

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2019: 9am to 12 pm Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan
www.cowichanstewardship.com

We meet on the unceded lands of Cowichan Tribes. 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.

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.
9:10-9:30 CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Pam Jorgenson for doing September notes. Asking CVRD for a grant to assist with meeting notes taking update: Genevieve Update re Quww'utsun River Day, 2019, Tim and Genevieve Edmond Duggan stepping down as website manager. Thank you, Edmond, for all your help bringing us up-to-date. We are looking for a new volunteer to take this on. Reminder that Dec. 19 CSRT meeting will be followed with a finger food potluck, 12 to 1:30 pm. Please bring food and own dishes, etc. if possible. Come anyways if not possible!!! Freshwater Fisheries staff will be our guests. Family welcome.
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 if you expect it to be recorded in full in the meeting notes.
10:30-10:40	Break
10:45 11:05	Finishing of Round the Table
11:05-11:50	. Main speaker: "Hybrid salmon in the Cowichan", Presenter Andres Araujo DFO geneticist
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. Please provide speaker suggestions for upcoming meetings. Dec. 19.

Followed by Fingerfood potluck, 12-1:30. Please bring food and dishes, if convenient, Food and dishes available if not convenient, everyone welcome.

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES

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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. • Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings. Their staff will be invited to Winter Potluck. Thanks to Barry for helping to set up and to those who brought treats. • Regrets: Christopher Justice, Pam Jorgenson- Mosaic Edmond Duggan, Paddlers, Melissa Nottingham- DFO, Tim Kulchyski- Cowichan Tribes, Stephanie Cottrell-Cowichan Land Trust
9:10-9:30 CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to Pam Jorgenson for doing October notes. Karen Deck is taking November notes. • Asking CVRD for a grant to assist with meeting notes recording update: Genevieve reports that: CSRT cannot accept grants since we do not have a banking account. Tom offered to ask his society whether they could support CSRT with resources if that is what CSRT wishes. To be reviewed next meeting. • Update re Quww'utsun River Day, 2019, Tim and Genevieve. Genevieve reports that: Tim, Genevieve will meet with Cowichan Tribes on Nov. 26, showing Barry's photos. Topics include Darin George's suggestion about busing for elders, also revisit site choice re: safety, and having all parking near Tribes gym. Tim has arranged for gravel to be moved around to improve venue. • Edmond Duggan stepping down as website manager. Thank you, Edmond, for all your help bringing us up-to-date. We are looking for a new volunteer to take this on. • Reminder that Dec. 19 CSRT meeting will be followed with a finger food potluck, 12 to 1:30 pm. Please bring easy to eat food and own dishes, etc. if possible. Come anyways if not possible!!! Freshwater Fisheries staff will be our guests. Family welcome.

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 if you expect it to be recorded in full in the meeting notes.

Parker Jefferson, One Cowichan: will be working with Tom Rutherford on CVRD Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Terms of Reference, goals and Objectives. This facilitated process moving forward. Next meeting is January and at that recommendations for service and priorities will be put forward.

Christine Rikley, BC Parks: This summer's focus was on aggressive enforcement of off-roading in Koksilah Park. Chemainus river is more of a battle with dumping garbage, cars in river, causing damage which needs more aggressive enforcement. It is hoped that engaged youth in Duncan may help with restoration at the Stoltz site, particularly continuing planting to address parking lot erosion. The Cowichan River footpath needs facelift, therefore there will be significant closures to footpath as work progresses.

Jacquie Taylor, BCCF Bring Back the Bluebirds: It is a quiet time of year for the group, so our time is spent working on grant proposals and reports. Spring will bring translocations so funds will be needed for that work. Bring Back the Bluebirds Project has been selected as charity of the month at Return It on 6476 Norcross Road, Duncan. Please consider taking any beverage bottles/cans that you accumulate over the holidays to Return It and tell them at the counter that you would like to donate them to the Bluebird Project. Thank you in advance.

Sheila Paul, Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association, Blue Carbon project goal is to put 150 new boxes along the Blakely Farm Fences in February. A symposium on development of a protocol for estuary health is planned to take place in February.

