



Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: Friday, November 25, 2022

Location: Electronic Meeting

Members Present: Laura Patrick, SSIWPA Chairperson, Islands Trust Trustee
Karla Campbell, Capital Regional District, Electoral Area Senior Manager
Alan Martin, Fulford 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
Jason Griffin, Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission
Carollin Wentworth, Fernwood-Highland Water Service Area Commission (new SSIWPA member representative)

Member Regrets: Sylvia Barroso (on leave), Ministry of Forests
Beddis 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
Lewis Muirhead, Erskine Water Society (new SSIWPA member at-large representative)
Pierre Mineau, Salt Spring Island Conservancy

Members At-Large Regrets: Rhonan Heitzmann, Salt Spring Water Company

Technical Working Group Liaison Present: John Millson, Technical Working Group Chairperson
Ken Nentwig, Technical Working Group Member At-Large

Staff Present: Shannon Cowan, Coordinator
Anthony Fotino, Islands Trust Island Planner
Jenn Baddeley, Recorder

Others Present: 1 Member 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 10:01 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 September 23, 2022 Regular Meeting of the SSIWPA Steering Committee

By general consent, the minutes of the September 23, 2022 Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Regular Meeting were adopted.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1. Chair's Report

Chairperson Patrick noted the recent election and the need for the new Islands Trust Local Trust Committee (LTC) to appoint a Trustee to SSIWPA. Chairperson Patrick also welcomed newly elected Trustee Harris to the LTC and made the announcement that the new Chair for the Salt Spring LTC is Chair Peterson.

4.2. Informal Member Updates

Member Miller introduced herself and identified her role with Transition Salt Spring Society. Member Miller announced the new arrangement with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure for the Mount Maxwell Project. Staff Shulba will be bringing similar projects to other Gulf Islands.

Member Slaney introduced himself and identified his role with Scott Point Waterworks District. Member Slaney noted the low rainwater levels this fall.

Member Martin introduced himself and identified his role with the Fulford Water Service Area Commission.

Staff Fotino introduced himself and identified his role with the Islands Trust.

Member Thomson introduced herself and identified her role with the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance. Member Thomson noted that the McFadden creek has been flowing for two weeks.

Member Hewitt introduced herself and identified her role with the Cusheon Lake Stewardship Committee. Member Hewitt noted that no current readings of Cusheon Lake have been performed recently and that there is some concern that contaminants from Beddis Road could enter the lake with heavy rainfall.

Member Holman introduced himself and identified his role as Director for Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, with the Capital Regional District (CRD). Member Holman reported that the CRD is hiring a new Water Manager for Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands and that the LCC referendum was successful. Member Holman noted that the CRD intends to continue the storm water rebates for water storage. Member Holman reported that he is trying to arrange a meeting with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Member Holman noted that proposals for Mount Maxwell road infrastructure and Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) plant residuals has been brought forward at CRD.

Member Griffin introduced himself and identified his role with the Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission. Member Griffin noted that two new wells have been drilled on the perimeter. Member Griffin would like SSIWPA to discuss well-drilling with the province.

Member Millson introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group. Member Millson reported that he is leading a multi-organization group that will be creating a film about freshwater on Salt Spring Island. Member Millson noted that two new projects will be occurring in Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay).

Member Campbell introduced herself and identified her role with the Capital Regional District. Member Campbell noted that a report to approve a project charter for water system repairs was taken to the Fulford Water Service Area Commission and that Weston Creek water system repairs will be done this fall.

Member Nentwig introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group.

Member Lewis introduced himself and identified his role in the Technical Working Group and

with the Erskine Water Society.

Member Mineau introduced himself and identified his role with the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. Member Mineau announced that the Conservancy is now the owner of the lower reaches of Cusheon Creek. Member Mineau noted his concerns regarding the earthworks in the Roberts Lake area and potential future impacts. Member Mineau noted that he participated in a water milfoil survey in Cusheon Lake lead by the SSIWPA Coordinator, and found that there were large amounts of algae in the lake, as well as a monoculture of one aquatic plant species (not water milfoil).

Member Ungerson introduced herself and identified her role with the North Salt Spring Waterworks. Member Ungerson reported that the governance committee is running again and that North Salt Spring Waterworks has started a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process with Islands Trust. Member Ungerson noted that they are also working on the Maxwell watershed project with multiple other partners. Member Ungerson reported that with the recent rains, St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake were refilling but now with the lack of rains the water levels are going down. If rainfalls do not increase, it may be required to implement first-time winter water restrictions.

Staff Baddeley introduced herself and identified her role as minute-taker for this meeting, and staff with the Islands Trust.

