



**Minutes of the  
Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA)  
TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (TWG) MEETING**

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
**Location:** via Zoom web conferencing

**Members Present:** Dale Green, Capital Regional District  
John Millson, Chair  
Ian deBie, Member at-large  
Ian Peace, Member at-large  
Robin Annschild, Member at-large  
William Shulba, Islands Trust Senior Freshwater Specialist

**Regrets:** Jos Lussenburg, Member at-large  
Tanya Schulz, Member at-large

**Staff Present:** Shannon Cowan, Coordinator, Recorder (via web conferencing)

**Others Present:** Landen Matechuk, M.Sc. Candidate, University of Victoria  
Tara Martin, Ph.D., Forest and Conservation Sciences, University of BC  
Sylvia Barroso, SSIWPA Member and Regional Hydrogeologist (FLNR)

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 pm.
2. The agenda was approved as presented with an adapted order.
3. **By general consent**, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Technical Working Group held February 05, 2021 were approved.
4. **BUSINESS ITEMS**
  - 4.1 **SSIWPA Workplan Projects and TWG Actions**
    - 4.1.1 Groundwater Education Deliverables and TWG Recommendations to Steering Committee



The TWG agreed **by general consent** to a series of changes to the six panels presented in the draft brochure.

The following ideas were suggested for the groundwater resources web page:

- Include a map with all of the wells and groundwater regions
- What is a watershed? – some education about that
- Maps – wells on SSI, recharge, watersheds, groundwater regions.

It was suggested and generally agreed that the TWG would work with the coordinator in the next quarter to design one or two additional digital and print pamphlets (bi-fold) to educate the public about the impacts of saltwater intrusion, and other impacts to groundwater such as available through drastic maps.

**ACTION: William Shulba will bring maps to June TWG meeting for discussion of next pamphlet (for maps).**

#### **4.1.2** Weston Lake Water Availability Study (CRD) – Member Green

Member Green reported that the Memorandum of Understanding is in process and the project is slated to begin shortly thereafter. Member Millson reported that the WPS Freshwater Catalogue data (data logger) for the two Weston Creek watershed sites (and in-field volunteer recordings) is available for study use.

#### **4.1.3** Proof of Water at Time of Subdivision: brief update – Member Shulba

Member Shulba outlined some of the draft bylaw specifications. The bylaw includes a requirement for 12-hour pump tests, such that subdivision on wells that are not able to withstand 12-hour pump tests without over-withdrawal of the amount their well can sustain, will not be permitted. A variance may yet be requested by any applicant with subdivision requests of this nature.

The review provided by the TWG and the Province will be included in any future Official Community Plan review processes.

### **4.2** Southern Gulf Islands Groundwater Sustainability Strategy – Member Shulba

#### **4.2.1** Update on the project



It was reported that in the *Southern Gulf Islands Groundwater Sustainability Strategy* report, a classification system was designed for water recharge potential and groundwater availability for each of the groundwater regions in the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI). 'Groundwater region' refers to a water management unit for provincial water authorizations that could eventually be used in the Water Sustainability Act for area-based water objectives regulations. Area-based water objectives can be undertaken under the WSA by a 'watershed protection organization'.

It was noted that:

- Agricultural Water Demand was a big issue in the determination of a water budget for each of the groundwater regions as delineated in the *SGI Groundwater Sustainability Strategy* report.
- TWG review for the draft report (June-July 2020) was implemented.
- The Galiano project is headed to community information meetings within the next 6 months. Others may be on a slower timeline.
- There is currently no Salt Spring Island Groundwater Sustainability Strategy project currently in scope for the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

Member Shulba also reported that SSI Local Trust Committee may consider a study intended to update SSI Groundwater Recharge Mapping with use of new methodology (3D model) which may also include Watershed Ecosystem Resilience Mapping that is currently under TWG recommendation to Steering Committee. It was noted that this timing for the above studies is essential to aim for, in order to complete water budgets next fiscal (with full integration of mapping work) for Salt Spring Island before election in November of 2022.

