

SSISC's 2023 Annual General Meeting and Land Manager Planning Session

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

10:30am – 12:30pm, Wednesday April 19th, 2023
Via Zoom Conference Call

More information, and meeting materials here: <https://ssisc.ca/2023aqm>

Participants:

1. Leslie Anthony – SSISC Board Member
2. Caroline Ashekian – SSISC Board Member
3. Paul Beswetherick – SSISC Board Member
4. Candace Rose-Taylor – SSISC Board Member, Cascade Environmental
5. Derek Jazic – SSISC Board Member, Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), Manager of Resort Operations
6. Edith Tobe – SSISC Board Member, Squamish River Watershed Society (SRWS), Executive Director
7. Aaron Marchant – Squamish Nation, Rights & Titles Team. Prospective SSISC Board Member
8. Nicola Church – Cascade Environmental, GIS Manager. Prospective SSISC Board Member
9. Penny Nelson – Lions Bay Bird Friendly Team Member. Prospective SSISC Board Member
10. Clare Greenberg – SSISC Executive Director
11. Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier – SSISC Education & Outreach Manager
12. Ellika Cairns – SSISC Community Science Program Coordinator
13. Erin Galloway – SSISC Field Program Manager
14. Matt Muller – SSISC Field Program Assistant Manager
15. Katie Craven – SSISC Field Crew Lead Hand
16. Keira Murray – SSISC Field Crew Lead Hand
17. April Blumberg – SSISC Field Crew Lead Hand
18. Bob Brett – SSISC Field Contractor, Whistler Naturalists
19. Amie Waelchli – Lil'wat Nation, Lands Manager
20. Derek Hogan – Ministry of Forests, Invasive Plant Specialist
21. Heike Stippler – Heike Designs Inc., Owner
22. Jacquie Rasmussen – Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Council (LRISS), Executive Director
23. Kate Brandon – District of Squamish (DOS), Environmental Technician
24. Lesley Douglas – District of Squamish (DOS), Environmental Specialist
25. Murray Journeay – Squamish Environment Society, Wildlife Connectivity Project Researcher & Director
26. Rene Roddick – BC Hydro, Vegetation/Pest Biologist
27. Robyn Nitychoruk – District of Squamish (DOS)
28. Roisin Cumming – BC Parks
29. Sarah Weber – Squamish Community Forest
30. Tasha Murray – Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV), Executive Director
31. Tina Symko – Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), Environmental Coordinator
32. Veronica Reid – Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), Environmental Coordinator
33. Grahame Gielens – BC Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Environmental Roadside Manager

Welcome & Introduction – 10:30am

Leslie Anthony, Chair – SSISC

- Welcome & thanks to everyone for attending
- First Nations Land acknowledgement
- Ensure we have Quorum (must have at least 5 society members; must have at least 3 directors)
 - 3 directors – yes
 - At least 5 society members – yes
- Meeting package is available here: <https://ssisc.ca/2023agm>
- Overview of the agenda
- Leslie motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Caroline Ashekian. Motion approved

Invasive Species Management in the Sea to Sky Region - Year in Review & Plans for 2023 – 10:35am

Clare Greenberg, Executive Director – SSISC

- 2022 was another busy year for the SSISC team.
- If you're not super familiar with all the things that keep us busy, check out our website (www.ssisc.ca) that gives a good overview of what we do, and how we serve the communities of the Sea to Sky region.
- The 2023 AGM page with meeting materials is here: <https://ssisc.ca/2023agm>
- Our 2022 Annual report is here: <https://ssisc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SSISC-2022-Annual-Report-FINAL.pdf>
 - New this year is more of a visual highlights report: <https://ssisc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Annual-Report-Highlights-2022-for-online-use.pdf>
- Acknowledging some important partners we work(ed) with:
 - We continued to collaborate with the network of Regional Invasive Species Organisations (RISOs) across BC – an incredible group of knowledgeable, hardworking and passionate professionals, many of whom I've had the pleasure of working closely with for last 10 yrs.
 - We also continued to work very closely with our Local Government Partnership Program participants, the Invasive Species Council of BC (ISCBC), and other invasive species associations across North America.
 - Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the support of all our partners and funders who make this work possible.

