof of Water for Subdivision Bylaw that he is working on with Staff Youmans. Staff Shulba reported work being done with the Technical Working Group on groundwater challenges in relation to alternative housing and the Land Use Bylaw. Staff Shulba reported on a new Request for Proposal for the Islands Trust Area Groundwater Recharge Mapping project (<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/whats-happening/bid-opportunities/>).

Member Slaney reported on the water tables being up to their seasonal highs.

There was further conversation between Member Hewitt and Member Mineau regarding the old dock on Cusheon Lake.

4.2.1. Cusheon Watershed and Wetland Impacts from Atmospheric River (Members Mineau and McCormick)

Member Mineau presented on Roberts Lake and Roberts Lake Marsh. The following points were captured from the presentation:

- There is construction of a causeway along Cranberry road with shale crush deposited in Roberts Lake Marsh.
- There is construction of a shale pad at the head of the Roberts Lake Marsh located around the inlet, which is a very ecologically sensitive area.
- Recommended that the shale be analyzed for phosphorus concentration levels.
- It is noted that Roberts Lake has been identified as habitat for several listed and endangered species and that it is one of the few remaining freshwater wetlands on Salt Spring Island.
- The construction work performed is questioned to be in contravention of Riparian and ALR regulations.
- There is concern there is not enough regulations and enforcement to protect the area.
- There is concern that future atmospheric river events may cause more damage as a result of the mismanagement of the Cusheon Lake Watershed.
 - Reference to the 2021 atmospheric river event:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfJAcCA5k98>
- It was noted that one of the potential consequences of the work being done in the Watershed is massive eutrophication pressures on Blackburn and Cusheon Lakes.
- One of the solutions is for the Conservancy to purchase the surrounding land in order to provide protection for the area.

Member McCormick presented the following points:

- There is a lack of enforcement of Riparian Area regulations.
- Brought up the question, how is the community accessing provincial government grants that support the protection and restoration of watersheds?
- Brought up the question of the status of the Salmon Enhancement Society efforts at Cusheon Lake and if the Society has the ability to protect waterbodies?

Chair Patrick noted that the Watershed Strategic Plan will assist community groups in preparing projects to receive grant funding.

There was general discussion regarding jurisdictions for Salt Spring Island in relation to watershed protection.

Member Holman noted that there are limited Development Permit Area (DPA) regulations in the Roberts Lake area.

There was further conversation regarding DPA regulations and bylaw enforcement. Staff Youmans made the comment that the Islands Trust Bylaw Enforcement team is reviewing the construction around Roberts Lake and determining which bylaws may be applicable for enforcement.

The following comments were recorded in the chat section of the meeting regarding the Cusheon Watershed and related impacts:

- Other than modest riparian buffers, there are no regulations on land clearing in the Cusheon watershed.
- The Cusheon watershed management plan, completed over a decade ago, recommends stronger DPA in the watershed.
- The Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) has set limits on the amount of fill and shale that can be deposited on agricultural land. Sylvia might know the limited amount. Info www.alc.gov.bc.ca info bulletin 07 February 2 2022.
- Only 50 cubic metres of fill is allowed by ALC on agricultural land.
- Wow! We might be a hundred fold above that limit ... and this is a difficult determination from an enforcement point of view?
- Shale also has a substantial manganese (Mn) component, not recommended for filling wetlands.

The following comment was recorded in the chat section of the meeting:

- Regarding whether water services have to give approval for suites, this is the exact language in the bylaw, “secondary suite is not located within an existing community water system, except, where alternative potable water supply, in compliance with this bylaw, is provided; or, written confirmation from the operator of the community water system that the site has sufficient capacity to supply the secondary suite”

4.3. SSIWPA Actions and Decisions; Coordinator’s Reports

4.3.1. Action Log

The Action and Decision Log dated January 28, 2022 was received.

4.3.2. SSIWPA Coordinator Reports – January, February, March, 2022

The Coordinator Reports Dated January, February, and March, 2022 were received.

4.3.3. SSIWPA Communications Reports – March-April, 2022 Update

The SSIWPA Communications Reports dated March and April, 2022 were received.

4.4. Workplan Project Reports and Updates

4.4.1. Blackburn Landfill Pollution Assessment Project Memo (Member Peace, WPS)

Member Peace presented the final report from the Ministry of Environment. The following points were captured from the presentation:

- That the report contains a limited set of parameters.

- Recommendation to create a small group that will read the full report.

There was further conversation regarding jurisdiction and the potential need for further testing.

Member Hewitt made a comment that the CRD had intended to include the legacy landfill site in their Solid Waste Management Plan for the region, but the site was not included.

There was general conversation regarding next steps for the project. The following points were captured from the conversation:

- Identify key contacts within the CRD and the Ministry of Environment.
- The SSIWPA Coordinator noted that the current work being conducted by Member Peace is a review of the past reports to determine if there was an issue.
- Member Campbell noted that the landfill is under the Ministry of Environment's jurisdiction for post closure monitoring of the site when it was closed. Currently the site is operating as a transfer station and does not require testing as regulated by the appropriate bylaws.