It was clarified that mapping at UBC by Dr. Martin's lab will be a useful work product but not for incorporation into the ongoing work of Local Trust Committee (groundwater region budgets, recharge mapping update). Conversely, when (or if) the recharge mapping update and ecosystem resilience mapping is completed by Islands Trust, those work products may contribute to Dr. Martin's priority lands map for SSI.

#### 4.2.2 Parameters for TWG recommendation to SSIWPA



Refer to Action 5.1.2 in list here below (*from TWG Minutes 2021-02-05*). By general consent, TWG agreed to change: 5.1.2 to read: **TWG agrees to recommend that SSIWPA-SC add SSI Watershed Ecosystem Resilience Mapping and potential for integration with Dr. Martin's Land Priority Mapping. This timing is essential to aim towards in order to complete water budgets next fiscal before election in November of 2022 (including integration of mapping work and consideration of the WPS Freshwater Catalogue field data).**

#### 4.3 Technical Working Group Membership

**By general consent,** it was agreed TWG will not undertake any formal recruitment of new members, but that any current members could keep in mind whether their contacts, networks may suggest a potential recruit, and bring that name to the TWG at a future date.

The following disciplines were previously agreed by TWG to be useful for this working group:

- Limnology
- Aquatic Biology
- Soil science
- Environmental Restoration
- Environmental Science
- Watershed Hydrology
- Groundwater Science
- Geoscience
- Biogeography
- Environmental Instrumentation Technology
- Geographical Information Systems
- Drinking Water Science and Operations
- Watershed management
- Forestry
- Chemistry
- Toxicology
- Water resources Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Mathematics
- Environmental Engineering



#### 4.4 Meeting Schedule

**ACTION:** Would all **members of the Technical Working Group** please send to Shannon at your earliest convenience a list of times and days of the week that you are not available, or alternatively your “not available timeslots” or calendar for the following timeframes weekdays ending by 5:30pm: May 24 through June 4 inclusive, September 8 – 17, November 1 – 12.

#### 4.5 Freshwater Catalogue

See 4.2.2 above – timing of integration of data from this project with proposed mapping study results was discussed.

### 5. OTHER BUSINESS

#### 5.1 Report out to Steering Committee

5.1.1 **By general consent**, the Technical Working Group agreed to recommend that the SSIWPA Steering Committee add Watershed Ecosystem Resilience Mapping and potential for integration with Dr. Martin’s Land Priority Mapping as a project on the 2021-22 SSIWPA Workplan.

5.1.2 **By general consent**, SSIWPA Technical Working Group elected John Millson as Chair for the twelve months January 1 – December 31, 2021.

5.1.3 **By general consent** the Technical Working Group agreed to recommend that the Steering Committee consider directing its TWG to provide technical advisory to a Transition Salt Spring Ecological Research Network (ERN) “SSI Watershed Stewardship” Video Project that is currently in planning stages.

5.1.4 **By general consent**, the Technical Working Group agreed to remind SSIWPA-SC of the ongoing and expanded value of the Water Preservation Society’s Freshwater Catalogue. As supported by Dr. Diana Allen, the resulting community-based research results and datasets, including the recommended linkages between stream and groundwater chemistry made by Dr. Allen and her graduate student in 2020, are considered by experts to have significant value in the goals of many inter-connected research projects coordinated by SSIWPA and carried out by local government and by non-governmental organizations on Salt Spring Island. As well, it was noted that the Freshwater Catalogue also offers useful linkages with future elements of a potential SSI Groundwater Sustainability Plan or Strategy (either as a standalone project, or part of the SSIWPA SSI Watershed Plan)(phasing to be determined).



**6. MEETING SCHEDULE**

**TBD. Would all members of the Technical Working Group please send to Shannon at your earliest convenience a list of times and days of the week that you are not available, or alternatively your “not available timeslots” or calendar for the following timeframes weekdays ending by 5:30pm: May 24 through June 4 inclusive, September 8 – 17, November 1 – 12.**

**7.** The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 pm.

---

John Millson, Chair

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

---

Shannon Cowan, Recorder