

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT

SHUSWAP EMERGENCY PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of A Shuswap Emergency Program Executive Committee meeting held December 17, 2018
In the Board Room of the Regional District Office, Salmon Arm

Note: The following minutes are subject to correction when
endorsed by the SEP Executive Committee at the next Regular meeting

PRESENT:

Chair:	P. Demenok	(Electoral Area C)
Directors:	R. Talbot	(Electoral Area D)
	R. Martin	(Electoral Area E)
	J. Simpson	(Electoral Area F)
	A. Harrison	(City of Salmon Arm)
	T. Lavery	(City of Salmon Arm)
	T. Rysz	(District of Sicamous)
Staff:	D. Sutherland	Team Leader, Protective Services
	C. Semchuk	Emergency Program Facilitator
	T. Hansen	Emergency Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 1:59 PM.

Due to the recent General Local Election, the Chair position of the Shuswap Emergency Program Executive Committee is vacant. The Vice Chair, Paul Demenok, assumed the Chair position for this meeting.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA M/S Directors Martin/Simpson THAT:
the agenda for the December 17, 2018 SEP Executive Committee meeting be approved.
CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES M/S Directors Talbot/Lavery THAT:
the amended minutes from the meeting dated April 11, 2018 be adopted with the removal of C. Eliason and replacement of T. Lavery as members present.
CARRIED

SEP 2018 Update Derek Sutherland, Team Leader, Protective Services provided the following update to the Committee.

In 2018, SEP activated an Emergency Operations Centre for 10 events. Significant events included:

- Electoral Area C – Newsome Creek along Caen Road in Sorrento. 11 properties were placed on an evacuation alert due to the creek causing severe erosion issues and undermining properties.
- Electoral Area D – Falkland Road Debris Flow, required MoTI to clear debris off of Falkland Road.
- Electoral Area D – Salmon Valley Flooding, reported to be a 1 in 200 year flood event.

The rising level of Shuswap Lake was a concern in 2018. A local hydrologist forecasted the lake could potentially reach the 2012 level, which could impact critical infrastructure and damage homes. A significant and prolonged response was undertaken by SEP to undertake works to protect critical infrastructure and to provide sand and sandbags to impacted home

owners. Protective measures were very successful and lake levels receded before reaching critical levels.

The Team Leader also discussed the Abbott Chapman independent review and report of the 2017 wildfire and flood events across BC, the relationship building projects undertaken with the Revelstoke and Area B Emergency Program and the Golden and Area A Emergency Program and the numerous public events attended by the SEP.

A discussion was held regarding recent events and how weather trends are resulting in an increase in the frequency and severity of major events.

TRAINING AND EXERCISE – 2019/2020

The Emergency Program Coordinator, Tom Hansen and the Emergency Program Facilitator, Cathy Semchuk provided a review of SEP's volunteer teams.

Emergency Social Services (ESS) – this program consists of 86 highly trained and active volunteers.

Structural Protection Unit (SPU) – a highly trained and specialized group of 20 volunteer fire fighters charged with the operation of the SPU's used in the protection of homes from urban interface wildfire.

Emergency Operations Centre Team - a team of 18 volunteers trained to assist when an EOC is activated.

Mobile Operations Team – this team consists of EOC volunteers who are tasked with the upkeep of the SEP Mobile Operations Command Truck.

Neighborhood Emergency Programs (NEP) – a group of community volunteers who organize themselves into NEP groups promoting personal and neighborhood preparedness within their NEP areas. In 2018, a total of 16 new NEPs were added to the existing nine teams for a total of 25 neighborhood programs in the Shuswap area. NEP communities are able to cope more effectively during an event and recover quicker post event.

STRUCTURAL PROTECTION UNITS - UPDATE

Planned upgrades to the type 3 SPU have been completed, increasing the unit's capacity to a type 2 level. Presently there are two type 2 SPU trailers situated in the Shuswap area and one type 3 unit located in the Golden area.