Member Peace introduced himself and identified his role with the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society. Member Peace noted his concern over November's low rainfall levels. Member Peace noted that he would like SSIWPA to start meeting in-person again. Member Peace reported on the work being done at the Sea Wall and Sea Garden in Fulford by Parks Canada. Member Peace noted he participated in the water milfoil lake survey in Weston Lake along with the SSIWPA Coordinator and Member Mineau.

4.2.1. Fernwood-Highland Water Service Commissioner SSIWPA Member – Carolin Wentworth

Member Wentworth introduced herself and identified her role with the Fernwood-Highland Water Service Commission.

4.2.2. Update Member and Contact List

Coordinator Cowan has requested that SSIWPA Members update their contact information by Monday November 28, 2022.

4.3. SSIWPA Actions and Decisions; Coordinator's Report

4.3.1. Actions Log

The report was received for information. There was a question about the cancellation of the hydrogeological study (University of Victoria) that was to be performed next to the Fulford Estuary. Coordinator Cowan noted it was cancelled due to Covid.

4.3.2. Actions Completed

The report was received for information.

4.3.3. SSIWPA Coordinator Reports – September, October 2022

The Coordinator Reports Dated September and October, 2022 were received.

Coordinator Cowan reported on the milfoil surveys conducted in Weston Lake, St. Mary Lake, Stowell Lake and Cusheon Lake.

Coordinator Cowan noted that they have been in contact with the Stqeeye' Learning Society and that there is interest to work with SSIWPA.

4.4. Workplan Project Updates 2022-2023:

4.4.1. Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan (Econics)

Coordinator Cowan updated the group on the Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan on behalf of Kirk Stinchcombe (Econics). Coordinator Cowan noted that there has been Watershed Protection Plan Working Group member turnover as of late and correspondence with the province to replace the provincial working group member on leave is underway. Coordinator Cowan reported that she and Kirk Stinchcombe are currently working on finalizing the list of actions in the Plan. Coordinator Cowan reported that Staff Fotino is working to move the fiscal year 2024 special tax requisition forward through Islands Trust.

4.5. Budget 2022-2023 Update

Coordinator Cowan noted that no financial report has been received yet from the Islands Trust. Once received, the report will be distributed to SSIWPA members.

Chairperson Patrick reported on the Islands Trust Quarter Two Financials, which includes coordination, the Weston Lake project, and the Watershed Stewardship and Protection Plan.

There was a discussion regarding future projects and how they may be funded.

4.6. For Decisions: SSIWPA Draft Workplan 2023-2024

Coordinator Cowan reviewed the draft watershed protection coordination workplan as presented in the agenda.

There was discussion regarding the partner agencies' capacities and funding in relation to the projects in the workplan.

Some of the following items were noted in the discussion:

- The Groundwater Recharge Mapping project should be reviewed at TWG first prior to steering committee or local trust committee receipt
- Regarding suitability of projects for coordination, it was mentioned that SSIWPA's annual workplan consists of convening member organizations and carrying out education and communications actions.
- The groundwater wells being drilled on the perimeter of the Cedar Lane Water Service Area may be impacting Cedar Lane groundwater rights, and require information/liaison with the provincial government. It was noted this concern is not suitable to add to the coordination workplan as a project, since it would require to come from the CRD staff and operations who will lead such a project.
- This coordination of projects for next fiscal year item will be readdressed at the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting.

ACTION 2022-06: Coordinator Cowan will discuss the Cedar Lane groundwater availability/authorizations situation with Member Griffin for Cedar Lane Water Service Area Commission in a separate meeting.

There was discussion regarding the roles and responsibilities of SSIWPA Coordination. It was suggested that this topic be readdressed after the Watershed Protection Plan is completed.

4.7. For Decision: SSIWPA Draft Budget 2022-2023

The item was deferred until the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting because of the watershed protection coordination for fiscal year 2024 ongoing discussion. Coordinator Cowan will present a breakdown of the proposed budget at the January 2023 meeting.

4.8. For Decisions: Technical Working Group Report

Member Millson reported on the education and outreach work being done by the Technical

Working Group regarding freshwater stewardship.

By general consent, the SSIWPA Steering Committee requests that the Islands Trust considers staff resources to explore watershed hydrology aspects of the EcoAction project at Lake Maxwell.

4.9. Salt Spring Island Water Systems Group Update

This item is deferred until the January 2023 SSIWPA meeting.

5. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Friday, January 27, 2023 – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday, April 28, 2023 – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday, June 30, 2023 – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday, September 29, 2023 – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

Friday, November 24, 2023 – 10:00-12:00 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT

By general consent, the meeting adjourned at 11:56 A.M.

Laura Patrick, Chair

Jenn Baddeley, Recorder