

## COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES [www.cowichanstewardship.ca](http://www.cowichanstewardship.ca)

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021: 9am to 12:00 pm Zoom meeting, invite will be sent out prior to mtg.

Questions? Write to co-chairs at [cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com](mailto: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
- Attendees: Tom Rutherford: Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) , Karen Deck : Save Our Holmes, Genevieve Singleton: Co-Chair Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable (CSRT), Rick Bryan: Paddlers, Barry Hetschko: Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (SMWS) , Gail Mitchell: Cowichan Valley Naturalists (CVNS) , Jim Deck: Save Our Holmes (SOH), Parker Jefferson: Co-Chair CSRT, Edmond Duggan: Paddlers , Ken Traynor: Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society (CLRSS), Jennifer Sibbald: Provincial Govt Fish Technician , Warrick Whitehead: Koksilah Forest Ecosystems, Sarah Davies Long: Koksilah Watershed Working Group , Brian Houle: Catalyst, Richard Lake: Sidney Anglers, Joe Saysell: Friends of the Cowichan, Ian Douglas: DFO, Elodie Roger: biologist , Roger Wiles: Cowichan Land Trust director (CLT), Stephanie Cottell: Cowichan Land Trust, Pam Jorgenson: Mosaic, Cole Smith: assistant to MLA Sonia Furstenau, Ian Morrison: Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) director, Erik Piikkila: Watershed and Forestry Ecologist, Peter Woods: BC Parks, Jane Kilthei: Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre (CENC), Heather Pritchard: CWB, Jill Thompson: CWB, Alistair McGregor: MP, Alison Nicholson: CVRD director, Bruce Coates: Cowichan Valley Naturalists, North Cowichan environmental advisory committee, Ward van Proosolij: CVRD Watershed Management, Karen Dougherty: Mosaic, Colin Koszman: Mosaic

### CSRT Business

- River Day, Sat. September 25. Many thanks to Peter Woods from BC Parks for requesting funding for River Day. Any ideas of where further funds/grants can be requested would be appreciated. Genevieve will organize a zoom meeting in the next few months for those who wish to help plan for a hoped for in person River Day event. If this is not possible then an online event will be held.
- Terms of Reference carried over

### Round the Table

- Jennifer Sibbald, Provincial Fish Technician: spoke about an initiative to place signs in strategic places on the Cowichan River to increase angler awareness of regulations and best angling practices, such as "Keep Fish Wet" catch and release. She will send Genevieve an email telling how to reach Jennifer with ideas as to this project and where good places would be to do this signage

- Brian Houle, Catalyst: Water updates included expected ideal (25 and 15 cms) spring flows. He said he is receiving good guidance from the chart he presented. There is more snow on the mountains than 2019. There are no expectations of problems in the next month or two.
- Tom Rutherford, Cowichan Watershed Board: update on Water Sustainability. Progress is being made on Koksilah planning and weir. Grants have been received for salmon assessment, inventory flow and salmon habitat and Healthy Watershed Initiatives (2 million for 3 years)
- Alistair McGregor, Member of Parliament: delivered the sad news about Chris Straw's death. Chris, was a Gabriola resident and was very well known for his advocacy for stopping freighter moorage in the Salish Sea. He has taken great interest in CSRT over the years and was one of our guest speakers at our February meeting. He will be greatly missed.  
Alistair informed us about a recent reinterpretation of DFO ruling about spot prawns, which could make it illegal to sell prawns directly to individuals. He is working on a private member's bill developing a National Soil Strategy (healthy soils, regenerative farming practices).
- Rick Bryan: The South Island White Water Club is starting activities and will help on River Day.
- Gail Mitchell: CVNS has ongoing speakers in about natural history. Volunteers will help on River Day.
- Ken Traynor CLRSS: Leroy Van Wieren will speak at CLRSS April Meeting. Education about the weir will take place in summer. CLRSS will volunteer in River Day if Covid allows.
- Warrick Whitehead: had a question for Mosaic about the Koksilah Forest Ecosystems
- Richard Lake, Sidney Anglers: herring in Saanich Inlet and Goldstream are spawning a month earlier than usual and after a very poor 4-5 years are doing well. Cowichan River feeders have moved out of the Cowichan River. The number of local year 1 and 2 Chinook have been a far larger percentage of fish sampled.
- Joe Saysell, Friends of the Cowichan: Bird Cage Creek has been filled in with gravel. He is concerned that if the river goes down, waders will be walking on redds.
- Edmond Duggan: Paddlers are raising money to discover the viability of a paddle feature near to or further from the weir. They have raised \$2800 of the \$7000 required.
- Elodie Roger: has started working on her own and is available for projects, volunteered for River Day.
- Roger Wiles. Cowichan Land Trust: CLT is in the process of expanding forest protection covenants on private lands for the purposes of carbon sequestration.
- Pam Jorgenson, Mosaic staff: informed about traffic delays near Hill 60, Exeter Creek. There is small block logging, making sure there are no impacts on water quality. Heli work is being done near Hill 60. Tour opportunities will be available to showcase techniques. Hydro was doing work there, rot patches need to be removed and the trees were greening up, so they didn't leave any trees in front of the logged area. Will provide volunteers on River Day.
- Ian Douglas. DFO Community Advisor: Salmon in the classroom program ongoing. Mentioned the presence of released invasive fish species. Steelhead fish tagging has been tricky due to COVID.
- Ian Morrison. CCRD Director: talked about a grant in aid for paddlers near weir. Even with Covid challenges the Cowichan River is a destination for tourists. Greendale- some land is being transferred to the CVRD to enhance and protect Little Beach.

