

# COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE

## minutes

**DATE:** April 19, 2017 **Location:** Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan [www.cowichanstewardship.ca](http://www.cowichanstewardship.ca)

A reminder for new and returning members: Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave whenever is necessary. Please allow enough room in parking lot for Fish Hatchery vehicles and emergency vehicles, no parking in yellow painted areas. Please bring your mug for tea or coffee!

The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner.

Time	Agenda Item
Attendees	<p><b>Dave Preikshot, Trophologic Consulting; Rick Bryan and Edmond Duggan, Paddlers; Richard Lake and Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers; Ian Morrison, Klaus Kuhn, CVRD; Barry Hetschko, SMS; Eric Marshall, CVNS; James Craig and Sandy Foxall, BCCF; Richard Charlie, Cowichan Tribes; Jacqueline Ronson, Journalist; Tom Rutherford, CWB; Leroy Van Wieren, Jean Atkinson and Ken Travnor, CLRSS; Rob James, WS; Genevieve Singleton, nature interpreter, co-chair; Lorne Duncan, Cowichan River resident, .Kate McNeil, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Assoc; Ted Brookman, BCWF; Kerry Davis and daughter Marie-Jeanne of CVRD, Jasmine Oberste, Gibbons Road resident;; Bob Kopp, Cowichan River Neighbourhood association; Molly Hudson, TimberWest; Jennifer Hermary , Alistair MacGregor assistant; Mellissa Nottingham, community adviser, DFO; Martha Lescher, volunteer; Parker Jefferson, co-chair</b></p> <p><b>Please send a note if you were missed off list.</b></p> <p><b>Regrets. Julia Newman, CERCA, Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes,</b></p> <p>Common Acronyms:            BCCF BC Conservation Foundation, BCWF BC Wildlife Federation, CERCA Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association, CLSES Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society, CLRSS Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society, CT Cowichan Tribes, CVNS Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society, CVRD Cowichan Valley Regional District, CWB Cowichan Watershed Board, DFO Department of Fisheries and Oceans, TW Timberwest</p> <p>Please let us know of other ones that are missing.</p>

<p><b>9:00am</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory.</li> <li>• Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting out meetings.</li> <li>• Regrets.</li> <li>• Attendance list to be circulated. Approval of Minutes, any mistakes?</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:10am</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CSRT business:</b> Recording of minutes is done by members taking turns. April 19<sup>th</sup> – James Craig (BCCF) and Sandy Foxall (BCCF). Thanks Sandy and James.</li> <li>• Haley Guest-of Nature Estuary Centre volunteered to do minutes for May; Jessica Lines of BC Parks volunteered to take minutes for June</li> <li>• New email from Fraser Council re GIS Story Map on Cowichan River was shared via email earlier in the week.</li> <li>• WEBSITE  2018 04 18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- email of new email list members to co-chairs</li> <li>- reformat &amp; PDF Feb, Mar minutes, April agenda (date correction)</li> <li>- add Feb &amp; Mar (draft) 2018 minutes to website</li> <li>- add Apr 2018 agenda minutes to website</li> <li>- Post May meeting date to website</li> <li>- work on ICS file for all 2018 meetings</li> <li>- clean up local copy of files</li> <li>- summary email to co-chairs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Update re <b>future meetings:</b> <i>May Goshawks, Molly, Timberwest. June or July out door field meeting. June, open, it was decided that July, field meeting at Stoltz</i></li> <li>• Discussion re <b>Quw'utsun River Celebration</b> for 2018, this will be held over for 2109. But we should start plans on it soon.</li> <li>• Re report on <b>Cowichan Heritage River</b> for Volker Michelfelder of BC Parks, this has been done by Genevieve and was distributed to RT members in past week</li> </ul>

**9:20am**

**Round-table**

Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points is the secretary may not easily be able to record it, longer reports **must** be emailed to secretary or co-chair

**Richard Lake, Ken Clements** (Sidney Anglers) – finalizing plans for derby

**Kate McNeil** – update on Vancouver Island Motor Circuit Rezoning – application to expand operation to 240 acres- rural industrial to comprehensible industrial operation. Big impacts on Coastal Doug Fir, disruption of elk in area; if they expand track it will see up to 100 cars a day crossing Menzies Creek dozens of times a day, a new Environmental Assessment should be done. EA was done previously but misinformed about number of cars that would be on track. VIMC instituting 2 open houses (April 24 and 29, 7-9 pm, 2-4 pm – answer concerns about track from the community.

