

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 2017, 9-12 AM. Followed by social and lunch 12 to 1

9:00 Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory.

Regrets: Parker Jefferson, Tim Kulchyski, Jane Kilthei, Sonia Fursteneau, Alistair MacGregor, Seamus Wolf, Martha Lescher

Agenda changes. Agenda changes are adding showing video from Shaw Cable re Quw'utsun River Celebration and adding discussion re Fisheries and Navigation Protection Act A

Minutes were approved.

Attendance: Haley Guest (Cowichan Estuary Nature Center), Genevieve Singleton (Nature Interpreter), Eric Marshall (Cowichan Valley Naturalists), Barry Hetschko (Somenos Marsh Society), Rick Bryan (VI Paddling Society), Jessica Lines (BC Parks), Dave Lindsay (Timberwest), Edmond Duggan (VI Paddling Society), Pam Jorgenson (Timberwest), Dave Preikshot (Somenos Wildlife Society), Ryan Hetschko (Bluebird), Cheri Bealieu (Cowichan Valley Naturalists, Somenos Marsh Society), Kerry Davis (CVRD Area director), Tom Rutherford (Cowichan Watershed Board)

9:10 CSRT business:

- Recording of minutes rotation. Thank you to Hailey Guest, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre, for doing November minutes. Jessica Lines, BC Parks, will do December minutes. Eric Marshall, Cowichan Valley Naturalists will do Jan. Pam Jorgenson will do February minutes.
- Follow-up from November meeting re GIS Story Map from BC Parks,
 - Genevieve –update for the GIS story mapping, we ended up not doing the project, Fraser Valley (Fraser basin Council) will be doing the story mapping for our watershed as well as their own. Edmond, Jessica, Chloe, Haley will step up and help with the work. Question- Haley: What do you need to do to be a part of this- Genevieve will send Haley information. Genevieve will keep us in the loop
- Update re CSRT website:
 - Edmond went through website and updated- agenda will be on the website- He wants to make it functional and easy to use for the community. Question for a future meeting is do we want to put agendas on Facebook page?
- Update re future meetings – Elke Wind hopefully will come to talk in January/ Feb. March will be about knotweed. More details and updates to come.
- Discussion re Quw'utsun River Celebration for 2018- Chief and Council very interested after Genevieve and Parker's presentation. We need more volunteers to make this happen:
 - Dave Preikshot suggested that we need to get partnership with the business community to help with funding), Tom- we need paid coordinator. CSRT needs to try and raise money for an organizer.
 - Haley wants to help with looking for funding sources (grants etc.).
 - Tribes will provide use of land, and security. Dave Lindsay – supports idea of getting funding and hiring a coordinator, Could Genevieve do the position if she was paid to do it? Lots of interest.
 - Molly (of Heritage Rivers Society)- has suggested that there is possible seed money from last year to help with next year. Barry Hetschko will help again.
- Jobs on the CSRT – Parker and Genevieve to continue to be the co-chairs for another year.
- Cards for Fish Staff at the hatchery- we expressed thank you to them for use of the meeting room

9:20 Round the table, check-ins and updates.

Edmond Duggan (Vancouver Island White Water Paddling Society)- Cowichan River is flooded so therefore not much paddling happening on it at the current time. - he will be looking at fallen debris along the river this afternoon. Cowichan River is the Destination Kayaking River in BC.

Rick Bryan (Recreational Canoe Association of BC)- is going floating out on Cowichan going from Sandy pools- Vimy (feature wave that is playable)

Haley Guest (Cowichan Estuary) –

- membership drive for nature center, handed out membership cards if you want to join,
- movie night Christmas is Yellowstone Thurs Dec 28th, 430pm
- Salmon in the classroom at the nature center (raising salmon from eggs and releasing them in the spring); Genevieve encourages us to visit the Cowichan Estuary Centre over the holidays.

Luke Cross (Sonia Fursteneau- assistant)- is very busy lately dealing with issues of homelessness and poverty. Re environmental issues: concerned re riparian damage at proposed RV park in Greendale area, Site C- Greens opposed to dam. Sonia sends regrets- she appreciates what the CSRT is doing.

Dave Preikshot (Somenos Marsh Society staff)- Wetland restoration work, Trees and shrubs planted (dogwood stakes 400 plants) Monitoring it. Storm water is being monitored. Hopefully next spring will bring more greenery.

- Salmon habitat restoration at Somenos Creek- Dealing with parrot feather, trying to shade out the parrot feather with other plants. Science research- Quamichan lake phosphate issues, and working on Parrot feather.

- Quamichan lake and Somenos not a quick fix with the urban development for over 100 yrs. – Genevieve question- wet land preservation at the proposed 89 suite Care facility with parking at the corner of York and Beverly street near Fun pacific golf area. Right now, property is not zoned for that use- will need to go through re-zoning process. Lots of development happening in Somenos watershed- Near Green road, northern side Drinkwater road (police station). SMS is working to minimize effects on creek.

Rob James (Western Stevedoring in Cowichan Bay)- Re-zoning application was postponed until Feb- Cowichan Tribes is at capacity and asked for postponement to go over the paperwork. WS offer is still open to come for a tour of the facility.

