



SSISC's 2020 Annual General Meeting

Minutes

10:00am – 11:00am, Tuesday April 7th, 2020

By Zoom Conference Call (Meeting ID: 642 511 671)

Participants:

1. Leslie Anthony, Chair – SSISC Board member
2. Karlene Loudon – District of Squamish
3. Isabel Gasior – Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver
4. Clare Greenberg – SSISC, Executive Director
5. Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier – SSISC, Outreach Coordinator
6. Micaela Anguita – SSISC, Field Program Manager
7. Candace Rose-Taylor – Cascade Environmental, SSISC Board member
8. Joanne Ronsley – SSISC Board member
9. Virginia Dragan – MOTI
10. Caroline Ashekian – District of Squamish, SSISC Board member
11. Grahame Gielens – MOTI
12. Danny Smart - EKISC, Field Operations Coordinator
13. Edith Tobe – SSISC Board Member, Squamish River Watershed Society
14. Jacquie Rasmussen – Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
15. Kate Brandon – District of Squamish
16. Paul Beswetherick – SSISC Board member, Resort Municipality of Whistler
17. Erin Galloway – SSISC, Field Crew Lead Hand (minute taker)

10:00 Welcome

Leslie Anthony, Chair - SSISC

- **Welcome**
 - Caroline Ashekian motioned for 2020 AGM Agenda to be adopted, Edith Tobe seconds the motion. Motion passes. 2020 AGM Agenda adopted.
 - Confirmation that membership quorum (5) is present.

10:10 Invasive Species Management in the Sea to Sky Region – Year in Review & Plans for 2020

Clare Greenberg, Executive Director, SSISC

-Overview of SSISC 2019 year in review

- Another busy, and successful year, turned 10 yrs old in September
- Increased revenue by 5% and continues to grow and expand programs
- We had a hard working and enthusiastic team of 8 students and local youth through funding partnerships with Project Learning Tree Canada, United Nations Association in Canada, ECO Canada, the Whistler Community Foundation, and Canada Summer Jobs, plus a fully-funded

Education & Outreach summer student from the Simon Fraser University Academy to Community program

- 2019 was year 4 of SSISC's 5 year Regional Strategy and Operational Plan
- Reviewed and updated regional Priority Plant Species List and worked on developing a draft invasive animal list for the Sea to Sky Region
- Analyzed and communicated program results and efficacy through mapping and data analysis
- Maintained and improved existing partnerships and sought out new partnerships and funding opportunities
- Applied for and secured diverse funding:
 - Partnerships and working with partners across jurisdictions continued to be key to our success
 - We continued to grow our longlist of members, funders, collaborators, fee-for-service clients and program participants
 - A large portion of our sites we visit are a result of seeking and gaining engagement, permission and funding from more than 1 landholder
- Worked closely with other Regional Invasive Species Organizations (RISOs) - attending monthly calls and annual meetings
- Maintained relationship and collaborated with the Invasive Species Council of BC
 - Partnered on changing behaviour programs and common messaging to MLAs
- Collaborated with BC Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group
 - Provided input to Soils Working Group and development of the new provincial spatial database for invasive species data (Invasives BC)
- Communicating with Sea to Sky Soils and local governments about reviewing the region's invasive plant disposal recommendations, due to invasive plants being included/allowed in the green waste stream from other areas and being transported into the Sea to Sky region for composting. This is ongoing.
- Managed public and staff Invasive species sightings. We received 167 sightings in 2019 → 77% coming from SSISC staff
- Maintained photo database → tagged and filed thousands of photos to make them easy to find
- Drafted a Goldfish Management Plan for the Cheakamus Watershed in partnership with the Pinecrest Lake Stewardship Society and the Resort Municipality of Whistler.
 - Confirmed that large adults are present in Whistler (Alta and Alpha lake)
 - Unfortunately funding from HCTF denied, EcoAction application still pending
- Continued to deliver services to communities throughout the Sea to Sky region, through SSISC's Local Government Partnership Program, funded by SLRD and local governments
- Responded to requests by various stakeholders and partners for site visit requests
- Continued to work with and provide information and support to RMOW Environmental Stewardship and Bylaw Services staff, by delivering educational letters to alert landowners about invasive species observed or reported on their properties, and by providing site history for those properties requiring bylaw notices
- Held board retreat, pulse check on regional strategy
- Spent over 12,000 staff hours in invasive species management during 2019
- 2019 Annual report is available at ssisc.ca

Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier, Outreach Coordinator, SSISC

