



DATE: May 18, 2017

9:10 a.m. Meeting called to order by Parker Jefferson who provides welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory

Attendance: Parker Jefferson, CLRSS/One Cowichan; Cheri Ayers; Pamela Williams; Jessica Lines-Wikkerink BC Parks; Chris Steger, AMEC/CLRSS; Joe Saysell, Friends of Cowichan; Loren Duncan; Rob James, Western Stevedoring; Rosalie Sawrie, One Cowichan; Tom Rutherford, CWB; Eric Marshall, CVNS; Barry Hetschko, SMWS; Dave Lindsay, Timberwest; Ian Morrison, CVRD; Chelsey Toth, Timberwest; Kerry Davis, CVRD; Dave Preikshot, Trophologic; Martha Lescher; Leroy Van Wieren, CLRSS

Regrets: Genevieve Singleton, Kate Miller, Keith Lawrence

CSRT business:

- Recording of minutes rotation; Thanks to everyone sharing in this important task.: Thanks to Leroy Van Wieren, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society, for doing the May minutes. Future minutes dependent on next topic.
- Discussion of whether to hold field meeting in June or July, taking August off.
- Celebrate our River Day, Saturday, September 30 update

Round the table, check-ins and updates:

Cheri Ayers: Chinook Plan update covering watershed health and limiting factors.

Flows report being drafted and will be part of the CVRD structured decision making process.

Monitoring water temperatures in the river, particularly cool tributaries. Note: water temperatures decrease as you go down the river.

Koksilah Critical Habitat Mapping Project has started.

Pamela Williams: Working on the Critical Habitat Mapping for the Cowichan

Chris Steger: Works for AMEC as a wildlife biologist. Would like to make a future presentation regarding the terrestrial wildlife so we understand that aspect of the Cowichan Valley as well.

Joe Saysell: Joe shared his concerns about logging practices and their impacts on the local hydrology. He noted that he could not make the TimberWest tour planned for May 31. Also concerned with Knotweed management.

- Ian Morrison: Discussed upcoming work on Area F new OCP as well as managing Area F and E boundary issues in Sahtlam.
- Chelsey Toth: Working with Coastal Invasive Species Council. Assisting with mapping and monitoring. Working on experimental treatments at Caycuse and Koksilah River.
- Dave Lindsay: Bright Angel Park – May 28th, volunteers needed to tackle the knotweed. Forest Hydrology workshop planned for May 31st. Attendance being managed by CWB through Tom Rutherford.
Terrestrial Wildlife Habitat – studies occurring in 30 different forest ‘territories’ with particular interest in Goshawks and Vancouver Island Marmots.
Knotweed has become a major issue and threatens riparian areas. Manual treatment is having mixed results.
- Eric Marshall: Blue Bird Program – 90 blue birds last year, 15 confirmed so far this year. 5 active nests.
Last counting of birds at Cowichan Bay for this season. Noted Ospreys sitting on eggs/nests. Lots of purple martens also sitting in nests.
Note: May 27th at low tide (10:30 am) there will be beach cleanup at Kil-pah-las Beach. All are welcome to come and help.
- Leroy Van Wieren: CLRSS AGM held on May 14. New Board elected. Leroy still president. Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Program (CSSP). 3 elements still managed by CLRSS (landowner education, community engagement, riparian protection) with the execution of the restoration moving to BCCF.
Shaw Creek presentation by Parker and Bob was excellent.
- Tom Rutherford: CWB has funding to hire 2 students. Tom inspired by the quality of students available as he interviewed 16 post Secondary students.
May 25th – VIU Speaker Series, Indigenous Law – don’t miss it!
Water Flows – scientific study required and a grant was approved.
Riparian TAC – Knotweed identified as a key issue.
Water quality sampling program underway.
Buoys are being installed at Cowichan Bay to protect key areas.
Water use – B.C. has the highest per capita usage.
- Dave Preikshot: Somenos – invasive parrot feather monitoring program.
Huge phosphate issues in Somenos and Quamichan creating unintended consequences.
Pulling together an all-inclusive approach to tackle the phosphate issues.
- Loren Duncan: Reminder to input letters of concern towards Shaw Creek in after the announcement of public meeting date in order for the correspondence to be part of the files.
- Parker Jefferson: Stolz Bluff – A high level geotechnical review is required to address the safety and longer term issues in this area. There will be no substantive physical work in the field until key stakeholders are consulted and a cohesive plan is developed. There is an abundance of water at Lake Cowichan so the weir is not yet under “control” which is good news.
Fry rescue – not required yet due to the high water, good snow pack and cooler temps. Good news.

Keith Lawrence: Absent but sent the following update – Determining and establishing what the CVRD's role should be in watersheds throughout the region. Watershed management planning framework for high-risk watersheds in the CVRD. Climate adaptation planning. Participating in meetings of the CWB and TAC. Structured Decision Model for Cowichan Lake long term water supply planning. Implementation of Cowichan's Regional Airshed Protection Strategy.

We thank participants from the Roundtable for their involvement and leadership in many of these projects. More broadly, we appreciate the work of participants to support the health of the Cowichan and Koksilah watersheds.

10:45 break

10:55 Dave Preikshot **Ecological Monitoring of Lake Cowichan During Pumping Operations at the Weir**

- Before the weir, flows dropped to 2 – 3 cu.m./s (as recorded 1940-1955)
- After the weir, there were very few low flow excursions. 2016 was exceptionally low.
- Air temperatures have been rising steadily. 1940-57 (15.7C), 1958-84 (16.1C), 1985-16 (17.0C), 2010-16(17.4C). NOTE: Evaporation increases as temperature increases.
- The DRY season is lasting longer. 1940-83 (138 days), 1984-16 (157 days) 2010-16 (166 days).
- We are now DRYER + HOTTER + LONGER than in the past. Evaporation rates have increased and should be taken into account when thinking about reservoir storage.
- Evaporation is roughly 7 cu.m./s About the same as summer flows in the river!!
- 161.29m is considered ZERO storage (i.e. river runs dry).
- Permission to pump to 160.8m. Therefore the lake could be lower than any point previously and this will have impact on the lake perimeter. Issues such as Lamprey, Kokanee, habitat, vegetation and human issues. This is what Dave was preparing to monitor and study, but rains came and the lake did not drop below zero storage.

11:30 Cheri Ayers and Pamela Williams: **Cowichan/Koksilah Critical Habitat Mapping Project – Phase 1**

- Cheri and Pamela shared their work and the data on Google Earth. Encourage people to have a look at the work so far. www.pacfish.ca/cowichan/maps.html

12:00 end promptly.