Claude-Anne Godbout-Gauthier, Education & Outreach Manager – SSISC

- After two years of remote work, we returned to a hybrid work model and welcomed in-person events and activities.
- The team:
 - Due to funding restrictions and staffing challenges, we had a smaller team than usual, but we made the most of it. The Education & Outreach team was comprised of one Outreach Assistant, one Invasive Species Program Coordinator (who also looked after the European Green Crab Monitoring Program), and myself.
- Invasive-Free Certification online course:

- This year, we continued to promote the Invasive-Free Certification online course, which we launched last year. In 2022, we had 10 participants and 4 organizations were certified.
- We also took the first steps towards updating certain aspects of the online course, and I'm happy to say that these updates were recently completed.
- This year, we want to better understand the barriers that are preventing landscaping companies from taking the course; we are hoping to do some market research to better understand the gaps in the training landscape, no pun intended.
- Aquatic Invasives 101
 - We also kept promoting Aquatic Invasives 101, which was launched in 2020. We had 26 individuals sign up for the course in total.
 - I want to underscore the generosity of the local businesses who donated prizes for our monthly giveaways; the total value of the prizes came to \$350.
- Community Weed Pulls
 - We hosted 12 community weed pulls, which altogether involved 178 children and 49 adults.
 - Together, participants removed 58 bags of plant material, or about 800kg.
- Adopt-a-Trail
 - After a two-year hiatus, Adopt-a-Trail returned to Whistler in 2022, and we were happy to have lots of past volunteers return to the program.
 - In total, 10 parties adopted 11 trail segments, and involved 28 participants.
 - A special mention goes to Leslie Anthony, the Chair of our Board of Directors, who single-handedly removed 3,500 kg of Burdock this season. He spent over 200 person-hours working on Burdock. We have nicknamed him the Burdock Banisher, but are still taking suggestions for alternate monickers.
- Educator's Outreach
 - We were eager to host in-person activities again this year, so we reached out to teachers and ended up doing weed pull activities with 10 school groups of various ages.
 - We also did in-class sessions with three K-1 groups, where we introduced the concept of from here/from away and invasiveness in an age-appropriate fashion.
 - During this classroom session, students were encouraged to design their own super-plant, and to think of the characteristics that would allow it to spread rapidly and outcompete other plants in its environment.
 - This is how the poisonous nacho plant was born.
 - We also planned a 'teach the teacher' pro-D workshop with teachers of School District 48. The workshop was planned for January 2023, and was a great success.
- PlantWise
 - In 2022 we launched our custom invasive-free wildflower seed mix packets, which were available for purchase at community events and on our website starting in late July. The feedback has been positive so far and we are excited to keep promoting the seed mix this season.

- We also visited 49 plant sellers in the region in support of the PlantWise program, but no retailer committed to the program.
- Some of the reasons that they provided were that they didn't have control over their inventory as chain stores, or that the timing was bad, since we visited them later in the season, in July.
- Clean Drain Dry
 - As part of Clean Drain Dry, we worked with the RMOW to facilitate obtaining Clean Drain Dry signage from the Invasive Species Council of BC's pilot project.
 - The signs were delivered to the RMOW in early fall, and their installation is planned for this season.
- Resource Development
 - We were a small but very creative and productive team in 2022!
 - In total, we updated numerous informational resources, created 21 new website pages, and published 59 blog posts.
 - We also developed community-specific colouring pages, which show common invasive plants from the area. The colouring pages were actually suggested and developed by our Outreach Assistant, who used them as her university coop capstone project.
- Communications
 - We may have returned to in-person activities in 2022 but we still wanted to maintain a strong online presence.
 - To this end, we published 38 Instagram reels, and created 599 social media posts in total. As a result our Instagram audience grew by 41%.
 - We were able to carry out social media contests thanks to the support of local businesses, who donate prizes that we could giveaway. In total, the value of the prizes came to over \$1,000!
- European Green Crab Monitoring Program
 - The European Green Crab Monitoring program in Howe Sound is a community science volunteer program that we ran for the second year in 2022.
 - We added one monitoring site to the list for a total of 4, and trained and supported our 12 volunteers as they sampled for Green Crab once a month from April to September.
 - We are happy to report that zero European Green Crabs have been found in Howe Sound so far.
- Thank you!
 - In closing, I want to thank our in-kind donors, program participants, collaborators and volunteers. We couldn't have done it without you.
 - We look forward to working with you in 2023 and beyond.

Erin Galloway, Field Crew Manager – SSISC

- We had another successful field season. The 2022 SSISC field crew was composed of 4 field crews and 10 members and 1 contractor (Bob). Our largest crew yet! Our crews worked extremely hard through another season.
- The field crews carried out inventory, control and monitoring for our two main program streams:

