

# MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Paul Rickard at 9 am.

## **In attendance**

Meg Loop (CLT), Keith Lawrence (CVRD), Paul Rickard (BCWF), Geoff Strong (CERCA), Claude Theriault & Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers), Eric Marshall (CVNS), Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes), Derek Haupt (Western Forest Products), Elizabeth Bailey (Somenos), Genevieve Singleton (Nature interpreter), Ted Brookeman (BCWF), Derek Haupt (WFP), Molly Hudson (Timberwest)

Regrets: Tom Rutherford, Area Directors

## **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the April meeting were circulated and approved.

## **Roundtable updates**

Paul - Minutes to be funded by Derek Haupt & Area I. Website to be funded by BCWF & Polster Environmental. Need to review the co-chair positions.

Genevieve Singleton - Able to do a salmon program with Shona and Willie for Young Naturalists. 330 people came to Ian MacAlister for Great Bear tour.

Don Closson - K2 operate south island parks and have taken on the contract to operate the Cowichan Parks. Couple road failures at Carmanah Park, currently can walk in but road still needs to be opened up.

Parker Jefferson - One Cowichan is creating awareness for the upcoming election. CLRSS, expanded board by one member, Diana remains as president and look forward to continuing riparian enhancement project.

Molly Hudson - Beaver Lake Campground now has responsibility and operation of the land under the weir at Beaver Lake.

Claude Theriault - Thank Roger Hunter took 5 Sidney Anglers on watershed tour from the weir to the estuary. Working on riparian restoration of Ray Creek and counting coho in streams along the peninsula. Working with goldstream for broodstock.

Tim - Working with hatchery crew to do additional and comprehensive DNA sampling (collect and hold broodstock until ready to spawn, then the regular process) with additional funding and partnerships so every single fish is genetically tested, any surplus fish is tested prior to being returned to the river to naturally spawn. Dip net and caught fish to get samples from the natural spawners. Geneticist from UoW identified resident stock herring used technology that steps up the sampling from 14 markers to 3000-4000 markers and identified 21 different stocks. Attended Fish Health Workshop, if you wait to define all of what is going on in terms of stressed systems and focus on the actual health, then you focus on the ecology. Look at a holistic view on fish health then you can positively impact those stocks.

Wilf Ludki - Steve Bailey 4700 chinook, 1200 jacks. Considering low water and seal predation, it's shown the river can produce natural fish. Good coho return for years, really good chum return (about 200,000, increasing nutrient loading which helps support the whole system which then supports the other salmon stocks) and in all over rivers their populations are going down. Trying to understand the genetic make-up

of the spawners and trying to understand if we are building back up the genetic diversity within the fish stocks.

Dave Preschoct - Looking at early marine survival in coho and chinook, started a project with Somenos looking at coho, steelhead, and cuthroat summer survivability.

Fish & Game Club - Looking at how we can do more in terms of conservation and improvement in the area.

CERCA - Well over \$200,000 funded for the bridge, actual construction needs to start in January. Need a letter of consent from Western Stevedoring to FLNRO.

Ray Demarchi - Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Committee, one of the goals is to relocate the outflow out of the river.

Dennis Popplestone (catalyst paper) - Water has been moved up as a critical aspect for the mill.

James Craig - Flow habitat study and chinook early life history study in reporting. Chinook pit tagging program year 2 being planned, south side spur dyke reconnection project largely complete & now monitoring, Stoltz maintenance completed for this year. Broadway Run update: reasons we are not going ahead. #1 escalating front end engineer and geomorphic survey costs, expert witness costs, 2015 construction budget was considered inadequate for contingency. We no longer have back up money and can't deliver. Lack of strong partnerships from senior govts, different atmosphere out there. Something more dramatic has to happen at the site to galvanize. Will continue to monitor the site, considering a revised project for the RFCPP for the willow live stacking.

Eric Marshall - Usually by this time of year there is about 30 sea lions on the breakwater, but there have been very few lately. Piscivorous Birds survey in Cowichan Bay, DFO 3044 manuscript, copy on the Estuary Nature Centre website. About 600 Canada geese a few weeks ago, 2000 Canada geese and 200 swans have arrived (head back North in march). Monthly coastal waterbird survey, 500+ gulls in the Bay, south side much lower 82 buffleheads and a dozen or so lower. Numbers much higher on the other side.

Elizabeth Bailey - Wrapped up Wildwings Festival last week with Holly Artzen & The Wilds and Alexander School. Thank Genevieve for her work for the festival. Received funding from the National Wetland Conservation Fund, hopefully be working on a wetland in Somenos on North Cowichan land. Working with NC to get permission to test storm water, create a wetland pond to filter storm water before it heads into the marsh and create habitat.

Shawn Chadburn - Bonsall Creek management plan meeting, Nov 27 5:30 – 8pm in Westholm.

