

NOTES FROM COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE MEETING

THURSDAY, November 15, 2018,

Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory and appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings by Genevieve.

Present: Genevieve Singleton (CVNS), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Alistair MacGregor (MP); Clay Reitsma (North Cowichan), Judith Cullington (JCA – Judith Cullington & Associates), Rick Bryan & Edmond Duggan (Paddling Community), Paul Rickard, Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers), Ian Morrison (CVRD), Jack MacNeill (Sahtlam Neighbourhood Assoc.), Pam Jorgenson (Timberwest), Eric Marshall (CVNS), Ken Traynor (CLRSS), Bruce Coates (CVNS), Haley Guest (CENC), Elizabeth Aitken (SMWS), Christine Rikley (BC Parks), Geoff Strong, Natalie Anderson & Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes) Martha Lescher, Barry Hetschko (SMWS), Pamela Williams and Elodie Roger.

Regrets. Tom Rutherford, Rob James

CSRT business: Recording of minutes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Jennifer for doing October minutes, Eric for doing November and Melissa doing December. Pam offered to do January.

Update re GIS Story Map, change in person dealing with this project has resulted in little recent contact.

Correspondence: no response so far, except for receipt, about our letter of concern re Natural Resource Officers being moved from Duncan

Round the table, check-ins and updates.

Parker Jefferson – noted poaching on river near lake – salmon roe below bobbers.

Alistair McGregor – plastic pollution being debated - government responding but strategy is awaited. Southern resident killer whales are in a dire situation – resources need for salmon restoration. (video to be circulated via email). Good chinook run in Cowichan this year

Martha Lescher - film on oil spill – at Duncan United Church 29th Nov

Tim Kulchyski – Koksilah swim covered 5 km – 135 adult Chinook & 40 jacks – 250 chum (poor) – coho only 4 but most still out in saltwater – drone survey seals on booms is feasible – chum 151,000, coho – 1200+ - 10,000 chinook in Cowichan but only 4400 females. – general lack females noted elsewhere on the Island. Estuary project moving along with sampling in the

Bay – sedimentation is a large factor in both delta & estuary affecting movements of chinook – riparian planting going well – BCCF doing planting. No date on breach of causeway. Stoltz Bluffs – 2 slides filled in storage area – bioremediation of area taking place. Recent rains did not increase sediment in river.

Geoff Strong – gave excellent talk to CVNS on climate change challenges. He is busy with numerous speaking engagements

Clay Reitsma – working with Judith Cullington on outreach on outfall.

Rick Bryan – successful paddling runs on Cowichan River from Skutz to Stolz – ceremony held at Burma cairn at Stolz on 11th – working with Parks marked two hazard trees in river – now washed away.

Edmond Duggan – website – use is booming – 270 visits each month. Perhaps due to referendum questions. Haley was thanked for her help with addresses.

Paul Rickard – working with pushing science based work on salmon. Racetrack expansion – cutthroat are in Bing's Creek of which upper reaches to be culverted – this is going to cover spawning areas. Tribes looking into it. Open House on Saturday.

Ken Clements - big increase in cruise ship movements between Seattle and Vancouver.

Christine Rikley – management plan for Cowichan River Park is being revised. Looking into use of parks by ATVs etc with Conservation and Resource Officers & RCMP. Cowichan Valley footpath being looking the state of bridges and other structures on path. May work with Focus groups.

Ian Morrison. – now chair of CVRD – hopes to bring ecological and climate change adaptation lens to CVRD culture. Changes in CVRD will follow – Held significant meeting to move Watershed Board initiatives forward. Sutton Creek gravel removal not tackled in 2018 but will proceed during approved windows in 2019.

Elizabeth Aitken (was Bailey) – We congratulated Elizabeth on her recent marriage. SMWS – Wildwings wrapped up – went well – monitoring ongoing – greenway project – Provost – Estuary – parrot feather work – shading project. Somenos/Quamichan lakes cleanwater outreach – get stewards to clean up water quality – Green drinks monthly at Brew Pub.

Jack McNeil – initial motor track project description bears no relation to what has developed – no noise limits etc. – nuisance suit to be heard next year – expansion involves culverting Menzies Ck. Hopeful that NC council will be sympathetic to current concerns. Open House on Sat. at track. Has DFO looked into proposed changes to creek?

Haley Guest – Humpback Comeback talk by Eric Marshall on November 21st 7 pm at Nature Centre Centre's gift shop possible source of gifts. – thanked all those who supported Beer & Burger fund raiser. Leaving next month. Thanked for her work during her time with us.

Pam Jorgensen – linking with IslandTimberlands – changes will be coming – suggested that a formal presentation their carbon study might be possible.

Ken Traynor – problems were found in Youbou area from sampling and are being looking into – also examining the problem of sunscreen toxicity – seems to be lack of data in freshwater –

Eric Marshall – large number of grebes still found in Mill Bay during the monthly waterbird surveys. Weekly swan, goose and raptor counts have just started and number of trumpeter swans was 22 on first count and 139 on second. Large numbers of bald eagles are now present in trees along the lower reaches of Cowichan River doubtless feeding on dead salmon. Well over 100 sea lions are currently in Cowichan Bay – way more than usual – feeding of salmon waiting to migrate upstream.

Genevieve Singleton – she is finding it difficult to locate salmon streams which are easy to get to with her salmon programming for children. – Bright Angel Park is quite good.

Tom Rutherford. Genevieve reported out for Tom. She reported out for Tom that CWB/VIU talk on Nov. 22nd will cover 6 watersheds in the valley.

SPEAKERS: Clay Reitsma, North Cowichan Senior Manager, Development and Engineering Services and Judith Cullington, consultant

1) *JUB Sewage Treatment Plant Outfall Project: Background and project status update.* – handout provided – will be able to get notification of info via North Cowichan website.

Suggested that open houses is the best way to contact the public (with food)? But also use all ways – local papers – Place-Speak – but need to monitor this and Facebook.

2) *Joint Utility Board (JUB) Sewage Treatment Plant: What is it and how well is it working.* – handout – swiffers & wipes pose expensive problems to screens which have been replaced. We have separate storm & sanitary sewers. – Plant is a hybrid secondary system – Phosphorus levels high when river flows low to provide minimum dilution giving plankton blooms. Coliform counts in effluent are well within swimming levels.

Further info will be shared on website when received.

Upcoming meeting topics:

December: Rosie Simms from Polis, Knockback Knotweed Committee, Matt Ashdown of Ecodrone Solutions, followed by festive potluck social 12 noon – 1:30 pm – members invited to bring guests.