**Jean Atkinson** (CLRSS) – Lake Cowichan high school students to work on Cowichan Lake restoration activities this summer- hiring 2-4 students

**Leroy Van Wieran** – (CLRSS) River clean-up plans for upper river – Aug 18 and bottle drive.

- AGM on June 24
- Membership drive to support AGM
- Wrap up report on Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship project – been very successful again, over 4 years completed over 32 shoreline properties and large restoration areas, worked closely with BCCF, CLRSS have done the landowner approval process for restoration, have a handful of landowners lined up for restoration this summer.

**Ian Morrison** (CVRD Director) – Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities had a meeting recently– modernization of Local Government Act, Roadside Rural Pathways- Regional District connecting community with different modes of transport- prescribed standards and regulations for works to be done within ROWS to build trails for hiking, biking, etc. CVRD may be first regional district in BC to get subdivision approval powers from MOT- not full range of powers but huge step forward for local control over subdivision process.

**Jaqueline Ronson** (Journalist)- externalist working in Cowichan Valley.

- Expansion of Motor Circuit- more to come later

**Barry Hetschko** (Somenos Marsh Volunteer) – on Earth day there is planting going on. Speaker will be there. Meeting this evening 5 pm York Road – Development to put hotel in, care home. Located next to school board offices, driving range, Go Kart track and Par 3 golf course. 5 yrs. ago early containment boundary moved towards the dyke. 80-person residential care facility, don't know size of hotel, - Cowichan Valley would like certain amount of space be left green, how do we want this work to be done?

- University Village Use Plan is online

**Eric Marshall** – (Naturalists) – Swan and Goose Counts

Started in 2009, 170 counts by the end of this season.

SWANS: Highest count 987 swans in 1<sup>st</sup> year – this season 768- around this number over the last 3 years. Highest was in Feb, 2011 – 1148. The swans roost at night on Cowichan Bay and on Somenos Lake but not on Quamichan Lake. Some of the swans we see early in the season move further south- many on Saanich Peninsula.

GEESE: In our first season we had a high of 1192. This seasons high was 1607. On our last count of this season there were only 127 counted- most had migrated north to east.

OTHER NOTES: Ospreys have returned and are building nests on Cowichan Bay. 5 nests last year. Purple martins have also returned to the nesting boxes on the Bay. Swallows are back too. Great Blue Herons also nesting – 90 nests last year in trees behind the Wessex Inn. Estuary Nature Centre Plans to install a heron cam this coming winter.

**Tom Rutherford** (Cowichan Watershed Board Coordinator) – speaker series event 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of Every Month at VIU- this month Elke Wind answers the question – why do the toads cross the road?

Upper River watershed clean up- August 19<sup>th</sup>- August 25<sup>th</sup> = lower river clean up??

This is volunteer week- acknowledged the work that everybody does for this community.

Water Use Planning Process occurring right now- 63 years of solid data in Cowichan River- this was ignored. Planning for future- used forecast data for year 2050 for this water use plan- working towards positive storage.

Over next 6 months CVRD working towards creating a drinking water protection service- bottom line is that it will probably go to referendum in October- valley to pay more taxes?

**Dave Preikshot** (Trophologic Consulting) - Somenos Marsh- continuing work where slated for development- continue work to see how wetland handles contaminants, signage going up near roundabout – talking about ecosystem services, changes we're going to make, what lives there. more signage going in on Sein Road about salmon habitat enhancement.

Wiki Page is up- coordinate that page with Quamichan Lake page. VIMC development- Menzies Creek – profound interest in making sure that fish habitat issues that arise from that and concerns are integrated in a meaningful fashion- dedicating a lot of effort into this creek.

Head of Trophologic Research- coming up with monitoring plan for Quamichan Lake- potentially toxic blue-green algae blooms. Starting plan to track culprit for these blooms – phosphorous. Sampling once every two weeks for nutrients and metals, O<sub>2</sub>, pH. Not looking at phytoplankton community – too costly and not practical. Trying to look at root cause of problem – phosphorous. Doing this with BCIT (Ken Ashley to provide grad student) – funded by North Cowichan. Dave will be reporting on this at end of year.

Reporting on Parrotsfeather issue- this has died off a lot in Somenos Marsh (thanks to frost), everything below water keeps growing – coming up with plan for this. Potentially interfering with fish passage for salmon.

Water Quality stuff for Tom- report coming out.

