

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES www.cowichanstewardship.ca

DATE: THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 2020: **9am to 12:00 pm** Zoom meeting, invite will be sent out prior to mtg.

Questions? Write to co-chairs at cwicichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

We will be meeting on the lands of Coast Salish peoples. Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave Zoom meeting whenever is necessary. **The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner at all times.**

Please note the Agenda timing is approximate only!

Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Please set up and be ready for meeting by 8:45 am to allow for glitches.● Welcome and acknowledgement that we meet on Coast Salish peoples' land● Appreciation to Tom Rutherford of CWB for hosting our meeting. Tom will explain rules and guidelines for using Zoom.● Regrets: Christine Rikley, Jacquie Taylor, Tim Kulchyski, Stephanie Cottrell, Edmond Duggan, Sandi Cumming, Bob Crandall● Attending: Genevieve Singleton: Co-chair CSRT, Parker Jefferson: Co-Chair: CSRT, Karen Deck: Save Our Holmes Society, Joanna VeraFlores, John Lofto, teachers and students from Lake Cowichan High Environmental Stewardship Program, Eric Marshall: CVNS and Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre, Tom Rutherford: CWB, Rick Bryan: Recreational Paddlers, Barry Hetschko: SMWS, Ian Douglas: DFO Community Advisor, Jillian Stewart: BC Rivers Day, Alistair MacGregor: MP Cowichan, Malahat, Langford, Pam Jorgenson: Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forestry, David Belaznay: Mosaic, Bruce Coates: CVNS, Ian Morrison: CVRD director
9:10-9:20 CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Karen Deck for taking September notes.● Main page of website needs updating, Genevieve to let Emma Ross know when she is ready to do this.● Terms of Reference: our goal has been to review and amend every two years. We are belated on this and since it is obvious that we will have to meet on Zoom for a while we will no longer wait for an in-person meeting to do this. We will review them at our next meeting. Genevieve to send a draft with suggested changes from Parker, Tom and herself.● Genevieve asked us to think about ideas for River Day next September as well as future meeting plans and future speakers.
9:20	Round the Table: Thea Rodgers sent a message that BCCF will report on sunscreen testing at sites around Cowichan Lake at next meeting.

Stephanie Cottrell sent a message that she expects to report news from Salmonoid Enhancement Program.

Reports from those attending Zoom meeting:

Alistair MacGregor recognized the attendance of students from Lake Cowichan High School at this meeting, mentioning his graduation from Cow High in 1997. He was in Ottawa for the opening of Parliament recently and MP's are using a hybrid model for committee work, physical distancing in 3 different buildings. A compromise re: COVID benefits has been reached.

Consultation continues with 19 First Nations re: National Marine Conservation Area in the Salish Sea. It comprises 1300 square kilometers off the east coast of Vancouver Island and all the Gulf Islands. The purpose is to protect coastlines and ecosystems and preserve them for future generations. It is a Parks Canada priority. He spoke about his private member bill regarding anchorages for freighters, causing noise and light pollution and whose anchors drag the seabed. Petitions have been made in the past to amend the Canada Shipping Act. Minister Garneau has not been cooperative in efforts to remove anchorages. Transport Canada has overarching power. Solutions like scheduling times of arrival would avoid the number of freighters anchoring, given its location close to the Conservation Area. Genevieve asked about the herring fishery and Alistair said he would get information from the NDP fisheries critic.

Rick Bryan spoke about the originator of Rivers Day, Mark Angelo. He mentioned that Edmond Duggan was on the river recently taking pictures. A discussion around the Monkman oxbow restoration area and the collaboration that took place among Cowichan Tribes, private owners, MOTI and CVRD. Rick highlighted his concerns about safety of paddlers in this area. CSRT could be a conduit for information in advance of projects like this. Rick also shared a photo of new signage at Stoltz Pool Cowichan River Provincial Park about toads. Genevieve brought up the subject of toad migration, pointing out that grooming trails and cutting grass in BC Parks and CVRD Parks could disturb habitat for these creatures and others.

Parker Jefferson spoke about lamprey meeting he attended. He also mentioned the good fall conditions for fish (30cms). The weir is off control, escapement goals were met.