1. Early detection rapid response for high priority species
 2. And the inventory control and monitoring program for the more established species
- The crews conducted 962 surveys at 601 different sites from April - October. 5% (31 sites) of these sites were new sites for SSISC. They surveyed 63 different species.
 - Surveyed and mapped 1.4117 ha (14,117 m²) of invasive plants throughout the corridor.
 - 367 existing species sites showed no regrowth!
 - We found a few new species in our corridor this season:
 - Hound's Tongue, Japanese Butterbur and Tree of Heaven
 - Our crew was very vigilant this year, and crucial at preventing their spread
 - For our mechanical treatments, we conducted 294 treatments of mostly high and medium priority species, at 188 sites removing over 0.1900 hectares (1,900m²) of invasive plants!
 - Some mechanical treatment highlights:
 - i. ~800 m² of Blackberry
 - ii. 114 m² of Yellow Flag Iris
 - iii. 106 m² of Scotch Broom
 - For our chemical work, we carried out 238 chemical treatments at 124 sites, treating 1.4 ha (13,875) of invasive plants.
 - Employed 2 methods: stem injection & foliar spray
 - Some of the species chemically controlled included: Japanese Knotweed, Giant Hogweed, Wild Parsnip, Tansy Ragwort
 - We conducted inventories that focused on a variety of species such as:
 - Yellow Flag Iris in Whistler and Squamish waterbodies, as well as Anderson lake
 - Started a project with Lil'wat Nation to inventory their reserve lands for high priority species. Our crews worked along side Lil'wat Nation environmental techs to survey 2 reserve parcels. They found an extensive Wild Parsnip infestation.
 - Hopefully this will turn into a multi-year project.
 - Inventories were also done for many partners and their respective projects:
 - 6 MOTI gravel pits
 - 4 Innergex hydro projects
 - 2 FortisBC right of ways
 - Completed an inventory for high priority species (in our Prevent and Eradicate categories or on WCA) reserve parcels for Squamish First Nation that have not previously been surveyed by SSISC
 - Inventoried the Parking lots and trails of Joffre Lakes Provincial Park
 - Continued inventorying the Whistler Valley Trail Network for Lamium
 - In total, there was over 1198.6 hectares of land inventoried in the season
 - We continued using this cloud-based mapping system to collect and manage our data, which has increased efficiency, communication, and quality of data collected for the field program.
 - We continue to share this data with our partners, and we find it is a great way to illustrate the impact our work is having and helps with future work planning
 - Huge thank you to our field crew and many partners and funders who made this past field season successful!

Guest Speaker, Squamish Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Project – 10:55am

Murray Journey – Project Director, Squamish Environment Society

- Goal for next few years – assess shifting patterns of wildlife habitat connectivity to inform the development of biodiversity conservation strategies
 - To inform both local and regional land-use planning
 - Emphasis on local – bridge between jurisdictions of land governance.
- Currently wrapping up the scoping phase of the project
- Core project team
 - Murray Journeay – Squamish Environment Society
 - Judith Holm - Squamish Environment Society
 - Gwen L’Hirondelle - Squamish Environment Society
 - Ruth Simmons – Howe Sound Biosphere Region
 - Micaela Anguita – Howe Sound Biosphere Region
 - Karlene Loudon – CoastRange Environmental
 - Meg Toom – CoastRange Environmental
 - Adam Neil – CoastRange Environmental
- Contributors and collaborators
 - Rachel Munger – Squamish Nation
 - Sarah McJannett – District of Squamish
 - Lesley Douglas – District of Squamish
 - Dan Griffin – District of Squamish
 - Anna Koterniak – Squamish-Lillooet Regional District
 - Andrew Simon - University of British Columbia
 - Tom Flower – Capilano University
 - Kate Andy – Simon Fraser University
 - Brian Stuart – Conservation Northwest
 - Greg Kehm - TerrAdapt
- Context & Motivation
 - Contribution to broader goals and objectives
 - Howe Sound Biosphere Region Initiative
 - Focused primarily on landscape change and ecological connectivity in the terrestrial realm
 - Increasing concerns about plant & animal species under the threat of recent human settlement and landscape change, especially in the past 50 years
 - This work is part of the Provincial Cumulative Effects Program
 - There is significant disruption in our region from resource extraction, road building, traffic in the backcountry (on these roads)
 - Scope and pace of change
 - On adaptive capacities of many species
 - Increasingly difficult for land managers to identify strategies that will be effective in mitigating the negative effects of these changes
 - Restoration of critical marine habitat (ex. Squamish Estuary) is a great local example
- Goals of the work:
 1. Increase awareness and understanding