**Parker Jefferson** – on APC for Area C and parts of F (Sahtlam) – new Official Community Plan – series of public meetings over next few weeks; next Tuesday 3 pm at Sahtlam Fire Hall, other meetings scheduled for Glenora and Cobble Hill (Area E).

Water Use Plan Development Plan, May 8 – what's the best way forward? In a very rare position to take care of our water resources in future, we as a community have to decide whether we want to take control of our water resources (increase tax \$). Debate over the summer on this issue – hope that most of community will become engaged in this decision.

Fundraiser on May 16 at Cherry Point Winery- looking for people who want to help with efforts in Lake Cowichan and Kinder Morgan.

**Genevieve Singleton** – Genevieve's nature walks with schools have started up for the spring season. A nature interpreter's workshop will be held in early May. Reminder that if you are going spring flower viewing at the Ecological Reserves in Honeymoon Bay and Mt Tzuhalem that these Reserves are not Provincial Parks. There is no picnicking, must stay only on marked trails and if you want to take groups in you require permission from BC Parks, contact Genevieve or Jessica Lines of BC Parks if you wish to know more. Exciting news from the Bluebird Project, the bluebirds are starting to return. Our Beer and Burger Fundraiser was very successful, making over \$5500, thanks everyone for your support.

**James Craig (BCCF)** – This is Year 5 of Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project managed by Biologist, Christine Brophy and members of the CLRSS.

-This is Year 3 of BCCF's HCTF and RFCPP funding for restoration work from Allenby Road downstream. This work is now being led by BCCF Biologist, Isaac Anderton.

-This is Year 2 of Cowichan Tribes' Coastal Restoration Funding for mainstem riparian work upstream of Allenby Road, as well as the Koksilah River and several Cowichan Lake tributaries. This work is being led by BCCF Biologist, Sandy Foxall.

-Technician Richard Charlie of Cowichan Tribes will be heavily involved in the latter two Riparian projects, being the right hands of both Isaac and Sandy.

-Several Tribes techs are regular members of the inventory, harvesting and planting phases of these projects.

**Stoltz Bluff Sediment Remediation:**

As many of you know, the Stoltz Bluff site saw a very large slide a year ago, in the Clearwater Creek gully, and the site has not been the same since. Recent extreme weather and the major flood in January this year generated even more activity at Stoltz, with high sediment loading to the river. With CRF funding, Cowichan Tribes and BCCF have re-engaged Geotechnical Engineer Eric McQuarrie to develop potential paths forward, and his draft has just been received.

Cowichan River PIT Tagging projects also going on in Cowichan River – BCCF tagging steelhead, chinook and Coho smolts this spring.

**Bob Kopp (Cowichan River Neighbourhood Association)**

-My purpose of attending today's meeting is to introduce the Cowichan Neighbourhood Association to the CSRT. The Association is a registered non-profit Society that advocates for residents who live near the Cowichan River and the Cowichan River Provincial Park. The Association's members reside in three rural neighborhoods: Glenora, Sahtlam and North Cowichan. The purpose of the Association is to provide opportunity for members to maintain and advocate for improvements in the quality of life in the rural neighborhoods along the river corridor.

-In early 2016, our members became aware that though the Provincial Park was established in 1995, Cowichan River Provincial Park did not have a Strategic Management Plan. After two years of working to motivate BC Parks, we were given notice on April 9<sup>th</sup> that the park plan project is being developed. We want to alert people to the opportunity to participate in the park planning process. Until June 30<sup>th</sup>, people can provide their comments to BC Parks.

-In early May, the Association will be making a substantive submission to BC Parks that makes a number of recommendations to inform the management plan process and the public. The Association will also be launching a website to inform the public on specific issues we hope will influence the strategic direction for the Park. Anyone who wishes to be informed, please give me your name and email address and we will send you a copy of our submission and links to our website when it is active.

**Jasmine Oberste** – someone privately bought lot at Gibbons Road that had provided access to Pleasure Pools swim holes – new people have been clear cutting to build a fence and not allowing anyone to cross it. She is interested in exploring river access to the swim holes through easements- lease easement through Catalyst for access? Also, is it possible to get access through tribal land? Municipality of North Cowichan had hired environmental firm for recommendations for long term access – community green map, municipality should be able to create a green path.

**Martha Lescher** – proposal being put forward by North Cowichan on May 2 – involves land west of Banks Road, South of Gibbons Road, 18 parcels on bank of Cowichan River. In urban containment boundary that allows for development, logging at Gibbons property has negatively affected riparian zone. Need to preserve that bank and keep it out of urban containment boundary. Petition started to take area out of urban containment boundary, keep it in A2 boundary. Cowichan Green Community putting on a ‘Beyond Fossil Fuel’ festival on June 9 – Charles Hoey Park.

