

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019: 9am to 12 pm Location: Fish Health building,
Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan
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 a coffee cup.

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">• Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory.• Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.• Regrets. Attendance list to be circulated.
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Pam Jorgenson for December. Mellissa Nottingham will do January.• Update re GIS Story Map, Genevieve and Edmond• Update re CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan• Update re Quw'utsun River Celebration, September 28 or 29•
9:20am Round Table	Round-table , Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points it must be emailed to secretary or co-chairs
10.30	BREAK
10.40	Kevin Pellett, Fisheries Biologist, DFO Stock Assessment, Nanaimo office providing an update on Chinook and other fishy topics
11:50	Catch up on any items missed.
12	Meeting ends promptly, thank you. Please help with clean up of room.

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

February 21, Shaun Mason, North Cowichan Forester speaking on NC Forests, other Feb. speakers to be confirmed.

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Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory. Tim Kulchyski of Cowichan Tribes welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their contributions and reminded us of the importance of thinking long term. ● Appreciation was expressed to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings. ● Regrets. Pam Jorgenson ● Attendance list to be circulated. Parker Jefferson, One Cowichan; Christine Rikley, BC Parks; Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes; Melissa Nottingham, DFO; Ian Morrison, CVRD; Christopher Justice, North Cowichan; Rick Bryan, Recreation; Michael Barr; Ryan Frederickson, Mosaic; Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers; Stephanie Cottell, Cowichan Land Trust; Pauline Kee; Ken Traynor, CLRSS; Jack MacNeill, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association; Edmond Duggan, Paddling; Elodie Roger, CENC; Bruce Coates, Cowichan Valley Naturalists; Eric Marshall, Cowichan Valley Naturalists; Dave Preikshot, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society; Tom Rutherford, Cowichan Watershed Board; Jasmine Oberste, Where Do We Stand; Genevieve Singleton, co-chair.
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Pam Jorgenson for December. Mellissa Nottingham will do January. Christine Rikley of BC Parks will do February. • Update re GIS Story Map, Genevieve and Edmond: Also working on 'My climate story BC' –Will send notes via email. Edmond has background in GIS and is considering offering an introductory class. • Update re. CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan: over 1000 unique visitors over last 30 days. Great, but webpage is quite static. Look for suggestions to improve website. Look to change format, post minutes in pdf format, send email to say minutes are online. This also reduces in energy use for upload/download • Update re Quw'utsun River Celebration, Saturday September 28. Hope to present to Chief and council. • Next month we have booked Shawn Mason, forester for North Cowichan to present on municipal forests. Will not yet have feedback from council on next steps by presentation though. March speaker will be 'Where Do We Stand' and feedback from knotweed workshop.

**9:20am
Round Table**

Round-table, Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points it **must** be emailed to secretary or co-chairs
Tim Kulchyski: 2018 was a busy year with continued chinook health and possibly coho, but a poor year for chum. One of the big focusses is SRKW and chinook health. In Cowichan Valley, we do things differently; instead of trying to figure out the single items that impact orcas, we try to look at things in the bigger picture. Cowichan can be an example; we have turned around the Cowichan Chinook up 20,000 from a few hundred. Diverse discussion and collaboration can turn things around. The Minister came to look at the coastal restoration project and had a tour. There will be designated enforcement for whale interactions. Whales are a part of the history and way Cowichan has lived. Attended meetings in US to discuss orcas with Tulalip. Breech in road will be done by Monday at the causeway in Cowichan Bay.

Melissa Nottingham: No update

Christopher Justice: Beginning the process of rethinking the municipal forest reserve 400HA. There is a growing recognition of the increased recreation and ecological values of the forest reserve. 80% Coastal Douglas Fir. Not sure what will happen: how much logging, change of practice... ?

Yesterday Quamichan Lake was announced as new national training center for rowing Canada.

Rick Bryan: This time of year putting courses together. So let him know if you are interested.

Michael Barr: Here to learn and get involved. Went to provincial open house on salmon. Strategy group was formed to make recommendations and hear from public.

Ryan Frederickson: Timberwest joined Island Timberlands now Mosaic. Looking to align policies for access and safety and merge databases etc. Looking to improve access. Existing agreement with Victoria fish and game for butler mainline. With course you can gain access to key card system. Visit Victoria Fish and Game page and look at Access tab.