-Overview of Outreach program - 2019 year in review

- Education and Outreach Team was comprised of 2 outreach assistants, 1 lead hand and outreach coordinator.
 - Developed new programs, carried out existing ones and further developed online presence.
- Worked on invasive free certification program, 9th year of operations.
 - Carried out 9 workshops in Whistler and Squamish
 - Trained 67 individuals from 16 companies, in total we have certified 60 companies since the program's inception.
- Hosted 13 weed pulls, a SSISC record.
 - Included one at Gates Lake, a first for SSISC.
 - Adopt a trail – seasonal-long, Whistler weed pull, which has gained momentum in Whistler.
 - 15 parties signed up this year, 6 local businesses contributed to prizes for a total value of \$550.
 - Collaborated with Squamish Scouts, Coast Mountain Academy and Spring Creek Elementary for weed pulls
- Play Clean Go
 - Collaborated with 3 local biking organizations (PORCA, WORCA, SORCA)
 - Attended 2 mountain bike races
 - Worked with Whistler Blackcomb to target trail runners and hikers and install signs at the base of the Ascent Trail.
- Youth Activities
 - Stewardship Pemberton, Saplings Program and AWARE, with whom we carried out activities as part of their summer camps and Sunday nature school
- Participated in 25 events and reached 3,000 plus people
- Published 13 new species factsheets with another 45 in development.
- Worked with the ISCMV to develop messaging to educate divers about Green Crab and encourage reports.
- Created and distributed 'Invasive Species – Do Not Compost' stickers for residents to mark bags of invasive plant debris
- Created and distributed other print and electronic resources at events, and through our website, e.g. the Flowering time calendars
- Increased SSISC presence online
 - 'Meet the Team' series to humanize the organisation
 - 'Chewsday', recipe series on how to make food with edible invasive species
- Thank you to funders, volunteers and weed pull sponsors

Micaela Anguita, Field Crew Manger, SSISC

-Overview of Field Program - 2019 year in Review

- 2019 field crew was comprised of 3 field crews, 8 members
 - Carried out inventory, control and monitoring for our 2 main program streams.

- Early detection and rapid response for high priority species
 - Inventory control and monitoring program for more established species
- 616 surveyed sites for 70 different species 1/10th of these sites were new to SSISC.
 - Of existing sites 32% showed 0 regrowth
- We conducted 301 treatments of high and medium priority species, mechanically removed .3 ha of invasive plants
 - Started/currently trialing benthic barrier method for yellow flag iris site in Whistler in collaboration with RMOW.
- We carried out 265 herbicide treatments at 156 sites, treating 1.296 ha of invasive plants
 - Used 3 methods: stem injection, foliar spray and cut stump
- Conducted inventory:
 - Yellow flag iris and purple loosestrife in Whistler and Squamish waterbodies as well as Anderson Lake
 - Continued to inventory wild parsnip infestation on Lillooet Lake Rd, this species' only known location in the Sea to Sky Corridor
 - Targeted inventory of Spurge laurel in Lions Bay
- Inventories were done for many partners and respective projects
 - 6 MOTI gravel pits as well as secondary roads in the Squamish Valley and Pemberton
 - 4 Innergex hydro projects
 - Cheakamus reserve lands for Squamish First Nation
 - SLRD Friendship Trail in Pemberton was new for 2019
 - FortisBC right of ways
 - 5 Provincial parks (Nairn Falls, Brandywine Falls, Garibaldi, Alice Lake, Porteau Cove)
 - In total, there were over 6,000 hectares of land inventoried in the season
 - Participated in the BC Mussel Defense program in 2019, which is funded and coordinated by Ministry of Environment and the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation.
 - Monitored 6 lakes
 - Collected 16 samples from 2 lakes
 - 20 substrate mussel substrate samplers installed in 6 lakes in the region
 - Trained N'Quatqua band on using and checking substrate samplers for them to use on their private docks and provided them with two samplers
 - BC is still invasive mussel free!
- Continued using and improving SSISC's cloud-based mapping system for the third year to collect and manage our data. It has improved our efficiency and communication.
- Updated 82 species distribution maps, which are used to share data with partners and funders.
- Thank you partners and funders for allowing us to do all this work

SSISC Draft PLANS FOR 2020 – Clare Greenberg, Executive Director, SSISC

- Draft Annual Program Plan for 2020 available on ssisc.ca
- Adapting our plans to comply with COVID-19 related federal regulations and recommendations.
- Waiting to hear back from funders
 - We have confirmation from MFLNRORD, ECO Canada, Gaming (rcvd Nov 2019), MOTI (in principle still needs final confirmation), RMOW, SLRD, BC Hydro, Fortis BC and the Whistler Community Foundation.

- Will need to adapt the way our field crew tackles sites
- We are working on putting together a COVID-19 Exposure Control Plan. Once that's in place we can go ahead with hiring staff and renting vehicles.
- Hiring additional vehicles and purchasing extra tools may increase costs and decrease efficiency
- We are keeping an eye out for federal funding/support
- Anticipating a delay in field season start and modification to our field season to comply with physical distancing.
 - Likely will need to have 1 person per vehicle and 1 set of tools/equipment per person, per vehicle
 - Likely will have to postpone treatments on private lands or public places with high visitation where we may not be able to ensure physical distancing with members of the public
 - Sanitization kits in all vehicles/workplaces
- We had a RISO call, discussing how they are adapting plans and managing through this so we can collaborate with others across the province
- Looking at this as an opportunity to be doing online delivery for workshops, we might focus on building online resources, DIY weed pull kits, and putting out positive content for SSISC programs
- Draft 2020 Annual Program Plan on our website: <https://ssisc.ca/resources/ssisc-regional-strategy-2/>
 - Looking for input and comments on that, in light of current circumstances