- Alison Nicholson, CVRD Director: was hoping to form a committee of naturalists to educate staff, but staff don't have the time to take part.
- Jane Kilthei, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre (CENC): In the final year of Eco-Action Grant, young people will be working to restore Cowichan and Koksilah rivers. There will be a drip irrigation workshop on March 27 at Bright Angel Park. There will be a workshop with Dave Polster on April 1 and 2 on live staking and natural techniques used in restoration. CENC is hosting an online learn about the Cowichan Watershed camp for children. Genevieve will provide lamprey education as part of this. School programs will continue after March break.
- Stephanie Cottell (CLT): is wrapping up projects and moving on to covenants. The live staking event at Bings Creek with Genevieve and Dave with a high school class was very successful. Jane helped with busing.
- Heather Pritchard, Cowichan Watershed Board: spoke about a project looking into the health of the Riparian on Koksilah and Chemainus. Focus on measuring health of riparian for fish habitat and culturally significant plants. Looking for and beginning work, asking permission from private owners on the rivers.
- Cole Smith, Sonia Furstenau, MLA, assistant, has been busy reaching out to help those opposing anchorages. Working on ancient forest ecosystem issues. Sonia's priorities are to have most at risk ecosystems protected.
- Joe Saysell, retired fishing guide and Friends of Cowichan, Very concerned about the extensive logging of 2<sup>nd</sup> growth and its effects on the river.
- Peter Woods, BC Parks: The Cowichan Valley is a dynamic and busy area. As river manager, he reached out for reports on the river and is grateful for the response organized by Genevieve. The report will be sent to CSRT.
- Bruce Coates, Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society: talked about the Climate Action and Energy Plan. There is so much other work to do, so it's frustrating not to be able to do more on this file. Work on CVRD trails is currently contracted out of Victoria. He would like input about things that are worth saving, particularly native pollinators and native plants.
- Sarah Davies Long: The Koksilah Watershed Working Group is ready to plant pollinator plants. She would like the Chemainus and Koksilah watershed groups to work together on common issues.
- Genevieve Singleton, Future CSRT Meetings: Cutthroat Trout speakers at April meeting. Heather Pritchard will present in May. The Lamprey Project is now being funded by Save Our Holmes' Lush grant. Genevieve is actively looking for employment leading nature programmes, etc.

**Presentation by Molly Hudson and David Belazny from Mosaic Forest Management: Managing Forest Sustainability in the Cowichan Valley, presentation**

**Chat notes from the Zoom presentation:**

"Cut and paste from Chat box during Mosaic presentation - March 18 2021 CSRT

---

From Ian Morrison to Everyone: 11:32 AM

fuel load and wildfire mitigation measures?

From bjuurlink to Everyone: 11:33 AM

On January 2, 2021 the Koksilah River at Burnt Bridge had a lot of sediment in it. Where is this sediment coming from?

From Tracy Fleming to Everyone: 11:34 AM

Ortho image of grove and cut block area shows that there are older forests more extensive in that area mostly along the south side of the Koksilah R. Can Mosaic set those areas aside for riparian protection and carbon storage?

From bjuurlink to Everyone: 11:36 AM

I read an interesting article in Science News yesterday on stream restoration where stones and logs were introduced into streams to slow water flow in the winter thereby allowing more water to enter the ground thus allowing slow release during the dry season. The introduction of beavers also promoted ground water retention in the winter allowing slow release during the dry season. Is Mosaic looking into such approaches to promote more stream flow into the Koksilah River during the summer?