Clay Rietsma - Building dykes for 4 years to protect the city from repeat flooding of 2009. Currently working on the dykes by Beverly Street, but in the very early stages of this process. Also involved with the effluent outfall relocation. The JUB lagoons discharge to the river, in the liquid management sector, it identifies removing outfall from the river as a priority. With the low flows outflow to the river is not an ideal situation.

Derek Haupt - Will be sharing the costs of minute taking.

Cowichan Bay Fisherman's Wharf - Really great chum run within Cowichan Bay. Really great Sockeye run.

Keith Lawrence - Regional Water Governance study, workshops over this year. These put invites to 60 different organizations with over 60 for each workshops. Received a draft report and having discussions with various groups for concerns, barriers, and opportunities. Hoping to meet with all stakeholder with emergence of common values. Water Quality Studies, 3rd year of fall sampling for Cowichan-Koksilah monitoring study. 4 locations on Cow Lake, 4 locations River, 4 Bings, 3 Tunnel, and several on Koksilah. Many organizations and people involved, results will be ready early January for this fall round. Sandy Pools near completion, replacement planting for drought killed cottonwoods. CVRD approved allocation of funds to the Beaver Creek project, Cowichan Lake habitat enhancement fund.

Shona Smith - Riverside pool seined fish and trucked them up to the weir. Television media showed up for that. Trapped and trucked 224 fish, seined more fish than able to move so 450 DNA samples from the natural spawners. Hatchery got all their broodstock. Still accepting applications to the RFCPP until December 12th, includes design and planning for 2015/2016.

Meg Loop – Streamkeepers course Nov 28 & 29. Water quality sampling program on Quamichan creek, riparian planting at wetlands in Quamichan, Bings, Avril. Beer & Burger Fundraiser Sunday Nov 23.

Paul Rickard - bat box project to support nesting sites for our bats in trouble. New DFO policy advisor. PSF hosted a 2 day workshop for the Salish Sea project participants. Hopefully focusing the direction of future work, and a lot of attention being directed on Cowichan Bay. Money has to be spent by March 31,

so if you have PSF funds you're unable to spend, then there are other groups who can take that money and plant it out.

## **Business**

### **Terms of Reference –**

#### **Co-chair Positions:**

Not just showing up to the meeting, a lot of work behind the scenes to build a reflective agenda of the interested groups and achievable time lines. Paul is content to carry on as chair, if others wish to come forward at the November meeting. Supposed to review every two years.

- Paul and Genevieve are willing to continue as cochair. Dave Preschoct willing to step up.

**Action:** Last meeting came forward and discussed the ToR. Move to accept revised ToR and main source of reference.

### **Cowichan Chinook Re-Building Plan - Cheri Ayers:**

See Powerpoint presentation.

Chinook are an indicator of watershed health, but don't necessarily have control of what is going on in the watershed. The chinook goals and values need to be incorporated to the planning processes for the entire area. So the Actions, objectives, actions etc would be used to inform the integrated planning for CVRD, CT, NC, etc.

Feedback: How does the CSRT see itself participating in this process? This is a locally driven process, we need to ensure everyone is involved and has ownership.

- a very good program, needs to be institutionalized to have longevity. Need to develop some kind of governance structure. (Is a part of the action plan, didn't want to create something totally new with fledgling things already in place. Can feed into those processes to move forward).
- Important for a management structure in place, take control of the flow of information and research (ie the PSF research Salish Sea project).
- Authority to take on and implement, ie Tribes or DFO, clearly identified.
- Collaboration and collective leadership will be key, and is a great strength in this valley. The details will come into play when this element starts to come into play.

### **Western Stevedoring - Brad Eshleman:**

See powerpoint presentation.

Global terminal company. BC Port Locations linking deep sea ports to rail systems. Community engagement is very important. Damage to the Cowichan Bay Dock is being worked on. Looking at a redesign and movement of the dock for better protection of the eelgrass beds.

#### **Causeway Breach:**

Bridge needs to be able to handle heavy duty traffic, able to last long-term. What happens to the flow of water after the change, what does that mean to the site? Part of the company's due diligence is to hire consults, as a company need to get the permit (not just a letter) from FLNRO from which we lease lands. Responsible for the construction (even though funds are coming from elsewhere), the liability and insurance is the responsibility of Western Stevedoring. The company needs to ensure everything is done well and try to limit issues down the road. Fully supportive of the breach, may not be able to make the timeframe.

- Only remaining hurdle is the filling out in the low-intensity permit to do the alteration, reviews the geotechnical reports, to make sure it's accurate, come up with an agreement with CERCA and lawyers are

working on it. The project has evolved over time, and Western Stevedoring is trying to meet it with support but recognize own limitations and the incredible challenges funding timelines place.

### **Next Meeting**

**December 18th**

- **one hour extension for potluck**
- **Topics for Agenda:**
  - **15 min for Somenos Salmon Habitat**
  - **Watershed Board Update**