

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES www.cowichanstewardship.ca

DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020: 9am to 12:00 pm Zoom meeting, invite will be sent out prior to mtg.

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

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

- 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, Jill Thompson and the Cowichan Watershed Board for kindly donating the Zoom platform for our meeting.

CSRT Business

- Genevieve opened with the information that Eric Marshall had died earlier that morning. Eric was a long-time member of the CSRT representing the Cowichan Valley Naturalists. He was a highly respected member of our table. Some time will be taken to remember Eric at the beginning of the next meeting. Please send photos to Genevieve in advance.
- Decisions re: Cowichan Heritage River Celebration are carried forward to January. Christine Rikley, BC Parks, will put in a request for some license plate funds to go to River Day expenses.
- Pam Jorgensen (Mosaic) and Ian Morrison (CVRD) kindly offered to fund the cost of website. It was decided to apply for a grant with CVRD. The CWB offered to pay costs of event insurance for in person meetings at Fisheries.

Round the Table:

- Maeve Maguire, Sonia Furstenau's assistant: Office will be open in January at the Matria Centre. The Old Growth Review Panel Report was taken off the provincial government website, raising questions about its future. Requests for ideas for private members bill in the spring session.
- Tom Rutherford, CWB: Funding opportunities are forthcoming and we can leverage the funds most efficiently by working together. Feeling optimistic!
- Edmond Duggan, Paddlers: The Vancouver Island White Water Rafting Society is up and running again. He hopes the weir will allow for paddlers.
- Peter Woods, BC Parks: We welcomed Peter to his new job, as Area Supervisor of Cowichan, taking over from Christine Rikley. This is his first RT meeting and we hope the first of many. He is looking forward to working in this region.
- Stephanie Cottell, CLT: Forests Beyond Trees is on their website now. Best Water Ways Resources will be up soon.

- Christine Rikley, BC Parks: has moved into her new position as Section Head. COVID has resulted in some funding cutbacks. There will be foot path reconstruction by MOT in the Glenora Area. Genevieve expressed gratitude for Christine's engagement with the RT for the past two years.
- Kate Miller, CVRD: Capacity is stretched with a great deal of work to do. She spoke about flood mapping done on Cowichan, Riverbottom and Koksilah.
- Pam Jorgenson, Mosaic: Logging trucks on the weekend was not long term. Road upgrades on Kapoor Main near Koksilah are being done to do harvesting. Not Koksilah Grove, just second growth, with large buffers along the river. Genevieve expressed concerns about the process and requested a meeting in January to ensure protection for Koksilah, the wildlife corridor and working together to make good decisions for the future. Pam agreed to meet.
- Bruce Coates, CVN: Echoed concerns, also expressing information from Mosaic regarding harvesting plans saying that logging roads make access to the grove easier.
- Ian Douglas: Community Hatcheries (incubating salmon in classrooms) program is going ahead on a reduced scale. Eggs are delivered by coordinator, but can not be done as before. High water has resulted in ½ brood for the CT hatchery.
- Parker Jefferson, CSRT: Chinook Salmon numbers; Pit tagging at the fence and falls, information to come. "Jack" is a young male that spawns and dies, hasn't been in the ocean as long. Cowichan River has a high percentage of Jacks.
- Alistair MacGregor, MP: met with BC Sport Fishing Institute. Cowichan River received high praise. House of Commons is adjourned until Jan. 25. His private members bill C250 would prohibit anchorages especially since its proximity to the Marine Conservation Area. Genevieve is sending an E petition around and asks for it to be spread more widely to increase from 260 names. Canada Summer Jobs program funding period is open.
- Jane Kilthei, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre: The education team is dynamite! School programs ran until November. Outdoor restoration classes with young people will start again later. There is funding for young people to do restoration work late winter and early spring. Swift water training would allow for monitoring science and restoration.
- Ian Morrison, CVRD: People are inquiring about gravel loading at the end of tributaries. CLRSS Zoom Christmas event was fun! Little Beach rezoning, OCP going to third reading. Parkland Acquisition Budget went up \$250 thousand to \$400 thousand, although it has been \$750-\$800 thousand before. CVRD recommends 0% increase in tax, so important to have targeted, strategic investment plans about the land bank. The land can sit as an ecological asset. Drinking water and Watershed and CWB investments will probably go ahead. Genevieve was profoundly disappointed about the PAF funding was not higher. Ian spoke with respect and affection about Eric Marshall.

- LeRoy Van Wieren, Weir Project: Kudos for Zoom during COVID times. Public Zoom Meeting on the weir is on CowichanLakeWeir.ca. Weir is on schedule, budget and task. The Cowichan Lake Shoreline Assessment is well underway. The current natural boundary results and information are at least one year away. He spoke about wanting to put out an educational pack out with definitions for terms like “riparian”, “high water” etc. to allow for common understanding and communication.
- Bruce Coates, CVN: Eric Marshall always reported on sea lions and the swan and goose count. This year the Christmas Bird Count will be going forward. E Bird (<https://ebird.org/home>) is a useful tool for the count. Working with Cowichan Greens on native planting.
- Grant MacPherson, Sidney Anglers: We have been involved in projects on the Cowichan River. Fish in Todd Creek returned through Cowichan instead.
- Joy Wade, Fundy Aqua Services: Lamprey outreach is ongoing, picking up posters today.
- Genevieve Singleton, CSRT: As a warden of the Mount Tzouhalem Ecological Reserve she reports that trails are being upgraded by N. Cowichan staff, deer grazing is an issue. In the Honeymoon Bay ecological reserve there are fewer pink lilies each year. Knocking Back Knotweed; the committee consisting of four biologists: Cheri Ayers, Dave Polster, Dave Lindsay and Genevieve Singleton presented to CVRD as to their hand pulling technique progress and requested an increase to Bright Angel’s Park invasive plant budget so that staff could remove all knotweed by pulling in the park.
- Karen Deck, Save Our Holmes Society: Despite mail out issues, our bi-monthly newsletter went out in December with information regarding the Cowichan Lamprey. Much gratitude to Joy and Genevieve for sharing information on this animal which has faced habitat destruction due to a variety of causes.

Stephanie Cottell, Cowichan Land Trust ED, “Introducing the Best Water Ways Watershed Learning Resources”

Terms of Reference review continued: Break-out group to work on Terms of Reference and send it back one week before next CSRT meeting on January 14.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August. Upcoming meetings: to be announced. Feb. 2020 Thea Rogers, BCCF, will present on findings re sun lotion in the Cowichan River.