- Discussion around whether a RAR assessment was conducted on the Gibbons property prior to clear cutting.

**Molly Hudson** (Timberwest) –  
events coming up: community clean up in Ladysmith April 21,  
May 12 in Youbou – invasive weed pull and info system, 9 am Arbutus Park  
May 17 Youbou Community Hall – TimberWest hosting an open house 12- 8 pm;

**Edmond Duggan** (VI Whitewater Paddling Society) – last weekend was Cowichan Youth Kayak Fest – approx. 60 youth came out, and 20 adults – very successful weekend.

Invasive Species Council - guide for paddlers being developed.  
Tonight, is the Torch Lighting Ceremony for BC Summer Games at Duncan Forestry Centre at 5 pm

**Rod James** (Terminal Manager at Western Stevedore in Cowichan Bay)  
Going through rezoning application  
Come down for a tour of the site anytime

**Loren Duncan**- attending meetings for concerned citizens about closing of paradise pools- listened to strong testimonials about spiritual value that people held for this area- hard to value spiritual component, recreational issue of young people, FN people, all people who want to swim at the river. Next closest spot is Vimy – not a spiritual place, very busy, not enough. Lack of access to Cowichan River for people – fishermen, kayakers,  
Solution is at local government level and BC Parks, provincial government, lack of public lands on lower Cow River.  
Significant infrastructure on flood plain-

**Kerry Davis and daughter Marie-Jeanne** (Mill Bay/ Malahat Area Director) – Watershed issue- 2050 projections quite dramatic- if we put money in, then senior levels of government will put money in – need to put money where our mouth is.

**Jessica Lines** (BC Parks) – Park Management Planning Process is underway. If you want to be included in this process give Jessica your e-mail address.  
Group of concerned citizens approached BC parks about fish and game club on Box Road – noise complaints and possibility of contamination of the site. BC Parks working with residents and the club – hired contaminated sites specialist to conduct testing of the area. Reports are available if interested. Still working with EP division to decipher what reports mean and come up with next steps.  
Noise complaints – worked with RCMP to decrease noise levels.  
-Student Ranger Program happening this summer- closing date extended for a week to increase applications. Closing April 24

**Rick Bryan** (Recreational Canoeing Organization of BC) – a couple of members here- taken first steps into solo boats – Haley and Jacqueline Ronson.  
Going to AGM and Paddle Conference at Lake Kawkawa in Hope – great program developed for canoe safety  
– membership is dying- over 90% of members are commercial instructors who work in ecotourism, not attracting participants who paddle for fun anymore.  
Trying to get recreational canoers back.  
Boats at July meeting?



	<p><b>Haley Guest</b> (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre) – message from Cowichan Land Trust (Kai)- Fairy Slipper Forest on Thetis Island – celebration – info online (Thetis Island Nature Conservancy)</p> <p>Nature Centre turns 6 years old this Sunday which is also earth day- having a B'earth'day Party, 12-3 pm, Fundraiser in the evening to support summer camps, springtime concert – 7 pm Silvan United Church.</p> <p>Joe Akerman, Saltspring, working on first Coast Salish Dugout Canoe Process, on May 4, 1-4 pm they are visiting the nature centre in Cow Bay to share info on project.</p> <p>May 19 is low tide day in Cow Bay- citizen science, music, big clean up. Use garbage to build art. Sounds fun!</p> <p><b>Klaus Kuhn</b> (Area I director for CVRD) - has reservations about budget for drinking water and protection plan, feels that budget is too high – public deserves better explanation as to why so much of tax \$ are going into this.</p> <p><b>Jennifer Hermery</b> (on behalf of MP Alistair McGregor) - Alistair recently wrote letter to PM on Kinder Morgan. Jennifer handed out a copy of the letter and read a statement to the round table.</p> <p><b>Melissa Nottingham</b> (Community Advisor with DFO) - 2 months into the job, getting involved with classroom incubation program, Cowichan hatchery will be CWT tagging 6,000 fish.</p>
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Break:

Ted Brookman, BCWF role in and out of the Roundtable, Ted went through his many responsibilities on the **BC Wildlife Federation Board and gave us the background on many of the issues that link with the Cowichan Watershed.**

Jacqueline Ronson, journalist, update on her watershed project, this presentation was sent out in earlier email on

Meeting closed at 12 sharp.