Ken Clements: no update

Stephanie Cottell: Real estate foundation funding for, best waterways, place based learning and piloting with local schools. Looking for subject matter experts to contribute. Working with Somenos marsh society to engage with residents around Somenos and Quamichan to discuss what has been learned and how to improve individual practices.

Paulina Kee: new to group

Ken Traynor: Meeting with owners around lake re. riparian restoration. Despite putting in a lot of hours, still hard to find convenient time for land owners, where they are ready to listen and participate.

**9:20am
Round Table**

Jack MacNeil: On going racetrack issue. 350 acres undeveloped property on site. Concerns for noise and carbon pollution. Monitoring activities, recent developments indicate potential changes.

Edmond Duggan: Rowing moving to Quamichan will change things. They are the largest in terms of money for Olympic sports. Large, influential group. Lots of storms and winds and water. The Cowichan river was run in December, but not run after 80cms.

Elodie Roger: no update

Bruce Coates: Where Do We Stand evolved approx. two months ago. Looking for a pause in logging on municipal forest reserve. Made presentations at council Dec 9.

Eric Marshall: Cowichan Valley Nat. Jan 1 Christmas bird count. Average numbers. Expected higher numbers, but storm before Christmas may have caused birds to move. Lower numbers of robins, varied thrush, chickadees and diving ducks. 29 Snow Geese (record high for species). 5 western bluebirds seem to be wintering near Quamichan Lake- yeah! Next year will be the 50th Duncan Christmas bird count. 30th that Derrek Marven has organized (cake maybe).

Monthly water bird counts. January was fairly low in both Cowichan Bay and Mill Bay. Continue weekly swan, goose and raptor counts. Over 400 adult Trumpeter and 45 immature. Only 300 before Christmas. Possibly some form Comox because of snow. Approx. 1500 Canada geese counted each week. 15 greater white- fronted geese counted for the first time. 28 Snow Geese were counted yesterday, last week 25 and are seen near Dougan's lake.

Nature Centre beer and burger night at Cow Bay pub 24 of February at 5pm. Tickets \$25 at Nature Centre

Dave Preikshot: Clean water action project: working with local land owners to do habitat remediation. Bring forward idea that there are proactive things that can be done. Somenos Marsh updated webpage. Planning events coming up. Jan 22 event at Beverly street wetland. Jan 31 will be planting near lakes and Beverly to help salmon habitat and h2o quality on Somenos creek. Shading to restore to native condition and reduce invasive species. Parrots feather monitoring plan for north Cowichan almost complete. Will be presenting Feb 6 to council. Shading and habitat modifications to make the environment less conducive to invasives. Physical removal not sustainable due to fragmentation. Lots of interest in raceway. Somenos greenway project. Create wildlife and fish corridors. First in Bings and Menzies creek. Will discuss some of the water quality and fish habitat threats. Supply of h2o decreasing due to climate change and land use.

