

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES www.cowichanstewardship.ca

DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021: 9am to 12:00 pm Zoom meeting

Questions? Write to co-chairs at cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

We will be Zoom meeting on the lands of Coast Salish peoples. Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave Zoom meeting whenever necessary. **The Roundtable works together in a collaborative, kind and respectful manner at all times. Please note the Agenda timing is approximate only!**

- Please set up and be ready for meeting by 8:45 am to allow for glitches.
- Welcome and acknowledgement that we meet on Coast Salish peoples' land
- Appreciation to Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson, and the Cowichan Watershed Board for kindly donating the Zoom platform for our meeting.
- Regrets: Joy Wade, Jackie Taylor
- Attendees: Tom Rutherford, Genevieve Singleton, Parker Jefferson, Judy Brayden, Cole Smith, Richard Lake, Alistair McGregor, Peter Woods, Geoff Strong, Barry Hetschko, Janet Magdanz, Ian Morrison, Stephanie Cottell, Pam Jorgenson, Joe Saysell, Ian Douglas, Edmond Duggan, Sandy Cummings, Elodie Roger, Don Hare, Bruce Coates, Jane Kilthei, Lyndon Keeping, Chris Straw, Nikki Wright, Robert Martin, Cheri Ayers, Warrick Whitehead

CSRT Business

- Cowichan River Day celebrations occur every 2 years. The date for the next one is Saturday, September 25. The group was asked if they agreed to go forward with planning for this year's events. Due to uncertainty about COVID, preparations would include virtual and real-world events. The group agreed.
- Terms of Reference carried over.
- Upcoming Speakers: March 18, Staff from Mosaic will be speaking on carbon credits etc.

Round the Table:

- Janet Magdanz, Cowichan Valley Arts Council: The theme for this year's show will be "The Watershed". Education will be a component. There will be a monthly education piece in the Valley Voice. Community members are invited to choose one of the Cowichan Watershed Board's targets (Clean Water, Estuary Health, Salmon Sustainability, Water Use, Watershed IQ, Water Supply, Riparian) and combine information and art to produce a piece to display in the gallery in mid-August.
- Judy Brayden, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society
- s: gave examples of ways the greater community could participate. The gallery would In mid-August Genevieve asked if these events could tie into River Day and was assured they could!
- Ian Morrison, CVRD Area F director: The Regional Parks Acquisition Fund will have \$750,000 for the 20/21 year. The Regional Housing Needs Assessment report indicates that there hasn't been a lot of development in Area F, but there has been in others. Those areas that have made an investment in infrastructure will see an increase in development. The group of directors that

want to reduce the tax bill will continue to focus on Parks which could dramatically pull back on park services.

