



Shawnigan  
Basin Society

## **The Shawnigan Basin Society Financial Report for the CVRD 2015 Expenses and 2016 Projected Budget**

### **Basic Elements of the Business Plan**

The Shawnigan Basin Society, a registered non-profit with a Board of Directors made up of local residents, is working to develop a Shawnigan Basin Authority as the mechanism for engaging the basin public in management of the Shawnigan Watershed. The underlying philosophy is that the watershed should be managed on “ecological governance” principles and the effort should be fully collaborative with the Malahat First Nation as well as private landowners, the CVRD, senior government agencies and interested academic research organizations. Watershed management in the Shawnigan Basin is particularly complex because of the fragmented nature of resource management, settlement jurisdictions, and the intensively privatized landscape provided by the history of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway land grant. There is no single agency that is charged with or capable of dealing with the cumulative impacts of all the various development interventions in the basin, thus a broadly based and locally focused authority would act as the necessary catalyst for integration of all the various interests. The Shawnigan Basin Authority is intended to attract integrated responsibility from senior government over time, to work within the local government framework of the CVRD, and to eventually become a working component of an incorporated municipality.

### **Budget Strategy**

The core funding provided by the tax base of \$50,000 per year is intended to give the Shawnigan Basin Society the administrative capability to raise and manage project funds. Administrative support is very rarely supported by grant programs resulting in

NGO's scrambling to support basic office and staff functions that provide management continuity, support for volunteers, grant writing capacity, financial management, and project reporting. The core funding provided from the Area B tax base thus ensures basic society management capability and creates the necessary and significant leverage from local contributions required by virtually all grant programs.

## **Functional Core Capabilities of the SBS**

- Establishment of a public Basin Authority based on ecological governance principles and broad public engagement in land and water use planning.
- Development of a Watershed Master Plan based on ecological, physiographic and socioeconomic information that is assembled and catalogued from a variety of governments, research programs, and private sector sources.
- Systematic engagement and integration of local watershed management efforts with private sector land owners, the CVRD, agencies of senior governments, and similar civic watershed initiatives arising elsewhere.
- Preparation of grant requests to foundations and government infrastructure and environmental improvement programs for projects intended to improve the ecological status and function of the Shawnigan Watershed.

## **Core Administrative Functions of the Society**

- Provisions of a watershed planning office in Shawnigan Village, cost-shared with other public and private sector partners, where the Society and the Authority can keep records, display maps and models, meet with interested parties, hold public planning sessions, and provide access to Basin Authority and Society members and staff.
- Provision of a core staff of Executive Director and Administration Officer to organize the day-to-day work of the Society and the Authority in public communication and involvement, engagement and support of volunteers, research assembly, planning, fund raising, record keeping, and project reporting.
- It is important to note that the Board of Directors voted to change our fiscal year end date from September 30 to March 31, which means the projected expenses for this report run from **October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016** (18 months).

## **2015 – Efforts to Substantiate a Large-Scale Public Engagement Initiative almost complete!**

### **Science and Technology – Solidifying Understanding**

The Shawnigan Basin Society is once again proud of their accomplishments for the 2015 fiscal year. Like any project, methodology and strategic planning is important when accomplishing established objectives and progressing toward an overall goal. With the near completion of Herb Hammond's (Silva Ecosystem Consultants) ecosystem-based conservation planning and mapping analysis and report, due by September 30, 2015, the Basin Society has succeeded in establishing the technological information necessary to support our scientific foundation for actively pursuing a full scale sub-basin public consultation initiative this Fall. Engaging the community in teams at kitchen table gatherings or in the Village Office will act to convey our baseline understanding of the state of the watershed and support discussions on how to protect and restore the watershed into a state of ecological integrity. "From Foreshore to Forest" assumes the goal of developing a Shawnigan Lake Watershed Master Plan and securing the hydrological proficiency of the Shawnigan Lake watershed so as to provide clean and abundant drinking water to in perpetuity. Such achievements reinforce potential and local power to assume control for the long-term protection of the community's drinking water supply as climate change, development pressures, and environmental degradation work to further the cumulative vulnerabilities imposed upon the lake. The importance of relevant and professional research to determine "where we are" cannot be overstated as the Shawnigan Lake basin is responsible for providing clean drinking water to approximately 12,000 people! Silva Ecosystem Consultants' mapping and report(s) will be uploaded to our website to ensure wide-scale accessibility. Funding to advance the public engagement initiative is being sought through the Gaming Grants Commission, Ministry of Finance where final notice will be received by November 2015.