- Rob announced that Brian Thacker- of Pacific Marine Industrial has received Capital Regional District's Ecostar award. Brian was nominated in three categories including his tireless work in removal of derelict vessels in Cowichan Bay estuary. Helicopters having to remove two of the boats. Brian also organized putting up Purple martin boxes are up, which were quickly colonized.

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Pam Jorgenson (Timberwest)-

- Roads are getting challenging out past Youbou -trying to take care of the trucks with washing stations and paving.

- Trying to get out with high school students to do some planting.

Dave Lindsay (Timberwest- tomorrow retired) – Molly Hudson will do another Goshawk presentation if requested. It was a good goshawk year. Timberwest monitors 40 goshawks, 16 active

nests (highest total ever). Trying to persuade province that they like second growth timber. Parks Canada has a 60-day review period- critical habitat. Coastal subspecies.

- Recent project- log jam on Creek 19 –tributary to Robinson. Got worse with high rains- impacting fish habitat. They will be attempting to do the work next summer in low flows, try to establish flows back in the channel. Will look for consultation with Cowichan Tribes and others.
- Dave is now retired, Genevieve expressed great thanks from us all at CSRT for his constant support of the Roundtable over the years. Pam Jorgenson is taking over Dave's duties and will come when she can to the meetings, Doug will help with projects. Dave will continue to be involved with the Knockback Knotweed committee and has also taken on being on North Cowichan forestry board. Daryl Frank is now retired and Sean Mason, who was working with Timberwest, is the new NC Forester.

Barry Hetschko (Board Member, Somenos Marsh Society)- the footbridge from York Road was voted against at council for the next 5 years. Paul Fletcher is in hospital with serious health concerns, but is recovering and will be back soon hopefully back soon. We requested that Barry please pass on our good wishes for a quick return to good health to Paul.

Erik Marshall- (Cowichan Valley Naturalists)- Swan and Goose counts- the last count was 217 trumpeters, 1700 geese. In touch with people counting in valley up island. Red tails, merlins, falcons, cooper's hawks are all being seen. Final results will be posted Nature Cowichan Blog.

Annual Bird Count on News Years day- Derrick Marven is the contact. 3pm post bird count at the Freshwater society for potluck. Question- are Turkey vultures overwintering? Not sure.

Cheri Beaulieu (SMS/ CVNS)- Sheri is the treasurer for SMS and CVNS. Genevieve expressed gratitude to Cheri for all her help with the CSRT/CT Quw'utsun River Celebration and the Bluebird Project. Cheri said she would help with next river celebration accounting

Tom Rutherford- Watershed Board: expressed gratitude for Dave Lindsay's many years of hard work

Kerry Davis- CVRD Area E Director- hung out with Sonia in the legislature. Watched announcement on tv in Sonia's office, about Site C. Invited with MOTI and Brentwood College- fish capture at the mouth of Shawnigan Creek. Lots of vandalism. Brentwood trying to get gate across road. they will pay for total cost of gate. Trying to keep vehicles out, complete in the next several months. Mouth of Alberni Inlet- project. Energy and Mines? Tom question. - Bamberton not happening? Steelhead will be leaving project. Last payment in January to Malahat FN. Nothing about Shaw Creek. Because of seasonal living in the area.

Jessica Lines Acting/Area Supervisor BC Parks - Stoltz bluff –Dave Polster has been out several times with suggestions re restoration. Tom said that vegetation has begun to take hold on the area to help with stabilization. Cowichan River Footpath- 1yr out on work. Holt Creek Trestle closure- re-route through Cowichan River Park.

Genevieve Singleton – Will be leading a programme with Parker, Jessica at Stolz Pool, Cowichan River Park with the Land based programme, grade 9 to 12, from Cowichan Secondary. This will include Invasive broom removal, info from Parker on salmon restoration and nature walks with Genevieve. The class (45 students) had a programme at Eves Provincial Park with Genevieve and the Cowichan Valley Docents.

- Bluebirds Project update: Sunday April 8th Beer and burger fundraiser. Need more local funding to hire staff. Any ideas on fundraising appreciated.

CVNS conservation committee:

- Somenos Foot bridge was stopped. CVNS has been active speaking against this for many years and have a consistent stand that this is not appropriate.
- Lake View in Lake Cowichan- The area is currently being logged. CVNS is disappointed to have had no response to their concerns which were requested.
- Eagle Heights proposed protection: Genevieve reported that Blaise Salmon and she met with Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister BC Parks. Hopeful meeting. The Land still needs to be surveyed.

10:40 Edmond Duggan and Rick Bryan gave a comprehensive and most interesting presentation on kayaking and canoeing activities on the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers. It was a great PowerPoint and it is wonderful to have our river friends join the Roundtable.

11:25 report out from Tom Rutherford re Cowichan Watershed Board activities: update on Cowichan Water Use Plan process including Why it's important, how it works, who's involved and what the outcomes will be. Included Aquatic System overview as presented to the WUP PAG. Including comments on climate change, aquatic ecological diversity, keystone species and effects of river flow and lake levels on life history phases of several species.

We viewed the video from Shaw Cable- unfortunately it missed appreciation to Heritage River Society re funding the project. Genevieve to see if this can be changed.

12:00 ended promptly. Followed by potluck social till 1 pm.

Our meetings are always the third Thursday of the month, with the possible exception of December and summer months.