Due to large wildfire events which have occurred over the past two years, SPU units have been deployed throughout the province to assist with urban interface wildfire events. All costs are recoverable from the Province when a unit is deployed.

Discussion was held regarding on-going maintenance, future equipment replacement and consideration for the purchase of a fourth unit.

GRANTS

The following grant applications have been approved and are proceeding as follows:

Bastion Mountain Assessment grant approved for \$149,686 - The general overview of this project is to complete an assessment to better understand the area hazards aiding with the development of any future response efforts or mitigation options. The contractor has confirmed that a draft assessment will be provided for review prior to the end of the year.

ESS Standardization Initiative grant approved for \$23,650 – This Initiative will assist to develop a standardized approach to ESS recruitment, training and retention building stronger ESS capacity throughout the three CSRD emergency programs. Recruitment campaigns have been undertaken for both Revelstoke and Area Emergency Program and Golden and Area Emergency Program and have been successful in attracting nine volunteers for RAEMP and 22 volunteers for GAEMP.

Area B Emergency Operations Centre Establishment Project grant approved for \$25,000 –

Request for this grant funding was based on the possible risk that an agreement for the contracting of emergency management for CSRD Electoral Area B to the City of Revelstoke would not be reached. The grant funding was intended to assist in the development of an EOC in Area B. An agreement has since been signed with the City of Revelstoke and consideration is being made on how to redirect the grant monies.

Thompson Watershed Risk Assessment – the consultant engaged to do this assessment is moving forward with identifying gaps and high risk areas in the Thompson Watershed area which includes Shuswap and Mara Lakes.

The following applications have been forwarded for grant funding:

Fraser Basin Study – application is being prepared to acquire funding to conduct LIDAR data to be used for flood mapping in the CSRD Electoral Areas A and B.

Evacuation Route Planning – an application for \$25,000 has been submitted to UBCM to assist with the development of specialized evacuation planning for isolated communities in the SEP area.

CSRD FireSmart Initiative – an application for \$100,000 has been submitted to UBCM which will be used to develop and deliver a FireSmart Plan for communities within the CSRD

**RESERVES FOR
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT STUDY**

Chair Demenok reviewed the background of this proposed addition to the SEP budget. When a significant event happens, such as the Newsome Creek freshet, SEP has access to provincial funding to conduct an initial assessment to determine public safety. Many of the major events require further assessments to be conducted in order to develop emergency mitigation plans. There is no mechanism in place for funding through the Province and no means for SEP to access monies through their present budget. The proposed SEP budget line item 9290 Reserves for Emergency Management Study will enable SEP to reserve funds to a total maximum of \$150,000 to \$200,000 for future emergency mitigation planning use.

Authorization for accessing reserve monies, including requests from the City of Salmon Arm and District of Sicamous, will flow through the SEP Executive Committee with a recommendation presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

**2019 FINANCIAL
PLAN/BUDGET FOR SEP**

The Team Leader reviewed the proposed SEP budget. Budget highlights are as follows:

- A proposed taxation rate increase of 15% due mainly to the addition of the new budget line item Reserves Emergency Management Study.
- A proposed addition of a capital purchase for a truck with the capacity to tow the SPU trailers. Present fleet vehicles do not have the towing capacity required and renting a truck is not feasible. As there are a number of Fire Departments that require a Command vehicle, the plan is to purchase a truck and allow a Fire Department to utilize it for a per diem fee until it is required by SEP. This will ensure that the truck will not be sitting idle.

Discussion regarding the large rate increase. Discussion regarding whether the budget could be reviewed further to determine what can be done to reduce the increase. Suggested ways to reduce the rate were to lower the contribution for the Reserves Emergency Management Study presently at \$34,785, consider leasing the SPU truck as compared to purchasing and/or investigating alternative funding such as grants. It was agreed to take the SEP budget to the Board, at which time the Directors will be able to review the budget as a whole and

determine if a reduction is required at that time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the SEP Executive Committee is scheduled for April 10, 2019

ADJOURNMENT
3:40 PM

M/S Directors Terry/Rene THAT:
The meeting be adjourned.