DRAFT
MINUTES
of the
SSI WATERSHED PROTECTION ALLIANCE
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING

Date of Meeting: **Wednesday April 11, 2018 10:00 – 12:00**
Location: **108-121 McPhillips Ave., CRD Boardroom**
Salt Spring Island

Members Present: Fred Beall, TWG member at-large
Dale Green, Senior Environmental Science officer, Environmental Protection, Capital Regional District (via web conferencing)
Ian deBie, TWG member at-large
John Millson, Chair
Katsky Venter, TWG member at-large
William Shulba, Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist

Regrets: Jos Lussenburg, Member at-large
Julie-Ann Ishikawa, Ministry of Environment and Climate Strategy
Kevin Chipperfield, TWG member at-large
Sylvia Barroso, Water Protection, Hydrogeologist, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

Staff Present: Shannon Cowan, Coordinator, Recorder

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am.
2. **By general consent**, the agenda was approved as presented, including the following late item 4.5 CRS Mapping Proposal Overview as a refresher.

3. **By general consent,** the SSIWPA Technical Working Group (TWG) adopted draft minutes of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Technical Working Group meeting February 6, 2018.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 SSIWPA-coordinated Groundwater Projects – Co-lead William Shulba

4.1.1 Well Inventory and Education -

Member Shulba provided an overview of the groundwater well inventory project steps. The approximately 400 wells that were discovered in a desktop study in 2017 are awaiting entry to the provincial WELLS database, and steps are being taken to get resources and agreements in place for their entry to the database, which will add another third to the already registered 2000 groundwater wells on SSI.

4.1.2 Groundwater Wells Monitoring Pilot -

There was discussion about specific watershed areas where volunteer monitoring network wells are still sought - map sites indicated were:

- Beaver Point area,
- Isabella Point (and Skywater/Musgrave heights),
- central island near Ford lake or upper Cusheon watershed,
- Eagleridge, Bullock Creek, and
- West side from Mt. Erskine to Sunset Drive.

Coordinator is creating and updating the shortlist, and checking by photos, emails and phone calls that potential well sites meet basic suitability criteria for the project.

ACTION: TWG members are encouraged to share the Islands Trust letter from William Shulba outlining the call for volunteer inactive wells.

There is still potential to be involved with the project as late as June when the second set of wells will be inspected and brought into the project for monitoring purposes.

It was noted that some pumped wells may form part of the pilot project in order to cover areas where no inactive wells were

volunteered. The entire project site shortlist will not be finalized prior to installation of the equipment in the first 4-5 project wells in early May after the provincial groundwater well inspection officer assures they are suitable.

William Shulba reported that a Co-Op student is being sought to complete parts of the data collection and outreach and survey portions of the groundwater monitoring program.

4.1.3 Potential further involvement of TWG in site selection process

Review of the current site list and technical discussion of project parameters was accomplished, which benefited from TWG insight and suggestions.

William Shulba and Sylvia Barroso are planning to meet next week to set next steps for installation and site selection.

William Shulba reported that some individuals in Washington State offered support and interest in SSIWPA's groundwater monitoring network and multi-agency water sustainability planning on Salt Spring Island.

4.2 Access to shared GIS environment

Discussion and parameters for "web dashboard" map data use and GIS data use between agencies and TWG was tabled, pending next meeting participation by Member Barroso.

4.3 SSI Water Catalogue - A data acquisition and management system by Water Preservation Society

Member Millson, who is a Water Preservation society member and lead project supervisor, gave an overview of the early stages SSI Water Preservation Society project with a few presentation slides. TWG discussed how TWG members and SSIWPA may benefit from proposed project outcomes and/ or be interested in advising on primary framework/organization. Some highlights of high level objectives included:

- Raise community awareness of the island’s water diversity, and support data gathering for water resource quantification, preservation and management.
- water body geographic extents & quantity attributes

- water quality baselines for creeksheds not included in water district monitoring
- water use monitoring, conversations with locals with use of maps and field work
- build public water resource education into the project
- data and accumulation of information into one place about controls on potable water, flows and dates for creek activity (fish, flows, surface and sub-surface), pond reservoirs, etc.