Joy Wade, Fundy Aqua Services: will work with DFO on the Cowichan lamprey. Joy met with Sonia Furstenau, who is supportive, and is aware how important who has water licence on weir. Joy will give a VIU talk on the lamprey in Duncan, will speak in Washington, and will keep CSRT informed about the results of these events.

Martha Lescher, Cowichan Valley Naturalists: The city of Duncan did work on MacAdam Park plan but it is not currently on the front burner.

Chris Steeger, Wood/CLRSS. Commented in importance of remembering wildlife values.

Bob Crandall, Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society: There is enough Chum brood stock, will start working on Coho. A member of their team died avoiding an elk on the highway. Today is Fisheries Day. Plenty of fish, water, it is a challenge to determine gender. There are not a lot of Coho and those seen are small.

John Yarnold, Director Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association: Re: VIMC expansion, Mayor Sebring presented a “worst case scenario” regarding legal repercussions of a negative vote. 5 councillors voted down the expansion, for a variety of issues. John is seeking support to oppose the expansion. Public hearing Dec 9, 10. New information only will be presented. Cowichan Tribes are being consulted by VIMC. John spoke to the issues of homelessness, illegal camping. Cowichan River and Somenos Marsh are most affected; garbage left behind is expensive to remove. An arborist is planning on taking the Big Oak by the train station down due to safety reasons. He is collecting acorns to save lineage of that tree to continue. It might be a fundraising opportunity to sell the seedlings. Genevieve wonders whether it is a native species, and thanks John for volunteering doing cleanup in the Valley.

Jack MacNeill, Director S.N.A.: supported John in his presentation.

Don Hare, Coastal Invasive Species: A knotweed survey of Cowichan Lake and River was undertaken: 47 kilometers times 2 (2 river banks). Roundup and 2 other herbicides are used. Genevieve pointed out that Cowichan Tribes and others have concerns re Round up, potentially being used on the river, due to the possible impact on fish and ecosystem in general. Stoltz pool: restoration area: 29 knotweeds stand which will destroy any restoration efforts if left unchecked. CIS will target that area. Mapping shows the magnitude of the problem. Lake Cowichan: knotweed stand near intakes to lake. Caycuse: eradicated a lot of knotweed starting at the top. Eradicated 127 knotweed sites on the island. 18 giant hogweed sites monitored and controlled are close to eradication also.

Ken Traynor, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society, Cowichan Lake is almost at top of weir. Although the spring drought was followed by cool weather, that did not compensate for the lack of rain. The result is not a lot of water in lake. Ken is encouraged by the engagement of the town of Lake Cowichan. Ken wonders how the weir will be able to respond to low spring lake levels. Water license issue is still a concern. The communication strategy about the weir is important to get right. Ken is hopeful that efforts to protect the SARA listed Cowichan Lake Lamprey will help the lake. Joy Wade emphasizes the importance of using the lamprey’s protections in Federal acts to advocate for habitat protection. PMFL Review: Ken recommends reading the summary of the PMFL act as well as written submissions. He sees it as a window into the challenges around the review and changes that may come.

Barry Hetschko, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society: Is concerned that the building of the Herd Road Hospital and surrounding development has not been proactive about run off that will flow to Somenos Lake.

He is looking for support to push for green solutions that will mitigate the negative impacts especially due to escalating effects of the climate emergency. He suggested Healing Gardens around a hospital. He hopes that citizen letters to VIH regarding how to make it greener could be incorporated before the project gets too far along. Genevieve commented that there are ways to build greener parking lots and that there is a stand of trembling aspen, rare on the island, on the site.

Eric Marshall, CVNS, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre: Swan, Goose and Raptor Counts – every Wednesday until end of March 2020 -3 week's records-Trumpeter Swans: 62/95/100+, Canada Geese: 590/834/1000+, Snow Geese: 1

Coastal Water Bird count- Nov 10: 188 bufflehead and 23 Common Goldeneye in Cowichan Bay along with 90 gulls

Marine Mammals – 115 harbour seals and over 150 (perhaps 300 sea lions) both Stellar and California in Cowichan Bay

Molly Hudson, Mosaic: Mosaic monitors the habitat and breeding activity of the Northern Goshawk, an at-risk coastal species, on their lands and 15 territories on crown lands. Sites are monitored for 5 to 10 years. The province studied UBC genetics of goshawks, focusing on the differences between Vancouver Island and interior species. A recent study found that they are related. Haida has a very high standard for managing species.