### **Two Masters Study Thesis Projects Conducted for Shawnigan Lake**

Christine Westland, the Clinical Nurse Specialist for Adolescent Mental Health at First Nations Health Authority for 203 First Nations Bands across the province of BC, completed her community development master's degree for her paper entitled *What Do Community Members of Shawnigan Lake Perceive to be the Assets and Strengths of the Community* and conducting a qualitative analysis of responses. Congratulations to Ms. Westland for her achievement at the University of Victoria and much gratitude for her dedication to the betterment of her own community!

Mar Martinez, a Landsat remote sensing specialist and accomplished biologist with extensive fieldwork experience, succeeded in completing her master's of science degree in Environmental Practice from Royal Roads University for her paper entitled *Monitoring Vegetation Changes in the Shawnigan Watershed with Remote Sensing: A Study in Support of Adaptive Management and Ecological Governance*. Mar will also be continuing to work with the Shawnigan Basin Society in further remote sensing analysis and has been absorbed as a member of our community's Ecological Design Panel given her expertise and ongoing interest in the Basin Society's work. Congratulations and infinite appreciation also to Ms. Martinez for her significant contribution (an estimated in-kind donation of \$70-\$80K) to the Shawnigan Basin Society and the residents of Shawnigan Lake!

### **RES'EAU Water Quality Enhancement Study at Mason's Beach**

Shawnigan Lake was also the recipient of a unique opportunity from UBC who, partnering with the CVRD, Ecole Polytechnique, Veolia, and UVic, sent John Bergese, Laurent Oigny, and David Chan to our local Mason's Beach where a \$2 million mobile laboratory conducted a water quality study for eight months. Resulting conclusions will offer alternatives from traditional chlorine added techniques to more modern and effective means of treating water drawn from the Lake. Findings will also ultimately support recommendations on best practices to enhance the water quality for Shawnigan Lake residents who rely on the Lake as their drinking water source. This initiative came at no cost to our residents as senior government paid for the study for the purposes of case study acquisition.

### **Real Estate Foundation Grant - \$40K**

Tremendous gain was made for the Basin Society given their ability to use the \$50,000 annual tax fund as leverage to receive an additional budget of \$40,000 from the Real Estate Foundation! The demonstration of an ongoing community supported allocation, in addition to scientific arguments, grounded the need to develop a watershed protection master plan and enabled this success. Upon the completion of Herb Hammond's ecological assessment and the submission of deliverables as required by the REFBC, the SBS anticipates receiving the final \$8,000 of their generous donation. Additionally, our Chair and Executive Director intend to meet with the REFBC grants manager this Fall to seek additional funds to support the "Foreshore to Forest" public engagement component of our watershed master plan initiative.

## **Local Collaboration and Unified Thinking**

Great strides were made in linking the work of the CVRD's Advisory Planning Commission, the Ecological Design Panel (a professional technical advisory volunteer group) and the work of the Basin Society and emerging Authority. Doing so has motivated the movement toward the formal and logistical development of objective criteria to be used when considering land use and rezoning applications. By fully understanding the particular vulnerabilities to areas within each sub-basin, the Advisory Planning Commission can best support not only their recommendations to the Area Director, but also ground their decisions in a technically objective rationale. With the first criteria asking, "Does this application demonstrate a net ecological gain to the community?" a demonstration of the framing of development expectations is portrayed. Final criteria have yet to be approved but is expected to be achieved in the 2016 fiscal year.

## **Sharing Space and Supporting the SRA in their legal fight against South Island Aggregates' contaminated soil permit**

It is also of great importance that commercial space, unused for many years in the heart of the Village, is now being rented and used thus revitalizing the Shawnigan Village core. The space acquired by the Basin Society (as of April 2014) is not only shared with the local Area Director as she provides regular public consultation opportunities, but also by a number of ongoing local groups including: Elkington Forest, the Basin Society Board, Advisory Planning Commission, the Village Development Council, the Shawnigan Trails Committee, and the Shawnigan Residents Association. The overall hope in sharing the use of this space (paid for collaboratively by the Basin Society and Living Forest Communities) is to further offer any unused office time to local groups - free of cost. Additionally, YSAG (Young Senior's Action Group) hosts weekly chess tournaments, where generational bridging is beginning so that young chess enthusiasts can also participate and enhance their skills! The Village Office is an informational depository with a developing library of resources for public use.