Jillian Stewart expressed an interest in participating in River Day events. She's spent the last 7 years volunteering at the Vancouver Aquarium, whaling tours, learning and working on project with Mark Angelo. She's looking for work in biology. She mentioned that people involved with Goldstream Hatchery could likely provide names for a petition allowing Alistair to speak on the subject of anchorages at Parliament.

Eric Marshall was happy to report sightings of new herons' nests in the ravine, counts of other birds have been suspended due to COVID. The sea lions have arrived; all male and both Stellar and California.

	<p>Bruce Coates reported that North Cowichan Forest group is on pause due to Nation to Nation talks. The next Cowichan Valley Naturalist Zoom meeting will be November 17 at 7:00, there will be a zoom webinar on Western Toads migration. There will be a Youtube video on daily migration available.</p> <p>Events: Bings Creek Clean-up, Naturalists and Cowichan Green Community are planting more native plants in McAdam Park; seeds and soil available for volunteers to grow at home and bring back.</p> <p>Ian Morrison Public hearings are online regarding Little Beach rezoning. Genevieve asked about the Park Acquisition Fund, as budgets are being discussed by Corporate Services Committee. The budget to acquire parts has been severely cut back and will probably continue to be cut. She urged conservation groups and NGO's to write letters to provide funding, as key park purchases are linked to local support.</p>
	<p>Pam Jorgenson reported a slow year for Mosaic, but are in start up mode now. Planting has been completed; no COVID in planting crews. Community outreach: Mountain bike race was approved and went ahead, will be delivering a donation to the Cowichan Valley Basket Society. David Belaznay reported that a goshawk chick was found fallen from a nest and Mid Island Aviary Society was called. Mosaic again supported Pacific Salmon Fund virtual auction and gala.</p> <p>Barry Hetschko expressed his concerns about water run off from the new hospital and Cowichan Commons which he fears could drain into the marsh and harm salmon. Genevieve said that Dr. Waters is her contact for these concerns.</p> <p>Ian Douglas is backfilling Melissa Nottingham as Community Advisor for DFO. He reports that the hatchery people in charge of San Juan brood stock need 200 females. It will be slow work if they have to dip net. Sean Wong's explanation of daylighting the oxbow at Stoltz was very informative. Genevieve asked about Educational Grants. Ian will send information out.</p> <p>Genevieve Singleton spoke about the field trip with Sean Wong, nature walks with home-schoolers, the October 29 Green Community Garden native plant nursery, and ethnobotany talk she gave to the Shawnigan Basin Society. Birthday wishes to Eric on his 90th!</p> <p>Genevieve and Joy Wade are doing outreach education about Lamprey and put together an article on them that will be published in the Valley Voice. Genevieve reported that the Knockenback Knotweed Committee will be presenting to CVRD on their five years project. They will be explaining that hand-pulling knotweed is an effective alternative to pesticides.</p> <p>Karen Deck reported that with Lush Cosmetic's grant is supporting the efforts being made to protect watersheds, prevent slides, promote ecotourism and preserve fish and wildlife habitat from logging. 3 videos have been made and Dave Polster's PowerPoint outlining his restoration techniques was recorded for future webinars.</p>
	<p>Tom Rutherford spoke about the Watershed Board's priorities and targets. Re: weir, he mentioned that 2 or 3 structures for fish passage would have naturalized channel</p>

	and cold-water delivery to provide cooler water to fish, and as the effects of climate change increase in severity, preventing anything over a temperature of 20 degrees is critical to survival. Responsibility for the water license is still undetermined, so the University of Victoria law clinic and Cowichan Watershed Board will look at options. There are ongoing discussions with CVRD, Cowichan Tribes and Catalyst. Cowichan Tribes and the Province are in government to government agreement to ensure a water sustainability process in the Koksilah River that will prevent serious and permanent harm to fish population. Section 88 provides for a stop to irrigation if flows are dangerously low; the status quo is no longer good enough, so recommendations are to have an enforceable watershed sustainability plan. Tom says that fish can't vote and rivers can't vote but we can.
11:50-12:00	Meeting ended at 12.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August.