AGM 10:30

- Review of 2019 AGM Minutes (10:40)
 - Approve minutes from last year, proposed motion by Paul Beswetherick seconded by Caroline Ashekian → motion approved and adopted.
- Financial Report 2019 by Caroline Ashekian
 - Financial Reports displayed on screen, and also available at: <https://ssisc.ca/2020AGM>
 - 2019 Net income was \$35,025.67
 - This is in line with our intent to retain at least 5% of our annual revenue for contingency planning.
 - Unrestricted earnings, fee-for-service earnings and having a buffer built in to our charge-out rates allows us to do this, while still delivering on contracts and agreements.
 - Total revenue for 2019 was \$429,612.25 which is a which is approx. a 5% increase from the previous year (2018 revenue was \$409,218)
 - Some Revenue Highlights for 2019:
 - We received \$52,161 in youth & student funding from ECO Canada, the United Nations Association in Canada, Project Learning Tree Canada, and Canada Summer Jobs, which allowed us to hire seasonal staff.
 - We continued to receive funding from provincial government (MOTI, MFLNRO, BC Parks & Gaming Branch). We did not receive end of fiscal year funding from MOTI in 2019 which was unfortunate, as this funding has allowed us to carry out spring treatments in previous years (e.g. maintaining Scotch Broom containment line on HWY 99).
 - The SLRD, RMOW, DOS, Village of Lions Bay and the Village of Pemberton continued to fund our Local Government Partnership Program.

- RMOW, DOS, the SLRD and Village of Lions Bay also hired our field crews to carry out invasive plant management on municipal lands, which accounted for revenues of approx. \$89,000.
 - Squamish Nation funded the continued inventory and control of high priority invasive plant species on reserve lands in the Squamish area (\$14,812)
 - We also received funding for invasive plant control from BC Hydro, FortisBC, Innergex, Atlantic Power and the Skookum Creek Power Project, which accounted for approx. \$30,925 of our 2019 revenue.
 - Our invasive mussel lake monitoring program was funded, in part, by a grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (\$12,116)
 - We continued to receive grant support (\$48,000) from the Community Foundation of Whistler for our 2 core programs plus our Capacity Building project.
 - Our Private Landholder program, Certification & Training Programs brought in approx. \$9,000 in 2019.
- Expenditures highlights:
 - Total expenditures were \$394,586.58
 - Majority of expenses were for people power (Total cost for all staff = \$307,563.10)
- Balance Sheet
 - As at 31st Dec, 2019,
 - Our Total Assets = \$90,538.04 (mostly in cash and accounts receivable)
 - Our Total Liability = \$1,392.67
 - Total Equity = \$89,145.37
 - Our retained earnings and contingency fund means we are well-placed moving into this financial year.
- Questions:
 - No questions
- Motion to adopt 2019 Financial statements proposed by Paul Beswetherick, seconded by Edith Tobe → motion approved.
- Thanks to 2019 Directors:
 - Thanks to Leslie for stepping up into the position of Chair this year
 - And thanks to Paul for continuing on as a Director, after serving 9 years of service as Chair of SSISC.
 - Thanks also to Melanie Webster – served as a Director on the board for 2 years, stepping down
- Election of 2020 Directors:
 - Four directors' 2 yr terms are up this year (Paul, Leslie, Joanne & Candace). They are all standing for re-election, and will be elected by acclamation, unless anyone objects?
 - No objections
 - The board will vote on Board Executive positions (e.g. Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer etc.) at the next board meeting.

10:45 Questions & Discussion

- Jacquie – praise for making this a Zoom call and congrats on mechanical treatments, that's a lot of weeds.

- Clare – asked for any other comments on our current plan for 2020
 - Grahame – will be sending out an email re COVID-19 plans, SSISC on the right track for operations;
 - Jacquie – questions for Grahame about making changes as circumstances change
 - Grahame - Will be taking changes into account and comply by province recommendations
 - Things are still to be determined at this time, constantly changing situation
 - Ministry is providing staff with individual vehicles which will have effect on efficiency
- Edith: given the amount of traffic coming up from Vancouver is it worth MOTI looking into putting up electronic messaging on HWY 99?
 - Clare - SSISC didn't have anything to do with the MOTI sign, might have been to do with the mussel program
 - Virginia / Graham - not familiar but happy to investigate it
- No other questions

11:00 Closing Remarks

Clare Greenberg, Executive Director, SSISC

Edith Tobe, Vice-Chair, SSISC

- Thank you, board, and Clare for guiding SSISC over the years;
- Been an impressive group, glad to be apart of it;
- We are having a positive impact in the corridor, especially working with municipalities and disposal;
- Excited to see what happens in the coming years;
- There is a great opportunity to put signs up at trails heads to educate on reduced spread of invasives;
- It's going to be a challenging year, we are impressed with what the staff has been accomplishing and grateful to partners for being flexible.
- Thank you to everyone and I look forward to the next 10 years

Leslie: thank you to everyone for being here

Meeting adjourned

11:00 Close meeting