

# COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES

**DATE: Thursday, June 21, 2018** 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.**

**The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner at all times.** The first half of the meeting consists of all attenders having a few minutes each of a report out time. Length of individual's speaking time is determined by how many people are in attendance. Longer presentations have to be booked in advance. Our agenda is usually prebooked for several months.

Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<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 our meetings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dave Preikshot- interm chair, Trophologic Consulting; Rick Bryan and Edmond Duggan, Paddlers; Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers; Ian Morrison. CVRD; Barry Hetschko, SMS; Eric Marshall, CVNS; Kate McNeil, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Assoc; Jasmine Oberste, Gibbons Road resident; Jennifer Hermary- MP Allistar MacGregor, Todd Carnahan, WildSafe BC, Joe Saysell; Friends of the Cowichan, Goetz Schuerholz, Julia Newman, Berte Schuerholz CERCA, Jill Thompson- Cowichan Watershed Board; Cate MacNeill, SNA; Hannah Hall, CVNS; Cheri Ayers- public advisory group member; Jessica Lines BC Parks, Brian Houle, Catalyst</b></p> <p><b>Please send a note if you were missed off list.</b></p> <p><b>Regrets. Genevieve Singelton; Tom Rutherford; Parker Jefferson</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>9:10am</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CSRT business: Recording of minutes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Jessica Lines from BC Parks for doing June minutes. Haley Guest of Nature Estuary Centre will take notes of outdoor meeting. No meeting in August. Melissa Nottingham of DFO will take September minutes.</li> <li>• Update re GIS Story Map – <b>Edmond Duggan; Draft completing she (Katie Youwe) will be here this summer</b></li> <li>• Update re CSRT website: <b>website going well, new viewers, 3 new email subscribers. Need to think about future plans.</b></li> <li>• Update re Quw’utsun River Celebration, which is being held over to 2019, Martha, Barry, Tim and Genevieve will set a meeting date for those interested.</li> </ul>
<p>9:20am</p>	<p><b>Round-table</b>, 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 <b>must</b> be emailed to secretary or co-chairs</p> <p>July meeting at Cowichan River Park, Stoltz pool day use: potluck- bring your own dishes. Bring chair- 6 sessions so far: Aboriginal speaker, Joe Saysell, fry salvage, Craig Wightman (Stoltz bluff); Genevieve plant talk; Possible kayak use with Edmond and Rick</p> <p><b>Brian Houle... Catalyst-</b> Weir: continuing Wednesday weekly calls, Lake 66 percent full on June 21, only goes down. This is going to be the 5<sup>th</sup> drought summer in a row. Snow pack was ok, but almost gone. Tomorrow at 7.08- driest May on record. Need to talk about what to do for the rest of the summer with such low numbers. Question from Edmond: Turning on the pumps. No licensing in place, but infrastructure is there.</p> <p><b>Goetz Schuerholz-</b> 3 research projects on the go- all interlinked. Finish Nature trail signs: signs have been stored and still waiting on permission from Western Stevadore. Re- looking at Management plan (Cowichan bay estuary) that was put into effect 40 years ago based on forest industry, needs to be changed. Now being looked into again.</p> <p><b>Barry Hetschko:</b> Naturalist Bring back the bluebird: feeding bluebirds.. 6 eggs 3 fledglings, second clutch with three eggs. Lamprey: Working with Roger on Shaw Creek, found salmon fry in trap, sculpins found as well. Volunteering with nature center (counting nests and herons in the rookery, over a hundred nests.</p> <p><b>Kate McNeil</b> Satlam Neighborhood association: motor sport circuit- issue trying to interrupt the proposed expansion of the motor sport: drag strip proposed; menzies creek crossed up to 100 times a day. Mandate has been imposed by North Cowichan there was an open house, lots of good questions still need to talk to other parties before decision can be made. 2020 is when the decision should be made. Check our Facebook page.</p> <p><b>Hannah Hall:</b> Bring back the blue bird staff... successes 250 nest boxes in the valley, 20 trail monitors checked once a month. Less nests this year than last year. 23 nestlings banded 13 adults. Most have survived. Trail monitors are feeding mealworms. 11 eggs. They have been doing some outreach with school groups, trying to look at more funding options. More in-depth analysis for bluebird trends compared to other areas. Swallows (not sure of names)</p>

