



DATE: November 17, 2016

**9:00 Meeting called to order by Parker who provides welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory**

**Regrets:** Bob Crandall, Leroy Van Wieran, Christine Brophy, Shaun Chadburn, Ken Clements, Claude Theirault, Kai Rietzel

**Attendance:** Rosalie Sawrie (One Cowichan), Loren Duncan, Jeremy Arsenaut (Central Island Salmon), Chris Steeger (CLRSS), Geoff Strong (CERCA), Tom Rutherford (CWB), Cheri Ayers (Bioayers consultants), Roger Hart (QWSS), Nicolette Watson (DFO), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Genevieve Singleton (Nature Interpreter), Peter Salmon, Sonia Furstenau (CVRD), Kerry Davis (CVRD), Dave Preikshot, Eric Marshall (CVNS), Barry Hetschko (SMWS), Dave Lindsay (Timberwest), Ted Brookman (BCWF), Ian Morrison (CVRD), Jennifer Hermary (MP Alistair MacGregor), Blaise Salmon, Guy Johnston (Fisher).

**Roundtable Updates:**

**BC Wild Life Federation: Ted Brookman,**

Mentioned current activities of the Mill Bay Conservation Society, which moves by hand the coho on Shawnigan Creek. Ted is chairman of this.

**Cowichan Land Trust:** Kai Rietzel, Todd Carnahan

- Report from Kai: We completed the planting of the Mt Prevost Raingarden project last week. The week went very smoothly and we had every child from the school plant at least one plant or more. It was over 400 children planting over 500 plants!!
- Planning to train the Cowichan High school Land Based Learning class to get their Stream keeping certificates in the beginning of December. Planning a community Streamkeeper's course open to anyone, on February 25th and 26th. Dave Clough will be the instructor for both courses.
- Thank you to Timberwest for funding the minute taking for CSRT. CLT has received the cheque.

**Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association: Geoff Strong**

- Expecting a Chinese delegation to see what we are doing with the estuary. They should be coming in November but maybe later.
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**Chis Steeger**

- Attending CSRT for first time. Is a Professional biologist and specialist in wildlife, who has recently joined CLRSS. Works for Amac Foster Wheeler. Chris is interested in habitat and watershed management.

**Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society: Carol Milo**

- Currently busy with the North America Trumpeter Swan Conference, tomorrow is the restoration and histories and updates and in the evening they have a gala with Robert Batman as the key note speakers and dancers, and live auction.

**Eric Marshall**

- 50 sea lions he counted in the bay. They are about 1/3 California and 2/3 Stella. He counted 30 a week ago. Yesterday they had the weekly swan and goose count 9 on Richards trail 800 Canada goose. Last Sunday they had the monthly count of birds in Cow Bay. They didn't have many swans but they did find 10 bluebirds and 9 swans last week.

**Cowichan Valley Regional District: Keith Lawrence**

- Nov. 8 Ground water licensing discussion. Thanks to those that participated
- Nov. 22 A meeting about the upcoming climate projections at 10:30
- Nov 30 Air shed protection round table discussion with Our Cowichan
- December 12<sup>th</sup> in the morning there will be a discussion on the mapping of the shorelines in Cowichan and Shawnigan and a presentation on the watershed atlas
- They have been working on some proposals under the Natural disaster mitigation programs flood plain assessment and drainages concerns in Koksilah

**Cowichan Valley Regional District Area A: Kerry Davis**

- Budget week next week

**Cowichan Valley Regional District Area B: Sonia Furstenau**

- BC ministry of environment is finally acknowledging that maybe the land fill in Shawnigan is not the best idea. She met with them last week with the research team. They are feeling cautiously optimistic in Shawnigan Lake right now.

**Cowichan Valley Regional District Area F: Ian Morrison**

- Mixer at Jakes at the Lake last night. It is clear that there is a whole bunch of deliberate misinformation around storage for water at the lake. Much more communication needs to happen.

**Cowichan Watershed Board: Tom Rutherford**

- Working on the flows committee

**Dave Preikshot, fisheries biologist**

- Prepared a monitoring plan in case Catalyst does need to use pumps in the next years. Please contact Dave if you have questions about this.
- There are research based solution for algae blooms on Quamichan and Somenos lakes.
- He will be doing a presentation next week at VIU/CWB about the cyanobacteria issues that have occurred.

**Member of Parliaments Office: Alistair MacGregor, Jennifer Hermary**

- On Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> Alistair asked the Minister of National Defense if he will stop soil coming from federal land from being dumped in the Shawnigan Watershed (played video clip)
- The House of Commons Transport committee is asking for feedback on their review of the Navigation Protection Act. The deadline to submit is November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Alistair and Bill Routley's Holiday Open House will be on Friday, Dec. 2 from 4-7.

**Nature Interpreter: Genevieve Singleton**

- Craig Wightman and Genevieve took the Heritage Rivers Award of Merit canoe paddle to Caroline Thom, Gerald's widow, on Nov. 9 in Campbell River, where she has moved to. Caroline was most appreciative of Gerald being awarded posthumously this prestigious award. She sends her appreciation to all of us and hopes to attend the December meeting.
- Attending the Trumpeter Swan Conference evening on wildlife and agriculture, noticed how CSRT does not have any farmers at the Roundtable, Can anyone do any outreach re this?
- Met Derrick Masselink, the new Regional Agrologist taking over from Wayne Haddow, Derek's area is not just CVRD, which is what Wayne had, but also CRD including the Gulf Islands. He is interested to hear from anyone, email is [Derek.Masselink@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Derek.Masselink@gov.bc.ca), phone 250-746-1212
- Progress is happening on the Eagle Heights front
- Requests for 4 salmon walks next week, two with Christy Wilson of DFO, one alone, and one Dave Clough is coming down for. Genevieve has more requests than she can handle and very difficult to get anyone to help since DFO and Kai oversubscribed. Help appreciated.