Some discussion points included:

- Could this data catalogue (in GIS environment) be used for decision-makers in watershed and water resource protection and policy and planning?
- Use an APP for the Freshwater Watch project data collection.
- Why?
    - web GIS opportunity,
    - rich web platform,
    - could attract funding,
    - education nested in science,
    - share-ability across platforms and with other regions.
- Citizen science offers potential benefits, but management of data can be extremely challenging.
- Framework: needed for quality control and data standards so data can be useful across all user types, including governments.
  e.g. Photos digitized in mobile phone cameras contain metadata with time stamp, etc. The structure for kmz data flow to link with Google Earth could lend usefulness and be strategy in project Framework.
- could be useful to begin this project with a list of what data are being collected by SSIWPA member agencies and districts
- How might TWG assist?
- Outside of SSIWPA TWG work, members of the group may wish to assist determining "Where to begin" for SSI Water Catalogue, before that project goes public seeking volunteers.
    - Make a list of what is known in a sheet would be worthwhile as starting point.
    - TWG help in establishing a Framework could be useful.

- To establish Framework, SSI Water Catalogue leaders should include a review of provincial water quality data for nine lakes on SSI, and Water Survey of Canada data from the 70s and 80s.

- Quality and commitment of volunteers is important - they also will be more likely to continue to commit if Framework is solid and data use is relevant and obvious.
- If the Framework is solid, any volunteer should be able to be trained to collect quality data.
    - Earthwatch - Freshwater Watch is a framework that exists across Canada.
    - stewardship groups do exist on SSI, and they could be invited to participate (Cusheon Lake, Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement, SSI Conservancy, Transition SSI)

Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) has historically taken air photo CRD data to compare over timeframes to determine tree cover gain-loss as indicators of ecosystem health, water body presence and change, and development pressure. Some data is on CRD Community Atlas, some in CRD datasets. Next review planned is a 4 year timeslice, but unknown if HAT is going to do it. CRD will likely go ahead with the work if HAT not interested, pending funding.

ACTION: Dale Green will send some HAT ecosystem mapping reports and CRD uses of the data, as examples for TWG through Coordinator.

Coordinator pointed out that HAT sources funds earmarked for "community" projects, as a not-for-profit organization. She also pointed to another Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) project in restoration of watershed areas on SSI that is currently underway, by Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society. This is example of how the WPS may source Water Catalogue funding and also where WC data could be useful in future stewardship projects.

It was noted that coordination function of SSIWPA could benefit from more public education component to build stakeholder support. For the proposed WPS project, it was noted that the use of newsletters and media outlets and publicity would be strategic and important.

4.4 The Action and Decision List for TWG was reviewed.

4.5 CRS Mapping Proposal Overview
Member Millson recounted briefly what was presented to Steering Committee in February 23, 2018 meeting. Status : Coordinator will remind Steering Committee of the CRS proposal pending Groundwater Budget results later spring 2018.

5 OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Report out to Steering Committee – The Chair Millson will present the following at April monthly SSIWPA-SC meeting:

- Groundwater Project Manager, William Shulba, will present project updates to LTC and to SSIWPA in May meetings.
- Wells Inventory status: Co-Op student is being sought for data entry step.
- Water Preservation Society's Water Catalogue project was discussed by TWG in terms of ideas for a data collection and sharing Framework that would link with IFWM SSIWPA program areas.
- TWG member Chipperfield was not present. Soil Phosphorus Movement Pilot project report draft was received by TWG 2018-02-06, and final report incorporating TWG suggestions is pending from Member Chipperfield soon and will be forwarded to Steering Committee.

5.2 Coordinator announced confirmation of the **SSI Groundwater Budget Analysis** public presentation by Golder Associates at **Community Gospel Church - 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, May 9, 2018 from 10:00 - Noon.**

6. The next meeting of TWG needs to be rescheduled as June 12th, 2018 was selected as the best date for SSIWPA Strategic Planning Session.
TWG are invited to the Strategic Planning - please confirm RSVP with Shannon.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

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John Millson, Chair

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

_____ Shannon Cowan, Recorder