9:20am

**Jill Thompson:** Cowichan Watershed Board- Tom is speaking to Mighty peace watershed board conference. Few projects: clam garden- goal is to be able to eat shell fish from Cowichan Bay by 2020. Cowichan Tribes wants to find a clean piece on beach to try and make this happen. Cowichan River Clean up happening again (get dates) Outreach Cowichan Hosers- get people to notice little ways we waste water... Handing out hose ring seals to help save water with the hose drips from homes. Next board meeting is this Monday June 24. CVRD working with watershed board try to get funding for regional government to support watershed science and consistency. Vote in Oct about water use.

**Joe Saysell:** Friends of the Cowichan- last float last Monday river is to low now to do the floats. Did some fry collection: Big issues: knot weed cutting with machetes: pile it in the forest and pile it in forest or leave on the hot rocks. Get a crew to cut the knotweed, and make a day of it with a picnic. Knotweed needs to be dealt with; this is the best time of year to cut it. Need manpower. Chris emailed Genevieve: they would like to see the river closed to fishing from June 15- Oct 15, for fish protection. Water is too warm, and fishing is unethical. Letter from Chris sent to Genevieve. Upper River needs to be closed Nov 15- April 1. Most of the fish spawn/rear in this area. Sunscreen from the tubers, what is it doing? Asking to not use sunscreen with triglycerin oxide in it. What is it doing to the insects. Look for article in Vancouver Sun.

**Ken Clements:** Sydney Anglers- Application in to Cowichan Valley

**Tod Carnahan:** Wildsafe BC – second Year it's in the Cowichan Valley.

Community coordinators- sponsored through the CVRD and town of Ladysmith. Looking for opportunities to expand. 90% is black bear getting into trash. Get your garbage out in the morning not the night before. Visiting hotspot neighbor hoods to let landowners know. Prevent wildlife from attracted to garbage, bylaw is looking to have 232.00 ticket. Wildlife alert reporting program. CO's are using this program as well. Presentation to follow.

**Rick Bryan:** Paddle Sport – Access to river is being threatened. Paper was put together about limiting access- Rick has copy of this report from UVic student: Rick will email whole paper if you would like a copy. Question from Joe Saysell: Concern from tubers from lake cow town- little beach. In the summer it turns into one use river. (tubing only)

**Edmond-** Canoe kayak BC: whitewater paddling: Summer games July 19-22: volunteering recruitment, pancake breakfast. 3000-4000 volunteers. Paddling is still happening. Summer recreational paddling/ Tubing happening, so watch out for them. 1.8 million Fry released on Puntlidge river.

**Mariah Rutherford:** Cow bay estuary nature center: day camps offered 5-7, 8-11 age groups. One day teen leadership camp happening. Nature center is also looking for volunteers. 2 hour shift. Contact website or contact Moriah.

**Jasmine Oberste:** Stewards of paradise pools. Clear cutting of maples down by the river. Supporting MNC of shifting urban contamination boundary. This has been passed in the last council meeting, properties now zoned A2. A bit more protection. Small group on the side: Looking at policy change for protecting old growth, and managing second growth. Working with Cowichan Tribes. Facilitation and connection with youth, and Cowichan Tribes. Tree planting connected to missing and murdered indigenous women.