## **Summer Student – Community Outreach with Foreshore Restoration**

The Basin Society gained valuable information by hiring biologist Jenny Berg for July and August! In collaboration with the Shawnigan Residents Association member, Grant Price, Jenny was able to conduct a photographic inventory of the entire Shawnigan Lake foreshore, categorize her findings, create a pdf summary (which will be uploaded to our website), and a final report of her conclusions. This undertaking will be used to create a best practices brochure as well as to highlight a second

foreshore restoration project as a lakeshore property owner works to ecologically protect the integrity of his waterfront from recreation induced erosion. Funding is being sought through a number of agencies and incentives such as the Aviva Community Fund, Environment Canada's EcoAction Community Funds Program, and the Real Estate Foundation of BC.

### **Public Water Survey**

Dr. Steven Renzetti of Brock University, a colleague of Dr. Asit Mazumder from the University of Victoria (who has been conducting a scientific comparison between the Sooke Lake Watershed and its neighbouring "twin sister" Shawnigan Lake Watershed for two decades), has achieved formal approval from the university ethics committee and will soon be distributing a survey to the residents of Shawnigan Lake. The survey will help the Shawnigan Basin Society and CVRD learn more about how residents in our region value water and inform the development of policies that will be successful in protecting our water resources. Shawnigan Lake will be the case study for applying a novel kind of survey design developed by Steven and his colleagues; however, the CVRD hopes to replicate the survey in other communities within the region. This study also links well with the RES'EAU initiative.

### **CVRD Staff Contributions**

Finally, yet very significantly, much recognition is owed to the Cowichan Valley Regional District's Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi, specifically, as well as staff in the Planning and Engineering Departments for their remarkable contributions to the successful achievements of the Shawnigan Basin Society. Their expertise and professionalism are formally acknowledged with infinite appreciation! We will most certainly miss Ms. Doyle-Yamaguchi as she moves into a new job and ongoing environmentally sustainable pursuits.

## Budget Summary – October 1, 2014 to March 31, 2016 (18 months)

### Operating Costs:

#### Public Engagement and Project Coordination:

Project Coordinator	18000.00
Administration Officer/Record Keeper	7200.00
Part Time Biologist (Oct 2015 to Mar 2016)	10000.00

Rent - Village Office for Regular Mtgs/Public Access	18900.00
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#### Utilities for Village Office:

Telus Internet	750.00
Hydro	1000.00

Community Centre Rental for Public Events (three as below)	600.00
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Prof. Fees for Presentations at Public Events	2000.00
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Prof. Fees for Foreshore Restoration Projects	4000.00
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### Capital Costs:

#### Village Office Equipment:

Computer to be kept at village office	1500.00
Printer to support ongoing village office work	500.00
Projector to support regular village office presentations	300.00
Projector screen to support regular village office presentations	200.00

#### Public Meeting Support:

Mapping	2500.00
Brochures	1500.00
Website	2000.00
Mailouts/Invitations	2000.00
Professional Banner	1000.00

#### Full Scale Public Events:

Introductory public meeting to outline scientific data	1200.00
Interim public meeting to update findings/ongoing objectives	1200.00
Concluding public meeting to summarize/celebrate	1200.00

Transportation costs of volunteers to kitchen table discussions (4 Sub-Basin Groups with 5 Members each)	1000.00
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Accountant/Bookkeeper to ensure accurate financial records	800.00
Remaining Fees for Silva Ecosystem Consultants	25000.00
<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>104350.00</b>

To confirm, the SBS has just over \$25,000 remaining from our 2015 CVRD budget allocation, will receive \$8,000 in November from the Real Estate Foundation, has applied for \$50,000 from the Gaming Grants Commission for funds to support our public engagement and consultation initiative for which we will know by end of November, and plans to apply for grants through Aviva Community Fund, Environment Canada EcoAction Community Fund Program, as well as seek addition funds from the Real Estate Foundation.

Respectfully Submitted by Shawnigan Basin Society Board of Directors:

Dr. Bruce Fraser, Chair  
 Kelly Musselwhite, Executive Director  
 Doug Makaroff, Treasurer