- Establish a base of evidence that increases awareness and understanding of biodiversity threats, and that empowers local conservation planning in accordance with UN Global Biodiversity Framework (COP15) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-15)
 - 2. Identify and map pathways of ecological connectivity
 - Identify the best available routes to maintain movement for wildlife and ecological processes through an integrated network of connectivity pathways that increase the prospects of habitat resilience for the broadest possible range of native species.
 - 3. Co-develop a regional biodiversity conservation strategy
 - Identify opportunities to protect, enhance, and restore habitat connectivity through existing protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.
- 2 study areas:
 1. Regional context model
 - Large geography
 - Includes South-West Coast Mountains, much of Vancouver, Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, Sunshine Coast, also Salish Sea Archipelago and lowland areas of Vancouver Island
 - Gives a broad sense of ecological connectivity
 2. Focus Area
 - a. Taking insights from a regional scale to the local scale
 - b. To better understand how connectivity pathways intersect with and go through areas of settlement and active land use
 - c. Includes the District of Squamish, lands of the Squamish Nation, area D of the SLRD
 - d. Includes all areas that are currently part of the Squamish Community Forest – working with Sarah from the DOS
- Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Modelling
 - Approach is to try and focus on the strengths of existing modelling methods
 - Building on work from the Washington Wildlife Connectivity Group
 - Linkage Mapper, Hybrid Connectivity Model, TerrAdapt
- Habitat Connectivity Model
 - Organized around a framework of indicators and target criteria
 - Measuring capacity, resistance, and mitigation
 - Target criteria:
 1. Landscape integrity
 2. Ecosystem health
 3. Human disturbance
 4. Biodiversity conservation
 5. Natural processes
- Indicators are translated into maps – helps identify areas that are more likely to be suitable for a biodiversity of species
- Trends changing over time – models of dynamic landscape change are important
- Ongoing project. Next steps:
 - Stages of assessment

- Working with colleagues to use these insights in conservation planning
- Questions to mjourneay@shaw.ca

AGM – 11:10am

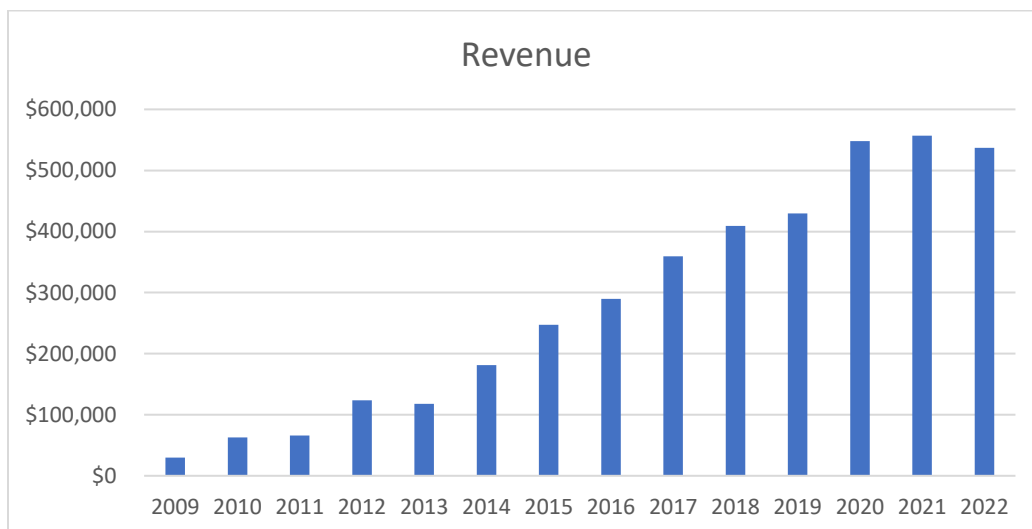
Review of 2022 AGM Minutes

Leslie

- Already addressed:
 - Correct the misspelling of Bayly Park
 - Additions of botanical names
- Leslie motioned to approve the 2022 AGM Minutes
 - Seconded – Edith Tobe
 - Motion approved

Financial Report 2022 (Caroline Ashekian – Treasurer)

- Copies of SSISC's 2022 Year-end Income Statement and Balance Sheet are available under 'Meeting Documents' here: <https://ssisc.ca/2023agm>
- Total **revenue** for 2022 (from all sources) was **\$537,016** which is a slight **(-3.5%)** decrease from the previous year (2021 revenue was \$556,680).



- We are still well above pre-Covid annual revenue, which is something to be proud of, seeing as many of the Covid-related supports that boosted our revenue in 2020 and 2021, have now ended.
- Some **Revenue Highlights for 2022:**
 - Federal government support was mostly wage subsidies for youth