**Ian Morrison:** CVRD: Water use plan meeting held a couple weeks ago: lots of

<p>9:20am</p>	<p><b>Ian Morrison:</b> CVRD: Water use plan meeting held a couple weeks ago; lots of information- some unfortunately outbursts from attendees. Allocating gas funds tax: Sewer septic tanks in Mesachie lake all the way to Gordon Bay. Board decision will be made next Wednesday. This will help water quality of the lake. Honeymoon Bay water license being issued, initially issued in 1959.</p> <p><b>Jennifer Hermany, office manager for</b> Member of parliament, Alistair McGregor : Back here soon. Town hall on July 18<sup>th</sup>,</p> <p><b>Eric Marshall:</b> Cowichan Valley Naturalists. Nature center is in the process of getting new watershed 3D map. Insurance for using this meeting- Eric needs to be refunded.</p> <p><b>Jessica Lines-</b> BC Parks: Cowichan River Draft Management Plan extended date for July</p> <p><b>Dave Preikshot :</b> Prepared two reports Beaver dams in lower Somenos creek: pretty good habitat has been found. Second report: effect of dam has the effect of slowing down water flow. Beaver dams are not degrading the water quality. Worked with Tim K. Quamichan and Somenos Lakes are looking green right now (Phosphorus); trying to recreate salmon and trout habitat. Looking at how to clean these lakes, to get them back to what they were 150 years ago.</p> <p><b>Question about</b> Watershed plan</p>
<p>10.30</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>10.40</p>	<p>Cheri Ayers, public advisory group member, update of re Water Use Plan</p> <p>Questions: Seems to be symptoms, no mention of the estuary? The study didn't take in how the whole watershed is responding. There was consideration of the estuary. In the end the process they were given it was around alternatives for the community. Charged with coming up with a consensus recommendation. (Looking at Storage and Flows). Not able to look into how clear-cut logging impacts snow melt.</p> <p>Lots of other questions but no time during the meeting.</p> <p>Concerns (frustration) from residents: no time for questions. Residents are paying for these plans, but they are not able to ask the questions during these meetings.</p>
<p>11:10</p>	<p>Goetz Schuerholz, results of CERCA's Cowichan estuary habitat mapping project and oyster survey. <b>Goetz to send in study he presented.</b></p> <p>Dave: Oyster importance for filtering</p> <p>Chesapeake Bay information exchange.</p> <p>Looking at oysters as filters not just the monetary value</p> <p>When log booms are moved, do the oysters come back? Yes they will come back, but the eelgrass is the one mostly affected.</p>

<p><b>11:40</b></p>	<p>Todd Carnahan, WildSafe BC presentation – outreach plan 250-210-7303 call this number if you have any kind of interaction.  Bear aware: What do you do if you see a bear and it doesn't see you yet? Walk away  What do you do if it sees you and comes towards you? Don't scream, don't run.  Talk to it as you walk away, tell it you're not a threat.  BCCF (sponsored by CVRD and Ladysmith)- trying to eliminate wildlife problems with humans. 10% deer, 90%bears (food conditioned)  Residents needing to take preventative measures; manage our attractants in our yards. This program will put yellow tags on garbage that is put out the night before pickups. Especially in areas where there is hotspots.  Willing to go to classrooms, contact Todd for more information  Myths: Do CO's shoot bears if you call them? (1/10 bears will be shot if CO is called) usually because the neighborhood has already let them down. RAPP line1-877-952-7277  Relocating a problem bear is very expensive and doesn't usually work  Need to eliminate bear problem.  Looking for volunteers to help with public outreach  Posters need to distributed  Wildsafebc website <a href="http://www.wildsafebc.com">www.wildsafebc.com</a>  Dog off Leash – bringing the bear back to you.</p>
<p><b>11:55</b></p>	<p>Any last-minute details re next meeting, etc.  Stoltz pool 930 June 19<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>12:00</b></p>	<p>Meeting ends promptly, thank you and see you next time at Stoltz Pool, Cowichan River Park, 9:30 am.</p>

**Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly August.**

**Upcoming meeting topics**

**July:** 9:30 to 3 field meeting Stoltz Pool Provincial Park    **August:** no meeting