



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

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, January 17, 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 pm  
**Location:** via Zoom web conferencing

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

**Regrets:** Jos Lussenburg, Member at-large, Robin Annschild, Member at-large

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

**Others Present:** Sylvia Barroso, SSIWPA Member and Regional Hydrogeologist (FLNR)  
Louisa Garbo, Islands Trust Planner

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.
2. The agenda was approved.
3. Addition to the minutes 4.1.1 Big – change to bid.

**By general consent**, the draft minutes of the meeting of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance Technical Working Group held November 8, 2021 were approved, as amended.

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**4.1 Election of chair**

Member Peace nominated Member Millson. Member Millson accepted the nomination.

**By general consent**, it was agreed that Member Millson would serve for the calendar year 2022 as Chair of the Technical Working Group.



The Role of TWG Chair as identified in the Terms of Reference was reviewed as the following actions:

- Liaison with Steering Committee
- Sets Agenda with support from Coordinator
- Reviews Minutes
- New proposed role of TWG Chair:
  - Overview of the technical roles of the group and direction of the group. (i.e. Does Steering advise TWG or does TWG advise Steering?)
- Second new proposed role of TWG Chair that is not in the Terms of Reference, currently:
  - Support/steer volunteer recruitment on TWG, makeup of the committee

It was suggested that the new proposed roles for the TWG Chair position are currently being practiced and if it's desired that the group have leadership that includes these roles, then these should be in Terms of Reference scope for the position.

It was suggested that the current Econics Watershed Stewardship and Protection project will include a review of Technical Working Group structure and function within the entire scope of watershed protection and stewardship on Salt Spring Island.

## **4.2 Action List**

The action list items in process were under review and the following suggestions were noted:

- The Salt Spring Island Groundwater Recharge Mapping project (with updated analysis tools) has a potential completion of September, 2022.
- The Know your Freshwater brochure (potentially completed this year).
- The timeframe for development of public communication materials about ongoing studies needs to account for time required for completion of science and analysis steps within member agencies.



- TWG member concerns were raised about the absence of Local Trust Committee commitment to support areal water sustainability (and water budget) mapping work in 2022-23.
- The SSI Groundwater Monitoring project is ongoing.
- Groundwater Sustainability Planning on Salt Spring Island is not proceeding at present.
- Levels of technical input to educational materials should be a consideration. Data layers and maps may not appeal to all readers. The brochure language is intended to be summary, with more graphics and less reliant on Geographical Information Systems.
- It was clarified that the goal for the next brochure was to share watershed visuals with the public in a format they could find and grasp and discuss easily.
- Support was expressed to complete the "Shulba-Millson" summary of mapping projects underway and completed.
- Watershed maps for Know Your Freshwater public education materials was removed from the Action List.

**Action: Member Shulba will share the SGI Groundwater Recharge and Availability Study Briefing Note with the TWG when it is completed.**

### **4.3 SSIWPA Workplan Projects and TWG Actions**

#### **4.3.1 Weston Lake Water Availability Project**

The project milestones were outlined:

- Coordination of data agreements with the contractor for data-sharing is under way. The contractor is GW Solutions.
- Project coordinator will liaise with the Water Preservation Society Freshwater Catalogue coordinator regarding transfer of the Freshwater Catalogue field data for this project.
- This project includes two phases.
  - o Phase 1: Assessment about suitability of data to complete phase 2



- Phase 2 – Water Availability Analysis and reporting. Proposed completion April 2022.

#### 4.3.2 Groundwater Projects & Datasets

Member Shulba provided an update on the Southern Gulf Islands Groundwater Recharge and Availability project. All the reviews and input from TWG and others have been incorporated to the GW Solutions final project that is nearing completion this winter. The report will be published at the end of January 2022 on the Islands Trust website with a briefing note.

It was noted that the Salt Spring Island Aquifer Mapping and Groundwater Budget study (Gorski and Sacré, 2019) indicated more data are needed for decision-making (such as licensing, groundwater use). Maybe the focus for multi-agency coordinated effort could turn to collecting surface water datasets, as Golder's report indicated.

#### 4.3.3 Volume of Potable Water for Secondary Suites

Planner Garbo gave a short description of the background for the request. The planning staff are currently considering a recommended volume of water for secondary suites at 1,600 L/day. It was requested whether the query was for secondary suites for the whole of the island. The Affordable Housing Task Force is proposing the entire island, but the Planning Staff are developing region-specific recommendations. The latter are in-line with perspectives developing from ongoing, and prior groundwater sustainability studies. Planning staff have currently mapped identified areas where they will propose restrictions on rainwater systems for secondary suites.

It was suggested that saltwater intrusion vulnerability areas should be included in the rainwater systems for secondary suites mapped zones.

Would the proximity to the water district source, or indicators that the district has a shortage be a consideration?

It would be helpful to know where SS Water Co. has been delivering water.

**ACTION:** The Technical Working Group will meet in the next couple of weeks on the topic of water volume and the appropriate water availability data impacts on location for secondary suites. TWG will invite guest expertise from SSIWPA Member Ungerson and Matt Nowell as local experts in rainwater storage systems, volumes and usage.



**ACTION:** SSIWPA Coordinator will liaise with Planner Garbo on the recommendations that TWG produces regarding secondary suites from the dedicated meeting regarding water volume requirements for secondary suites.

4.3.4 Groundwater Education II was not discussed this meeting.

#### **4.4 Other Projects**

##### **4.4.1 Freshwater Catalogue Update**

The opportunity and importance of integration of catalogue field data with ongoing member agency projects, such as the Weston Lake Water Availability study, was noted.

#### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 Comments or questions from observers**

There were none.

#### **6. NEXT MEETING**

The special meeting will be scheduled in the coming couple of weeks by the coordinator.

The next regular quarterly meeting will be held April 11, 2022 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 pm.

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John Millson, Chair

#### **CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

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Shannon Cowan, Recorder