- We continued to receive funding from provincial government ministries including (Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Forests, & BC Parks), totaling **\$129,250**.
- The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD), Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW), District of Squamish (DOS), Village of Lions Bay (VOB) and the Village of Pemberton (VOP) continued to fund our Local Government Partnership Program.
- The Regional district and municipal government partners continued to be our biggest supporters, providing a total of **\$146,452** to SSISC for education and outreach programming, coordination, consultation, partnership building and of course invasive species management on the ground.
- We strengthened our relationship with Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation during 2022, delivering on agreements to carry out inventory and control of high priority invasive plant species. (**\$53,672**)
- We negotiated **\$112,075** in service or grant agreements with industry, including BC Hydro, FortisBC, Innergex, Atlantic Power, and a new partner - Polygon Homes who allocated just over **\$78K** for invasive plant control at the Garibaldi Springs development project in Squamish.
- We continued to receive grant support (**\$39,500**) from the Community Foundation of Whistler for our 2 core programs.
- Our Private Landholder program, Certification & Training Programs, and the sale of our new seed mix brought in **\$8,430**.
- We are very grateful to the generous donors that contributed close to **\$550** to our efforts during 2022.
- **Expenditures highlights:**
 - Total expenditures were **\$533,074.84**
 - Majority of expenses were for people power (Total cost for staff and contractors was just over **\$431,000**)
- **2022 Net income was \$3,940.70**
 - This is less than our aim to retain at least 5% of our annual revenue each year, to add to our revenue reserves.
 - However, our revenue reserves are currently looking healthy – see the Balance Sheet.
- **Balance Sheet**
 - As at 31st Dec, 2022,

- Our Total Assets = **\$244,421** (mostly in cash, investments and accounts receivable). New this year – we invested some of our revenue reserves into term deposits.
- Our Total Liability (**-\$4,429**), is in the negative this year, mostly due to deposit for field trucks still being held, and GST rebate still owing.
- Total Equity = **\$250,482**
 - Our retained earnings for 2022, plus our existing Revenue Reserves (contingency fund), means we are very well-placed moving into the next financial year; and we are close to reaching the goal of having enough in our contingency reserve to support 6 months of operating costs, if we needed it.
- Leslie motioned to accept the Financial Report 2022
 - Seconded – Paul Beswetherick.
 - Motion approved

Election of 2023 Directors

Leslie

- Thanks to SSISC's 7 Directors for serving on the board during 2022.
- We have wanted to increase the number of directors on the SSISC board for a few years, and this year we are proposing to increase the number of seats on the board to 10.
- Motion to approve increasing the number of seat on the board to 10:
 - Seconded – Paul
 - Motion approved
- 5 positions vacant:
 - 2 existing directors for re-election
 - 3 new nominees
- Introductions of the new nominees:

Edith

- Nominated Aaron Marchant from Squamish Nation

Aaron Marchant

- Grew up in Squamish
- Works for Rights and Titles in Natural Resources with Squamish Nation
- Has worked for BC Hydro in vegetation management
- Observing changes in the landscape
- Would be happy to participate
- More info means more wholesome responses from the Nation

Penny Nelson

- From Lions Bay
- Involved in environmental matters
- Team lead on bird-friendly initiative in VOLB
 - Habitat, biodiversity - related to invasive species
 - Report annually to Environment Canada
- Native plant garden team
 - Will be re-named 'Nature Lions Bay'
- Would like to see more education in Lions Bay regarding invasive species in Lions Bay
- Background in marketing, journalism, communications
- Focus on Outreach and Education, with kids
- Hoping to learn from SSISC and take it back to Lions Bay

Nicola Church

- Works at Cascade Environmental (with Candace)
- Background before Whistler – worked for UK government in marine conservation, GIS mapping
- Interest in invasive species
 - Personal – feels that invasive species are an underestimated impact on biodiversity / ecosystems by the general public
 - Interest peaked from conference in UK, related to marine invasive species impacting biodiversity around UK coast
- Strengths – mapping, administration, communications

Leslie

- Asked the membership if there were any objection – none were raised, so all nominees were elected by acclamation.

Quick break 11:30 – 11:35

Land Managers & Funders Planning Session – 11:35am

Clare

- Using the word 'We' – referring to SSISC staff and board, but also others contributing to invasive species management in our region and outside of it
- This part of the agenda is:
 - An opportunity for participants to provide input and feedback on SSISC's proposed plans for the year ahead, specifically the invasive plant priority list, and
 - For participants to share what is happening in their world (e.g. challenges, successes, lessons learnt, new species to be aware of, or any other updates that might be of interest to the group)
- The session is mostly geared towards funders and land managers, however all input and feedback is welcome and encouraged.

