



Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards Announcement

At the meeting of the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards (SCCWS) Board of Directors on March 4, 2025, the board passed a motion that the SCCWS start the process of dissolving as a non-profit organization. All information regarding the dissolution process is to be gathered and determined by December 31, 2025, with dissolution to occur by March 31, 2026.

This was not an easy decision to make nor was it done in haste. Since the changes that occurred with Watershed Stewardship Group funding 3 years ago, the board of the SCCWS has been pondering the future of the organization and its role in watershed stewardship in the Swift Current and Rush Lake Creek watersheds. The SCCWS has been operating for the last 3 years with an Executive Director and a summer student, both only working part-time. Some funding has been received; however, this was primarily for one-off projects and was not enough to sustain the organization and reverse the operational losses that have been accumulating over the last 3 years.

The SCCWS board was faced with a decision to continue operating for 3 to 4 more years at a loss which would completely deplete its reserve or dissolve the SCCWS in the next year to leave a legacy that could be used to enhance water quality and stream health and honor the past work of the SCCWS. Weighing these two options the board made the difficult decision to start the dissolution process. The SCCWS will be gathering information on the dissolution process and the ways that the financial reserve, information gathered and assets that have been accumulated after almost 25 years of service can best be applied to honor the work of prior SCCWS staff, board members, funders and stakeholders.

The SCCWS is planning to continue with its Froghopper programming, invasive weed programming and the Lac Pelletier Shoreline Restoration Project during the summer of 2025. The future of these programs will be part of the discussions that the board will be having during the next few months.

Again, this was not an easy decision for the board to make, but it was one that needed to be made as enough time had passed since the changes to the funding model to show where the future of the SCCWS was headed. The board determined that now was the best time for the SCCWS to dissolve and find a way to leave a legacy to honor its 25 years of work in the watershed, before all options to do so were removed.

The SCCWS will update its stakeholders as it moves through this process and as stated projects will continue in the summer of 2025.

The SCCWS thanks all current and former staff and board members for their service to the SCCWS. Without your commitment to enhancing water quality and stream health, the SCCWS would not have gotten off the ground and been able to function this long. The SCCWS would like to thank all of the organizations that have provided funding over the last 25 years, without this funding, the SCCWS would



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not have been able to provide the services it has. Finally, the SCCWS thanks all of the engaged stakeholders, residents and water users who attended our workshops, field days, Annual General Meetings, implemented Best Management Practices through the Agri-Environmental Group Plan, assisted with weed removal days, helped to plant trees, installed rain barrels, participated in the Froghoppers Program, read our newsletters and took an interest in watershed stewardship in our watershed. You were the reason why the Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards were formed and why it was successful for as long as it was.

This does not mean the end of stewardship within our watershed. We are looking to see it continue through the legacy that the SCCWS will be leaving. Also, there are several other watershed stewardship and conservation groups in our province, including the Saskatchewan Association of Watersheds doing good work in our watershed and area.

For more information contact Kevin Steinley, Executive Director at 306-770-4607 or kevin.sccws@gmail.com.