

## COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019: 9am to 12 pm** Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan  
[www.cowichanstewardship.ca](http://www.cowichanstewardship.ca)

We meet on the unceded lands of Cowichan Tribes. 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 Round the Table portion 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 Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory.</li> <li>Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.</li> <li>Regrets. Attendance list to be circulated.</li> </ul>
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Hannah Hall for taking notes of June meeting. Thank you to Melissa Nottingham for doing September notes, who will take October notes.</li> <li>Feedback on Stoltz River Field Day, July meeting, Thanks to all of our wonderful speakers and leaders. Gratitude for a wonderful day.</li> <li>Discussion on whether to change order of meetings: Have speakers at beginning. Pro: Would be less stressful for co-chairs.</li> </ul>
9:25am	<b>Kate Miller, CVRD Environmental Services Manager</b> , has requested to speak to us. Due to her other commitments Kate will provide first presentation, which will be on <b>"Update on long term water supply strategy for the Cowichan system and the nuts and bolts and Kick off of the regional Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program (DWWD)"</b>
9:45	<b>Round the Table</b> , check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points it <b>must</b> be emailed to secretary or co-chairs
10:30-10:40	Break
10:45 11:20	Discussion on details re <b>Quw'utsun River Day</b> , Sept. 28, 10 -3, large event that we are co-hosting with Cowichan Tribes
11:20-11:45	Finish up of <b>Round the Table</b> .
11"50	Catch up of missed items
12:00 noon	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August. Upcoming meetings: October, Catherine Jacobsen of BC Parks will be speaking on the Cowichan River Provincial Park Management Plan Process

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9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Hannah Hall for taking notes of June meeting. Thank you to Melissa Nottingham for doing September notes. <b>Who will take October notes? We had nobody offer and we hope someone will kindly offer.</b></li> <li>Feedback on Stoltz River Field Day, July meeting, Thanks to all of our wonderful speakers and leaders. Gratitude for a wonderful day. Ask for feedback: no response</li> <li>Discussion on whether to change order of meetings: Have speakers at beginning. Pro: Would be less stressful for co-chairs. Discussion, keep roundtables session as priority. Challenge is that presentations are usually timed. We will have one less speaker in the future so it will likely not be an issue.</li> </ul>

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9:45

**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  
Parker Jefferson: One Cowichan is supporting youth climate strike tomorrow at 1pm. Chinook/Coho hybrids are in our watershed and are fertile. Fry salvage group has been submitting DNA samples of unusual looking fish and yesterday met with geneticist from DFO.

**Bob Crandall (Lake Cowichan Salmonid Enhancement Society)**: Beadnell Creek cleared this year to allow for fish passage.

DNA samples from 2015-present have been analyzed and found coho alleles in Chinook DNA. There is a second generation so that confirms they can reproduce which is unusual for hybrids.

Fry rescue lower river 17-18000. 36000 Cowichan Tribes, 34700 LKSS. Seems to be less than in the past. This year some of the productive streams were dried up.

**Jacqie Taylor (Bring Back the Bluebirds)**: We welcomed Jacquie Taylor to her new position as Bluebird Project Coordinator. The Bluebird Project has partnered with BCCF to take over the administrative work. BCCF will be the main proponent with CVNS members doing trail monitoring. Summary- 9 adults identified in Cowichan Valley. 3 females and 6 males. 4 successful nests and 14 fledged individuals. In Victoria sighted fledgling from San Juan Islands. Hoping that as both populations increase they will interbreed. Adding raptor guards and mammal guards and sparrow spookers to protect nests. Next season hoping for more translocations for a buffer.

**Ken Traynor (CLRSS)**: 1. Very successful River Clean Up, lots of new volunteers and not as much junk as past years

2. The Gerald Thom Native plant garden at Saywell Park is looking great come up and check it out.

3. We have a new video up on the website on the importance of Native plants in the riparian zone

4. Our Lake Levels and Your Beach program has generated lots of good info and conversations in support of raising the weir, check out the Weirready.ca and our website for more info.