There was general conversation regarding drinking water testing and the Blackburn Landfill.

The following comments were recorded in the chat section of the meeting regarding the Blackburn Landfill Pollution Assessment Project:

- There was evidence from studies by Maggie and Drew that there is a concern.
- Ian has been in touch with Drew Bodaly about another topic recently, so perhaps Ian you want to follow up to ask Drew if they might share which parameters they measured and from where and what made them say there was a concern about any leachate (phosphorus is what they measured so Member Hewitt is likely referring to their nutrient load concerns, not confirmation of any plastics, persistent organic pollutants, metals).
- Mount Belcher groundwater is overly elevated in manganese and the area is likely a groundwater discharge area. You should see my toilet tank. from my artesian groundwater well that is above the Blackburn area, just put in new treatment to take it out. toilet tank is black from oxidizing manganese.
- I recall Cedar Lane groundwater is also very high in Manganese and when I lived there, my tank was also black.
- Cedar Lane does have a manganese problem and CRD has issued RFP to design a treatment system, the funding for which in the capital plan. Manganese may also be an issue for Beddis but not sure it exceeds applicable drinking water standards.
- I am not sure when they sampled for metals last. The CRD is only posting Water Quality Reports for select bacteria.
- Metals are tested bi annually at Beddis we had 1 elevated Mn level. Part of the problem is that there has been a somewhat recent change in the Canadian Drinking Water Standards which previously listed Mn as only an aesthetic. To my

knowledge I have never seen CRD sampling results with respect to persistent aromatics such as PCB etc. that you might find from an abandoned dump and our plant has no capacity to remove such chemicals.

- Re Blackburn, would it make sense to do some sampling in this and Cusheon Lake (perhaps WPS or CRD stormwater) for contaminants of interest as first step?

4.4.2. Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Impact Assessment (Member Green)

Member Campbell reported that a draft report has been received from the consultant.

4.4.3. Communications and Events Schedule for SSIWPA for year ending March 31, 2023

The SSIWPA Coordinator requested SSIWPA's attendance at the Fall Fair.

4.5. Working Group Updates/Reports

4.5.1. Technical Working Group (TWG Chair)

Member Millson reported on the following points:

- Sensitive areas mapping – allowed and not allowed for secondary suites
- Revisit info pamphlets

4.5.2. Water Systems Working Group (WSWG Rep)

Member McCormick noted that the working group's update can be found in the April 5, 2022 minutes. The SSIWPA Coordinator will email the minutes to the Members.

4.6. SSIWPA Update to the Climate Action Network, Transition Salt Spring event held March 8, 2022

The written update in the agenda package was received for information. It was noted this was a great network for climate action communication.

4.7. Correspondence for Information

4.7.1. Comparison of 2021 water rates in 10 water districts

<https://northsaltspringwaterworks.ca/latest-news/staff-report-on-comparison-of-10-water-district-rates/>

Received.

4.7.2. Lake Windermere Ambassadors Groundwater Monitoring Network – Notes from a Webinar Recording aired November 2021, attended by SSIWPA Coordinator in March 2022

Received.

4.7.3. FOR REPLY: Received from Housing Task Force to SSIWPA Steering Committee

Received. Chair Patrick advised that this piece of correspondence be directed to Islands Trust staff.

4.8. FOR DISCUSSION: Salt Spring Island Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan Situation Analysis Final Report by Econics Islands Trust Staff Memo

Report available at: <https://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/Minutes-and-Agendas/SSIWPA-Steering-Committee-Monthly-Meetings/2022/Econics-Watershed-Stewardship-Report-Ph1-2022-04-10.pdf>

The consultant from Econics, Kirk Stinchcombe, presented on both phase one and phase two of the Watershed Stewardship Report.

Chair Patrick noted that the SSIWPA Coordinator had their contract renewed.

There was general conversation regarding internalizing SSIWPA within the Islands Trust and the possibility of regionalizing SSIWPA as a result.

5. CLOSED MEETING (Distributed Under Separate Cover)

5.1. Motion to Close Meeting

That the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the Community Charter, Part 4, Division 3 s. 90(1) (a) [personal information about an identifiable individual who holds or is being considered for a position as an officer, employee or agent of the municipality or another position appointed by the municipality] for the purpose of considering:

- Adoption of SSIWPA In-Camera Meeting Minutes Dated April 17, 2020
- Technical Working Group membership
- AND that the recorder and staff attend the meeting.

5.2. Recall to Order

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance re-opens this meeting to the public subject to Community Charter Section 89.

5.3. Rise and Report

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Steering Committee appointed Ken Nentwig and Lewis Muirhead to the SSIWPA Technical Working Group for a one-year term.

6. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Friday, June 24, 2022 – 10:00-12:00

Friday, September 23, 2022 – 10:00-12:00

Friday, November 25, 2022 – 10:00-12:00

7. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Laura Patrick, Chair

Jenn Baddeley, Recorder