- Geoff Strong, Atmospheric Climate Scientist: Canada's net zero climate plan uses the baseline of greenhouse gas production in 2005, which was high. However, emissions need to be reduced more dramatically to make a meaningful impact.
- Peter Woods, BC Parks: As a river manager, Peter submits an annual report, so he requested input on events, concerns, successes, and failures. Genevieve told him that groups are compiling observations to forward to him and herself.
- Barry Hetschko, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society: has photos for the gallery. He continues to work on a project for a new bird list of the marsh area.
- Karen Deck, Save Our Holmes Society: We are a member of the Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition, whose goal is to protect people's right to pure abundant water. There is little protection for aquifers, so local groups have had to take on this role including Youbou residents. Some logging companies use glyphosate to kill competitive species and the BC government has approved biosolids for fertilizer, so we're grateful that CVRD will be including testing for components of glyphosate in their yearly testing of our aquifer.
- Sandy Cummings Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society: the chum fry have hatched and were now in the alevin stage. We provided Coho eggs to District 79 schools vice Chum eggs. This was due to Covid-19 reasons.
- Pam Jorgenson, Mosaic: Winter/Spring planting will start in March. The BC Forest Discovery Centre's railway ties need replacing and Mosaic gave them a donation.
- Elodie Rogers, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society: Water quality Somenos Creek improved in November. The community was asked to report salmon sightings and it is encouraging to see that people are responsive and aware. Salmon monitoring will continue. In collaboration with others, 1,000 trees were planted in the marsh. People are looking for opportunities to help in the Bings Creek riparian area efforts. Education is important to reduce bear/human conflicts. Genevieve asked if there have been funding issues. Elodie says she's confident projects will keep going forward.
- Ian Douglas, DFO: Melissa will be back in April. Eggs were delivered to Galiano. Cowichan Tribes lost 2 members, so some fish tagging has not been done.
- Jane Kilthei, CENC: The spring season of riparian restoration with youth (in pods) met eco-action targets in 2020. Working under the direction of Dave Poster, live staking at Stoltz Bluff in the fall was done. With partners, more restoration work will be done in March. Online camps about lamprey from estuary to lake took place. Water conservation on the Koksilah: installation of drip irrigation system took place near Bright Angel park. Another homeowner is ready to install at another workshop when more interest is expressed.
- Joe Saysell, Friends of the Cowichan: Although next steps are uncertain, the damage to riparian areas at Bird Cage and Stanley Creek will continue to be top of mind. This year, the river has gone down fast, due to extensive 2nd growth logging. There are few trees left to hold water. Mosaic has started logging by Exeter Creek. Creeks keep river water cool in the summer. Joe asked Pam about further logging in that area and how big the clear cut would be. Pam offered to speak to Joe personally about it.

- Richard Lake, Sidney Anglers: working with DFO on fish sampling; 200 this winter. Local salmon are feeding on smaller herring, Puget Sound salmon are now eating larger herring. Cowichan Chinook stay in Georgia Strait and Puget sound. This year, no Coho were found. As overfishing rarely completely depletes an entire species, Richard feels they have travelled elsewhere.
- Cole Smith, assistant to Sonia Furstenau: As a Masters student at UBC, his interests in political theory led to a thesis on natural resource governance and natural resource development. The legislature will return in March. Professional reliance reform is a priority, as are delays on the old growth panel review, carbon pricing and carbon offsets despite capacity and funding challenges.
- Tom Rutherford, CWB: has received a BC government stimulus grant. Working on sustainable flow targets for the Koksilah and Chemainus rivers. It is challenging to do field work due to COVID, but work will begin in April. Cowichan Tribes have received a \$24.2 million grant for flood and drought mitigation. There are still questions about who will govern the Conservation License of the weir and whose responsibility it will be. Water planning on the Koksilah will begin in spring. Working with Cowichan Tribes, CWB will review targets.
- Lyndon Keeping, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society: We are looking at Milfoil in the lake using informal surveying. Wondering how to go ahead with this year's river clean up, and who will be partners in this effort. We will touch base and educate shoreline owners in Honeymoon Bay.
- Bruce Coates, CVN: A memorial fund in honour of Eric Marshall has been set up to fund educational camps. On March 1, Stephanie Cottell and Heather Pritchard will be speaking to the naturalists about "Seeing Cowichan Forests Beyond Trees", Genevieve Singleton and Joy Wade will talk about the Cowichan Lake Lamprey in April. Bruce is on North Cowichan's Environmental Advisory Committee working on Climate Action and Energy Plan.
- Stephanie Cottell, Cowichan Land Trust: Working on an eco-forestry covenant template. Working with Genevieve and Dave and Quamichan School students on live staking restoration.
- Edmond Duggan, Paddlers: Grateful for the opportunity to provide input on recreational opportunities near the new weir. With COVID awareness, are ready to collaborate on River Day activities.
- Warrick Whitehead: Protecting old growth in the valley is important. Concerned about logging on approaches to the grove near Koksilah and asked groups to collaborate to talk to Mosaic about making a boundary to prevent logging while talks are ongoing.
- Genevieve: Joy Wade is working on the final part of her report to funders about Cowichan Lake Lamprey. Still looking for places to put informational poster. Genevieve is still doing Cowichan Lake Lamprey programmes, please contact her if you would like one.