5. Rain the last couple of days has filled in the hole the pumping made in the Lake so we are back to zero! Still a long way to go.

**Sheila Paul (CERCA)**: swallow project successful, planning estuary study. Open air classroom and nature area is overgrown with weeds but are unable to do anything. Two successful walks in mudflats. New signs put up, thanks to Western Forest Products to funding two of the four signs.

**Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes)**: Coastal Restoration Fund project- deepening one of the channels. Doing in river works in north arm-hope to be completed tomorrow removing material from in river. Dry most of the summer, including side channels. It is a loss of about 7.5 km of habitat. Bernadette is back from Maternity leave and Kim will be moving on to Courtenay.

**Martha Lescher (Charged up festival)**: Saturday 10-3 in Charles Hoey park. Interactive event.

**Pam Jorgenson (Mosaic):** dry spring, but fortunate that we did not see big impacts in terms of fires. Planting projects were not as successful as hoped, but fall plant is going well so far.

**Elodie Roger (Somenos Marsh Society):** focused on Clean Water action Project looking at Quamichan and Somenos lakes and developing culture of stewardship. Remember that every step counts and we are all part of the solution. Will be continuing restoring riparian areas around local creeks especially where there is salmon habitat. Also will be examining fragmentation and looking at how we can connect the wildlife corridors.

**Dan DellaVedova (Parks BC):** leading field based work- Cowichan River Park: targeting offroad vehicle non-compliance, fishery compliance, working with student rangers to do trail work

**Maeve Maguire (BC Green Sonya Furstineau MLA):** reminder that Sonya is supportive and will be at Charged up and Rivers Day

**Geoff Strong:** CMOS will be in Victoria year Climate change impacts and climate change policy.

**Christopher Justice (North Cowichan Council):** Acknowledged climate emergency in July and are working on Action Plan. Municipality has now hired a senior environmental specialist that will start soon and work on environmental priorities and hopefully with CVRD as well.

Rick-paddlesport-Edmund sends best wishes (recovering from stroke) Back in pool session in a boat. Sending Best wishes from Rountable to Edmund. Getting ready to get folks back in a boat now that the rains are coming. Paddlesport is doing a presentation at the next watershed board meeting.

**James Oulette (Cowichan Tribes Coordinator of River Management):** New position,. Civil engineering background, working on CR6 north arm. Moved about a km of gravel. Will be moving up river towards Quamichan dike (CR5) water will be flowing from north arm by weekend. Will continue long hours through weekend to get this done.

**Alistair MacGregor (NDP MP):** shout outs to all of us for our hard work –was at upper river cleanup, family friendly event, care went into planning. In June participated in eel grass restoration and it is fantastic to be part of this community. None of work possible without people in community and thankful for what everyone brings to this table.

**Kate McNeil (Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association):** against expansion of racetrack. Noise pollution and environmental concerns (log and pave property in Somenos watershed)

**Jane Kilthei (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre):** signed contribution agreement with eco action- October 3 starting restoration days with school programs. Saturday of that week open to volunteers from the community. Beer and burger fundraiser coming up- on sept. 20

Climate club started for youth.positive place to keep organizing happening

**Ian Morrison (CVRD):** UBCM next week- important for meetings, but also hallway interactions. Let Ian or other elected officials know if you have topics that you want brought forward. Motorsports track- sought input from other groups. Thanks to Mosaic for hosting forestry tour. Climate Strike tomorrow, CVRD at level 4- Note that great people doing great work, GHG neutrality award. Support the youth tomorrow at climate strike.

**Jackqueline Ronson (Discourse):** people care about what is said here. Covers a lot of what is going on in the watershed.