<p>9:20am Round Table</p>	<p>Tom Rutherford. Thanks to Genevieve and Parker for facilitation of the table. Acknowledged the synchronicity of different groups, doing what we can with tools we have. Watershed board went through changes with elections. New Co-Chair, Ian. New members: Dr Shannon Waters, medical health officers, Allison Nicholson, Tim McGonagall. Last Monday of every month 9-12 at CVRD. Trying to increase storage in Lake. Minister Wilkinson visited and focus on Coastal Restoration Fund, but also listened to watershed board re management of infrastructure. Tom met with MLA, hope to meet with ministers in Feb to get help with licensing for storage. Sonia and Allister, have been very helpful and supportive. H2O quality. Have real estate funding for water quality study. Acknowledged volunteers. Land trust and stewardship society. Waiting on technical write-up. Follow up to study form 5 Years ago. Work in estuary, technical workshop on knotweed management next week. Governance: working with province to request that Cowichan be a pilot to test watershed governance.</p> <p>Jasmin Oberste: 6 mountains of municipal forest. Looking to support where do we stand. Request pause on all logging for a discussion. Prevost, Sicker, Richards, Maple, Tzuhalem, Stoney Hill Supporting public's right to participate. Revisit forest revisory committee. Vote Feb 22. Petition in support of the pause.</p> <p>Parker: no update</p> <p>Ian Morrison: CVRD chair. CVRD in budget discussion, regional park land acquisition. Some people wondering if it should be reduced. Most acquisitions around Ladysmith and Stoney hill. Some areas, such as Shaw creek or southern regional district haven't happened. Want to continue to see ability of CVRD to purchase. Public hearing of tidal harmony rezoning. Groundwork for drinking water and watershed workplan. Referendum on max of 750,000. 2 consultations. This will not provide opportunities for grant funding. Storm damage: 100,000 impact to cvrd budget. Shawnigan discussion for Shawnigan Basin Society. Research group and residents association. Will there be the funds people are used to seeing in the past.</p> <p>Christine Rikley with BC Parks: Planning for next season paused for storm cleanup and damage assessment. Priorities reshuffled. 500,000 damage. Little Qualicum may not be open this year. Stoltz pools parking lot not stable. Loss of some trails as well.</p> <p>Rob James, terminal manager of Western Stevedore's deep-sea berth at Cowichan Bay. Rezoning application coming to end. Cheri looking after Cowichan Tribes second breech of causeway. Last year loaded 10 lumber barges over to Vancouver. If you want to come see what they do give him a call. The door is always open for anyone wanting to visit.</p> <p>Genevieve Singleton: Described GIS story map and working of roundtable. She brought forward that the Cowichan Valley docents is looking for people to help out with school groups Wednesday mornings. Bluebirds were spotted on Jan 1. Should be finding it too cold.</p>
<p>10.30</p>	<p>BREAK</p>

10.40

Kevin Pellett, Fisheries Biologist, DFO Stock Assessment, Nanaimo office providing an update on Chinook and other fishy topics

Update on as many things Chinook as he can in time available. Out lined tagging project spring to fall.

Freshwater survival decreases with distance from ocean. Permanent antennae at fence. Temporary antennae at north arm. Shows same info.

Less loss in higher flow springs. 2018 near target flows. 10 times greater loss per km in upper river

Even though higher spawning densities upstream, juveniles distributed evenly throughout.

Summer 2018 rebuilt monitoring station at fence site, new building on church road.

Showed new camera box view. Great resolution, but tunnels slowed migration.

Oct 2, weir opened completely and had a bump in migration, slowed right after. 1800 passed fence Oct 2. Assumption is that pit tags are spread equally through population.

5 times as many fish showed up at fence Oct 2, as those that passed. Oct 11 opened mid water pass. 2 cameras in gap increased migration, but still low.

October 23, swim below fence: 5-6,000 through fence, but not as many as expected.

Estimate 7500 in swim. 8000 of all species 8am to 2pm Oct 26. Through midwater passage not many through camera box. Pre rain event. Move towards open system next year. Pulled fence early because still so many below fence and got to critical spawning time. Need to expand counts for total population.

Question regarding increase predation by holding with fence. 7km to fence so not as many marine mammals, maybe smaller predators. 1 Pit tag reps 138 wild. Use that to expand tag detections to total number. Over 14,000. Hatchery clips and cwt over 95%. Less age 2 jacks then 2017. Mostly age 3 and 4. Adult target 6500 male and female combined. Strong wild component, increasing. Hatchery satisfies pacific salmon treaty requirements for assessment. Coho returns seemed strong this year. Over 3000.

Tagged wild fish with floy tags to mark returning adults between black bridge and counting fence. Sept 26-oct 3. Three tagging events. 275, tagged, approx. 219 passed fence.

Skutz falls fishway: 34km from ocean. Pit tag antennae. How many tagged fish in lower river, compare to how many arrive to Skutz falls. Possible to use the same cameras to enumerate coho. How many use Skutz, what portion of the population, extrapolate for total. Riverbottom road, Skutz parking lot. Same kind of equipment as at fence. Lots of possibility.

Wood maintenance and log jam removal issue at Skutz.

Marine survival update: about 1% return of tags. What we can do with the analysis: look at 2015 age class returns.

Hatchery fish return at lower rate at all stages. 1.3% survival total. 6% from Sept to return. More change can be effected during first winter at sea than 625mm when mortality is low.

Much higher value to wild salmon production. Manage the ratio of hatchery in wild pop. How do we collect brood. Etc.

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