Tom Rutherford, Cowichan Valley Watershed Board: Tom reviewed variety of activities he is engaged with.

Genevieve Singleton: BCCF staff, Jamison Atkinson and Jeramy Damborg in Lantzville are the speakers for next CSRT meeting. They will be speaking on BCCF projects in the Cowichan.

Kevin Pellett of DFO will be speaking on Chinook in January.

Genevieve has Elders shirts and bags for sale.

Ian Morrison is no longer co- of CWB or chair of CVRD. Ladysmith mayor, Aaron Stone was voted in. Our appreciation to Ian and best wishes to Aaron.

Back channels did not fill up in the MacAdam Park area so no salmon to show to children.

Karen Deck, Save Our Holmes Society: We have received a grant from Lush, whose current funding is aimed at grassroots organizations concerned about water, in our case watersheds on Mount Holmes and Mount Good. We plan to use a significant amount of this grant to amplify through webinars the messages of Round Table members who have expertise on the issues concerning the Cowichan Valley and beyond.

Elizabeth Aitken. CVRD volunteer services: Recreation is working with partnerships to remove invasive species. Pollinator planting in Bright Angel Park is taking place. Events are being scheduled into Jan. December 5: volunteer day learning about opportunities. There will be a traditional welcoming by Fred Roland. Ken Traynor wondered whether there was a way to let people know where events are and who might be a contact in that area. FB page might be a way to let people hear where the event is taking place. Emails will indicate where volunteer opportunities are and indicate the type of activity involved in order to provide potential volunteers with information to help them decide whether the opportunity is right for them.

	<p>Bruce Coates, CVNS: Spoke about the forum he attended; Let the Herring Live. Herring were integral to the diets of many First Nations around the Salish Sea. Topics included: how to monitor them, how to increase their numbers, what we know and what we don't know about herring. Tim Kulchyski, who also attended asked "Have any of you tried smoked herring?" Archeologists studied sites around Salish Sea and found that herring was larger component of diet. One fishery between Hornby and Denman Islands is getting smaller. They return to their spawning grounds like salmon do. Bruce promoted the Hornby Island Herring Fest. He also promoted a November 26 workshop with Rebecca Martone at the VIU on how to identify and enumerate forage fish.</p> <p>Audra Stacy: interested community member</p> <p>Stephanie Cottrell, Cowichan Land Trust: sent regrets and this email was read out. "We are in the midst of restoration field-work activities. I wanted to inform the community that I have been invited/accepted to be the South Vancouver Island alternate rep for the Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board and will be attending the next meeting Feb 23-26. I'll be hoping to take any specific input and concerns from local groups working on Salmon stewardship and interrelated issues to the meeting. "</p>
10:30-10:40	Break
10:45 11:05	Speakers finished.
11:05-11:50	<p>Main speaker: "Hybrid salmon in the Cowichan", Presenter Andres Araujo DFO geneticist:</p> <p>Talked about factors that may have contributed to reduction of water availability in rivers and streams (logging and 3 fold increase in ground water licenses, for example.) Hybridization is most likely to occur when salmon species are spawning in near extinction conditions. Hybrids may have always been present, but are currently exacerbated by climate and habitat change. Shifts in spawning time may also encourage interbreeding.</p>
11:50	We were reminded of next meeting including a potluck and to bring extra food for visitors.
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. Please provide speaker suggestions for upcoming meetings. Dec. 19, lunch potluck following meeting.

Dec. 21, BCCF staff, Jamison Atkinson and Jeremy Damborg will be talking on BCCF Cowichan projects. The talk will be followed by Finger food potluck, 12-1:30. Please bring food and dishes, if convenient, Food and dishes available if not convenient, everyone welcome. If bringing food please bring extras for visitors. Donations of cash, winter clothing, potatoes, turkeys and corn accepted for Cowichan Tribes Xmas Day meal.

January 16, Kevin Pellett, DFO, update on Chinook