**Steph Cottell (Cowichan Landtrust):** expressed appreciation for group and all that is going on. AGM next Wednesday sept 25 7pm at Cowichan estuary nature centre. Guest speaker Ben from Land trust Alliance of BC . Membership based-important for numbers to show community support when applying for funding and grants. Clean water action project with Somenos Marsh society, restoration starting this fall. Big deal for property owners to let others come in and do work. Best waterways- placed based learning for students to engage them in understanding their watersheds.

**Gail Mitchell (Cowichan Valley Naturalists co-president):** formed a new conservation committee, number of issues that they are working on, will be at strike and at charged up and support Sahtlam Neighbourhood association

**Bruce Coates-** Cowichan valley naturalists

**Brian Houle (Catalyst):** not out of crisis but out of negative storage. Environmental monitor found areas where lamprey were able to move, but also areas where they had to be relocated.

**Don Hare (Coastal Invasive Species Committee)** visited Nimpkish knotweed project-pilot project controlling knotweed on the river. Herbicide injection. Tackled about 300 populations. This may be the prototype. French creek hogweed-third year, looks like we have turned the corner with large areas of eradication. Begun mapping and inventorying Cowichan river for knotweed. BC parks actively surveying areas. Mosaic and CISC will begin mapping and then will develop strategy. Report a weed- take a picture and GIS location-We can't control it if we don't know it is there.

**Chris Steiger (terrestrial biologist)** desire to participate in riparian group of Watershed Board.

**Barry Hetschko (Somenos Marsh Society and Cowichan Valley Naturalists):** Wildwings festival-October 6 to end of October. Celebrate Somenos 10-2 October 6. Launch of wildwings- Wednesday Oct 9 at just jakes. Look up website for all the upcoming events.

**Eric Marshall (Cowichan Valley Naturalists)** 41 common mergansers on south side, 32 mallard, couple of osprey nests, one at nature centre had one offspring and it has departed, 110 great blue heron nests 104 active.

	<p><b>Dave Preikshot (Environmental Specialist with North Cowichan)</b> David has just started a new job at North Cowichan. want to push for increased storage capacity in all watersheds. Hopes to continue to participate in roundtable.</p> <p><b>Elizabeth Aiken (CVRD Parks Volunteer Coordinator):</b> developing volunteer program for parks and wants it to augment good work that is already going on in the community. Volunteer events that are coming up- Old Mill Ivy pull Oct 7, Oct 9 clean-up park by nature centre.</p> <p><b>Tom Rutherford (Cowichan Watershed Board):</b> proposal for funding politically backed. Thank-you to Sonya and Alistair for helping to make this happen. 4 million over 3 fiscal years. 3 things: CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, watershed board catalyst- governance document, hiring project manager –need diverse skillset, preparing to large RFPs – Koksilah is in worse shape than Cowichan – no water storage solution. Tool in water sustainability plan- working with FLRO/ Cowichan tribes, agriculture community scope out water sustainability planning process. Leadership project . Professional crew making video to be used as learning tool across province. Nicola Nation and Cowichan tribes will work together.</p> <p>Thank-you to those involved in the river clean –up. Rivers Day is Sept 28. Speakers series starts in October 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday. Watershed Board Monday Sept 30 Remember to vote. Educate yourself and vote for the candidate that will do the best for our community.</p> <p><b>Cheri Ayers:</b> apologies for not making it here. Pedestrian bridge installed, estuary planted, looking for volunteers to work with estuary nature centre for more planting. Pinnipeds have returned in greater numbers than they have in the past. Previous a few dozen, now it looks like 200. Thanks to the collaborative process for bringing the chinook back.</p> <p><b>Genevieve Singleton (Naturalist, Roundtable co-chair):</b> Re Rivers Day. looking for help collecting gifts for speakers, educators and elders Thank-you to Mosaic, Miyo and BC parks for their financial donations. Black Bridge beach. Park by old Malaspina area. If you need to bring stuff, enter behind Cowichan Tribes gym. Gate opens at 7 set up by 9. Event finishes at 3. Please bring your own plate, fork and drinking water</p>
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