- Craig Lauridson of Cowichan Secondary, who attended one of our meetings, says how much he has appreciated support from us. His class recently cleared broom with me at Stoltz Pool Provincial Park.
- Update from Koksilah

**One Cowichan: Parker Jefferson, Rosalie Sawrie**

- Collecting signatures for their petition
- Have had two mixers about the weir. One in Duncan and one in Lake Cowichan. They went well.
- They are conducting a survey on what to do around the BC election

**Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society: Barry Hetschko**

**Timber West: Dave Lindsay,**

- Timber West biologist
- Air shed protection this time of year they are burning debris piles and the program is underway
- Duck unlimited – they donated the Somenos Lake bed – it has been quite a process and been under way from over and year a now completed. This clears the way for the area to be recognized as a wildlife protection area.

**Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society: Roger Hart**

- He has lived on Quamichan Lake for many years. The Stewards have been involved with environmental studies. A month ago they were asked to meet with North Cowichan and staff to move the management plan forward.
- There have been 4 deaths of dogs around the lake, who likely died from ingestion of cyanobacteria, blue]green algae.
- The plan:
  1. Learn about testing protocol done at places such as Beaver and Elk Lake
  2. Learn about the alternatives that have been suggested for cleaning up the bacteria
  3. Reduce the amount of nutrient that is going into the lake from the development and agriculture side. The amount that is going in is greater than the amount that is going out. It wouldn't take a lot of reduction to fix it but it took 60 years to build it up so it will take a while to reduce it. They have left this with North Cowichan to move forward.

**Citizen Champions:**

- Jeremy Arsenault – Central Island Salmon Society – he lives here and is interested in this work.
- Peter Salmon - Sonia's son was there. It was nice to have a young member of the community attend.
- Guy Johnson - Cowichan Bay fisher – After terrible fisheries all summer up and down the island Cowichan is very successful fisheries right now and people are out fishing right now. Guy expressed his great appreciation to Cowichan Tribes and their hard work at protecting our fish. He asked for this appreciation to be shared with Tim and staff.

**Business**

**1. Minutes**

- Kai sends regrets that minutes are not ready yet, but she is overloaded.
- Jennifer, Tim, Kai and Genevieve met to discuss ideas re minutes. It is suggested that groups/individuals reporting in at Around the Table portion of meeting think of three points that they could email to [cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com](mailto:cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com) before the meeting or by Friday, the day after the meeting to assist the person taking the minutes. It was also suggested that we ask if presenters can forward some content or powerpoint of their show. We agreed that minutes will be shorter. Unless another plan is put forward we will share minute taking around the table.

**2. Request from Kate re letter of support from CSRT. They are writing a proposal that would fund a science based process. The feeling is we need science based and process to determine the Cowichan River level. It needs to be science based and well documented. Water supply planning. Water license for the application and process. SDM process to help make decisions that were defensible. The Collaborative process.**

- Tom Rutherford – traditionally in 2003 when Tom and Kate were chairs they wrote letters of support for various funding. Every table needs a set of rules. It is up to the table how we want to handle this request and in the terms of reference the table should decide how we want to handle requests for letters of support.
- Loren Duncan – is this in the public interest.
- There is consensus that we want the chairs to write letter of support for the CVRDs request.
- Dave Preikshot recommended that we have a subcommittee tasked with writing letters of support – Dave and Eric Marshall said that they would be on the committee. Parker will write this letter, with Genevieve's support.

**The table asked Genevieve and Parker to stay on as chairs for another year and expressed thanks for the work they are doing.**

- Tom Rutherford said for an action oriented table like this discussing terms of reference is great. But these terms of reference is important because this is how the table does their business.
- Cheri Ayers - In the terms of reference it seems very action oriented. Is this what we continue to want to do?
- Dave asked about the Shawnigan Watershed and Genevieve said that Shawnigan hasn't been included because they have their own society the Shawnigan Basin Society.
- Tom Rutherford said this table has been acting as an information sharing table. The Cowichan Watershed Board are going to have meeting with the CSRT to discuss how they can be supportive of each other and how the groups work together and fit together.

**End the conversation now and then come back after the meeting with Cowichan Watershed Board.**

**Genevieve - Next month Dave Preikshot will be here speaking on the bacteria issue. There are real options to deal with this issue.**

**Presentations:**

**1. Nicolette Watson, DFO, Salmon Stocks assessment, discussing work on Didsons in the Cowichan River , this presentation will be available on our website.**

- Summer run Chinook – two site. Sonar didson at Parker's property and at the weir.
- Midriver didson
- Side projects – gopro pilot project – used nets to try and get the fish to go past the camera. 24,000 projects throughout the night.
- Brown Trout predation study – are they eating the juvenile chinook in the river. They did it the same day as the hatchery release and then for some days after.

**2. 11:15 Loriena Melnick, from the Partnerships group of DFO's Fisheries Protection Program, presenting on the Fisheries Act Review and Public Consultation**

- The meeting ended at 12:00 but Loriena said she would stay for questions.

**Upcoming meetings:**

December 15, Dr. Dave Preikshot, cyanobacteria in Quamichan and Somenos Lake, Terms of Reference, 12-1 pm - fingerfood potluck social, please try and stay on for this community building time.

Jan. 19 Cheri Ayers and Wilf Luedke, DFO, Cowichan Watershed Health and Chinook

Feb. 16, 2017 Brad Eschleman of Western Stevedore talking about rezoning application for their property (was previously booked for Jan.) March 16, 2017 Kevin Pellett, BCCF updates on PIT tagging

**Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15**