Review of changes to Regional Species Priority Lists (Plants)

Clare

- Check out www.ssisc.ca/priority-species to learn more about ISMAs and priority levels.
- Proposal: to edit definitions in the 'Contain' category
 - Current wording of definition: *"These species are abundant in certain portions of the ISMA/region, but have not yet infested all potential habitats"*
 - Current wording of management approach: *"Management efforts are delineated by containment lines which may be based on geographic (i.e. a specific region) or jurisdictional (e.g. private gardens only) boundaries. Some of these species have biocontrol agents available which may be useful within the containment line. Containment to currently infested areas is the management objective."*
 - Proposed new wording of definition: *"These species are **present in the ISMA/region, and in some cases are abundant in certain areas**, but have not yet infested all potential habitats."*
 - Proposed new wording of management approach: *"Management efforts are delineated by containment lines which may be based on geographic (i.e. a specific region) or jurisdictional (e.g. private gardens only) boundaries. Some of these species have biocontrol agents available which may be useful within the containment line. **It may not be feasible or possible to control all occurrences in the region.** Containment to currently infested areas is the management objective."*

Leslie

- Suggesting different wording: 'present across the ISMA/region, and in some cases are *locally abundant*'

Clare

- No objections to the intent of this change, so we'll adopt the change and Clare / Leslie will wordsmith it a bit
- Proposed changes to regional species priority list:
 1. Tansy Ragwort (*Jacobaea vulgaris*)
 - Has been in the region for many years
 - Presence is now confirmed in Whistler
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate

- Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Eradicate
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
2. Hound's Tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
- Found for the first time in our region - on Lillooet River FSR
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Eradicate
 - **Approved**
3. Teasel (*Dipsacus fullonum*)
- New arrival – presence confirmed in Lions Bay in 2022
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
4. Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*)
- Added to our watch list, and 2 mature trees have now been spotted in Squamish
 - Working with DOS to identify a plan, deliver educational letters to landholders
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate

- Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
5. Spanish Broom (*Spartium junceum*)
- Presence confirmed in Squamish and Lions Bay
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
6. French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*)
- Not present in region, but provincial EDRR
 - Current priority levels: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
7. Portuguese Broom (*Cytisus striatus*)
- Not present in region, but provincial EDRR
 - Current priority levels: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
8. Eggleaf Spurge (*Euphorbia oblongata*)
- No records in the SSISC region, but provincial EDRR
 - Current priority levels: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent

- **Approved**
- 9. Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)
 - Limited distribution, mostly a garden escapee. In ditches in Whistler, patches on roadsides in Squamish.
 - Eradication isn't really feasible at the moment. Especially given that it's occurring in wet areas which we can't treat with herbicide. Mechanical removal takes a lot of budget to actually be effective.
 - Current priority levels:
 - Regional: Eradicate
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Eradicate
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Eradicate
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Contain
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Contain
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Contain
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
- Leslie – if it's already localized in its occurrence in Whistler, why would we lower the category?
 - Clare – mostly growing in wet ditches, on private land. Meaning it's difficult to control, and eradication might not be feasible. Also would involve participation of landholders. Based on the definition of 'eradicate' species, it should be feasible to eradicate this species, and we feel that it likely isn't. It's also a slow spreader in comparison to other spurge species.
 - Leslie – conundrum that because it's on private land, can we just throw our hands up and say we can't do much about it.
- Heike – homeowners might be more tempted to react if the species is on the eradicate list vs the contain list.
- Derek Hogan – if it changes to the contain category, what is the strategy for sites that can't be chemically controlled to ensure that they aren't being spread?
 - Clare – we're limited in terms of budget for those sites (we'd have to do mechanical removal rather than chemical). And the landholder would need to do the same.
 - We use our priority list to work our way down through species at a site. And Cypress Spurge often tends to fall off that list, because of the cost of doing the removal manually.
 - Feedback from funders is that they don't think manual removal is the best use of budget.
 - Derek – agrees that eradication probably isn't feasible.
 - Clare – if it's a really small site, mechanical removal year after year is more feasible, but larger sites are a big task for mechanical removal.
- Jacquie – agrees that mechanical removal doesn't really work for large sites.
 - Working primarily on outreach efforts for this species.
 - Lower risk for spreading off-site, compared to other spurge species.

- Clare – expectation under the ‘Eradicate’ banner means that SSISC gets to all sites where this species is present.
 - This is one of the reasons for the change to the definition of the ‘Contain’ category.
- Paul – agreed with Heike’s point, but Clare’s explanation makes sense, and I support the change.
- Heike – I like the idea of a gardener’s list, with recommendations for removal. A different approach for areas of private land.
- Clare – There are many different uses of the SSISC list – tied to regulations (bylaws), how our field crew works.
- Leslie – In terms of the tie to bylaws, is Eradicate a ‘lever’ and can we use that to get landholders to react?
- Clare – Yes, but if we think of this as a prioritization, there are things on the ‘Eradicate’ list that we don’t currently have the capacity to work on in terms of bylaw education and enforcement.
 - We need to keep the ‘Eradicate’ list reasonable. Consider what else is on the site list / what we’re realistically able to do.
- Derek Hogan
 - After this meeting, we now have new species on the Eradicate list too, so keeping work plans / priorities in mind, I support this change.
- Clare
 - Unless anyone is severely against this, recommend approving the change.
 - **Approved**

10. Common Hops (*Humulus lupulus*)

- Currently not on our list, but we have removed it from the Polygon Homes - Garibaldi Springs site, and have had environmental consultants ask why it’s not on our list.
- Our map very likely doesn’t depict the actual spread in our region.
- It’s common in gardens, people make beer with it.
- Not in the provincial database as an invasive plant, but this may change.
- Current priority levels: not listed
- Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Strategic Control
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Strategic Control
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Strategic Control
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Strategic Control
- Heike – didn’t realize it was invasive. But it tolerates some tough growing conditions.
 - Has started to remove it from some gardens because it was starting to take over.
- Leslie – It has a crazy root system, and roots can sit in the ground for a long time, and if they get exposed again, they’ll resume growing.

- Removed a large plant out of the Cheakamus community garden. Even in a box, the roots had grown down and up into another box. Dense mat of roots in the entire box.
 - Has seen it at the Squamish golf course.
 - Heike – Makes your skin itchy when removing it.
 - Paul – In the Squamish Valley, there used to be a hops farm. You can see the hops growing on the ground just north of the Lillooet River Bridge.
 - **Approved**
11. Common Blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*)
- Present in SSISC region, growing invasively
 - Current priority levels: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Strategic Control
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Strategic Control
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Likely under-mapped because it's similar looking to Himalayan Blackberry, but has some distinguishing features.
 - Often grows alongside Himalayan Blackberry, and we're wondering if there's hybridization happening between the two.
 - **Approved**
12. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Currently: on SSISC's list, under 'No Action'.
 - It's very common in landscaping, and not considered an issue by landscapers.
 - There are a lot of varieties / cultivars that are not considered invasive.
 - Proposal: remove from the list.
 - **Approved**
 - Penny – is this a native plant?
 - Clare – It's not native to our region, but is native to other parts of North America. Considered invasive here.
 - Penny – it's on the list of species for our Butterfly project.
13. Princess Tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
- Not observed in the SSISC region
 - Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
14. Tamarisk / Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*)
- Not observed in the SSISC region

- Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
15. Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)
- Not observed in the SSISC region
 - Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Leslie – If Russian Olive gets into the Pemberton Valley, it would thrive.
 - **Approved**
16. Elm trees (*Ulmaceae* family) – Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), American Elm (*Ulmus americana*), Wych / Scot's Elm (*Ulmus glabra*), English / Common Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*)
- Not observed in the SSISC region, but presence confirmed for some of these species in other parts of British Columbia.
 - Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Prevent
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Prevent
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - **Approved**
17. Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
- Present in the SSISC region, but not on our list.
 - 5 confirmed sites in Squamish
 - We get lots of questions from environmental consultants about it.
 - Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Contain
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Contain
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Paul – This species is climatic zone dependent – very dry conditions that it thrives in. And we don't have those conditions here in the Sea to Sky.

- So does it make sense to include on our list? Is there a latitude where it will no longer act invasively?
 - Haven't seen an issue with it in the Whistler area.
 - The number of deciduous trees available to landscapers in the Sea to Sky is limited.
 - Clare – Maybe the Squamish perspective is different? Have had reports of it growing invasively at sites in Squamish.
 - Might be true that it's present but not thriving here, given conditions.
 - Derek Hogan – It's quite abundant on Vancouver Island, which isn't a dry arid environment.
 - Appears to be growing aggressively there.
 - Compared to other trees, maybe it's not as high of a priority, but I'd recommend adding it to the list for prevention.
 - Rene Roddick – It's a nightmare
 - Site in Burnaby with roots crawling into right-of-way. It's mowed regularly, but it's still everywhere.
 - Has large thorns, likes to sucker once it's cut.
 - Thinks we should get rid of it.
 - Paul – Good points. And with likelihood of drier conditions coming with climate change, it's probably a good idea to add to the list.
 - **Approved**
18. Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)
- Presence confirmed in the SSISC area (Squamish). Also present in Vancouver / Vancouver Island.
 - There are some sub-species. There is a risk assessment underway by the inter-ministry for it.
 - Currently: not listed
 - Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Contain
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Contain
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
 - Paul – What are the origins of this species? I thought it was native.
 - Clare – It's native to Eastern North America, has been reported as invasive in Europe and on the West Coast.
 - **Approved**
19. Golden Chain Tree (*Laburnum anagyroides*)
- On BC invasive tree list
 - Presence confirmed in SSISC region in Brunswick and Lions Bay (outside of gardens - in gravel pits, etc.).
 - Tolerates poor soil conditions, is toxic, there is a hybrid and multiple cultivars.
 - Currently: not listed

- Proposed priority levels:
 - Regional: Contain
 - Squamish ISMA 1: Contain
 - Whistler ISMA 2: Prevent
 - Pemberton ISMA 3: Prevent
- **Approved**
 - Due to time constraints, we'll park the rest of the proposed changes to another time.

Round-table updates (max 2 mins per partner)

Kate Brandon – District of Squamish (DOS)

- Working towards implementing the Invasive Species Management Bylaw. Rolling it out next year.

Derek Jazic – Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW)

- Currently working to prioritize a list for landscape crews, to select sites more wisely in order to have a higher effect.

Amie Waelchli - Lil'wat Nation

- Currently looking at spring / fall treatment of invasives, with Wild Parsnip on reserves being the focus.

Aaron Marchant – Squamish Nation

- Working with Nick Guidobono and teaming up with SSISC for work on reserves.
- Working with 5 municipalities, so maybe we can help with private property issues.

Derek Hogan – BC Ministry of Forests

- Managed to get funding for SSISC, similar to last year.
- Lots of internal staffing changes are happening this year, so there might be some growing pains.

Grahame Gielens – BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI)

- Continuing operations largely unchanged, budget about the same as last year
- Has put in a request to increase the budget this year, hoping to hear back soon.
- Will be posting for a replacement for Derek's old position in next few weeks.

Jacque – Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society (LRISS)

- Scotch Broom found for the first time in the region last year. On a hydro right-of-way, near a backcountry road that has lots of traffic to Seton Lake.
- Expect to see an increase in this type of travel / spread of invasives, with people coming up from the Sea to Sky and Vancouver. Continuing to work with SSISC for outreach on this.
- Training for BC Hydro crews happened in early spring last year, and this was how the report came in.
- Confirmed sighting, and pulled it before it flowered.

Tasha – Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver (ISCMV)

- Largely education-based organization.
- Regional Best Practices Guide – these resources are now on ISCMV site instead of Metro Vancouver page: <https://www.iscmv.ca/take-action/regional-best-practices/>
 - Have 20 of these guides, and working on more.
- Happy to see Tree of Heaven discussed.
- Japanese Butterbur is also a hot topic in the Metro Vancouver area.
- AGM coming up: Port Coquitlam, on May 11th : <https://iscmv.ca/events/iscmv-2023-spring-forum-agm>

Kathy Ma – Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society (FVISS)

- Biggest focus is Wild Chervil – it has infested the Highway 1 area, especially post flooding.
 - Highly encourage dealing with any Wild Chervil in your region as soon as possible.
 - It's a very aggressive spreader, sets lots of seeds, hard to manage.
- Shiny Geranium – on Highway 1 as well.
 - Sets seed quickly and almost constantly.
 - Another one to manage before it establishes.
- Have increased staffing, outreach programs - including Knotweed cost-share program and curbside pickup for invasive plants.
- Cypress Spurge – starting to see more sites in the Fraser Valley, mostly on private property.
- Black Locust – has a resident that was unable to sell his property due to Black Locust tree infestation. People are becoming more aware of invasive trees.

Bob Brett - SSISC Field Contractor, Whistler Naturalists

- Working to get rid of Broom in Whistler
 - Probably won't ever get rid of it entirely, but trying to make sure none of it flowers.
- Good news that Yellow Flag Iris, Purple Loosestrife, and Blackberry are on their way out (in Whistler).

Rene Roddick – BC Hydro

- Have been doing lots of bulldozing up around transmission lines.
- Normally they'd put in a reclamation mix of seeds – running this list by the RISOs.
 - Hard to find pollinator species that will do a good job and are from the range.
- Blackberry eradication project at the Indian River Estuary with the Tsleil-Waututh First Nation. Trialling mow, grub, and geo-tech style eradication

Clare introduced new SSISC staff

- April, Katie, Keira
- More staff will be starting May 9th, for a team of 16.

2023 Annual Program Plan

Clare

- We are actively seeking input and feedback on the priorities included in the plan. You can email us at info@ssisc.ca to submit feedback, or to set up a call if you'd like to discuss any of the content.
- In addition to this, we are currently meeting with various land managers and funders to develop jurisdiction-specific site lists and workplans.

2023 Proposed Budget

Clare

- Looking for input / feedback as well.
- Lots of unknowns, and updates coming in / changing daily.

Leslie

- Questions can go by email to info@ssisc.ca

Closing Remarks – 12:37pm

Leslie

- Thanks for joining, providing updates
- Welcome to new board members