From Alison Nicholson to Everyone: 11:39 AM

within a whole watershed are you looking at the on-stream optimal mix of old forests and other age classes to carbon sequestration?

From Warrick to Everyone: 11:42 AM

Planning the Forestry blocks I did not see any notation of talking to the local communities in the steps you take.

Can you explain the BC Government ownership of the BC Investment Company?

From bjuurlink to Everyone: 11:46 AM

What about the use of nature's engineers - the beaver to promote wetland formation?

From Roger Wiles to Everyone: 11:47 AM

What does the price of carbon have to be in order for Mosaic to shift away from harvesting?

From Jill Thompson to Everyone: 11:50 AM

Thank you, David, for the carbon project detail. I'm not sure if I missed it but can you clarify what happens after 100 years? If it's logged at that point is that considered a carbon 'cost' and does Mosaic pay back the credit or is it like a 'rent' that expires? Overall, can you clarify whether the carbon credit system result in a greater % of the land base being in 120yr+ age bracket at all times even if it moves around? If so, is there a consideration of wildlife use of older forests and how they adjust to that movement?

From Rick to Everyone: 11:54 AM

The question about possibly introducing woody debris into rivers to slow water release has major implications for safety in navigability. Comment, please.

From Jane Kiltnei (she/her) to Everyone: 11:56 AM

Forests remained intact for thousands of years with Indigenous cultures without disrupting the ecosystem, also supported by evidence of Indigenous controlled burning practices. The recent "Intact Forests, Safe Communities" report authored by Peter Wood, looking at the combined climate and ecological crisis in BC, says that despite much improved forestry practices, a paradigm shift to keep more trees standing and allow them to get much older is required to limit the increasing impacts of climate change. The report recommends adopting selective logging practices, ending clear-cut logging and incorporating Indigenous cultural forestry practices to effectively address the climate crisis. Can you speak to the recommendations about integrating Indigenous cultural forestry practices?

From Bruce Coates to Everyone: 11:56 AM

I understand that logging sequesters the carbon in product, but then there is no capture in the tiny trees. Old growth sequesters carbon, but doesn't capture much. What is the optimum age for capture? Is there a curve?

From Sarah D.L. to Everyone: 11:56 AM

Information sharing is so important to making the right decisions in future land use planning not mention the effects of lowered anxiety, the fear of the unknown is very real. You mentioned that this can happen when the doors are opened in the right way. As a member of the Koksilah working group we have reached out several time over the last few year to collaborate and share data in a formal manor but have not received much interest back from Mosaic. What would be the right way to open door to technical information sharing in the planning of future land use in the Koksilah watershed?

From Warrick to Everyone: 11:59 AM

Will Mosaic work with the Cowichan Valley to set aside the Koksilah River Ancient Forest as a natural area protecting the many watershed areas in a natural state

From Erik Piikkila to Everyone: 12:00 PM

Old Growth trees that are larger store more carbon in so called maintenance mode than younger and smaller and faster growing trees. Fastest growth occurs in trees from Age 0 - Age 40.

From david.belezney@mosaicforests.com to Everyone: 12:01 PM

That's right Erik. In that 40-50 max amount of carbon being stored in the trees

Thinning on a Big Scale could have many benefits!!

From Jane Kiltnei (she/her) to Everyone: 12:07 PM

Thanks Molly re: info about the thinning crew. great news.

From Tracy Fleming to Everyone: 12:08 PM

need to balance sequestration and emissions. It is a complicated equation.

From Erik Piikkila to Everyone: 12:09 PM

David mentioned setting up more hydrology stations to collect long term data. There is lots of long-term data that has been forgotten in the Carnation Creek area that was established in 1969.

From Bruce Coates to Everyone: 12:13 PM

I wish I or someone had asked about biodiversity in "blocks" How are species of all sorts surviving or being encouraged to survive in monocultures of age class and species types.

What about the Cascara

From Steph Cottell to Everyone: 12:18 PM

Just a thought to leave on, what might be the potential influence of pension fund shareholders if they encouraged Mosaic to focus more on these more ecologically-minded practices that you are moving towards?

From Bruce Coates to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Thanks so much Molly and David. I hope you keep up the conversation and collaboration with the people and species that call this forest home!

From Karen Deck to Everyone: 12:20 PM

Pension fund shareholders are stuck between a rock and a hard place.

From Tracy Fleming to Everyone: 12:20 PM

thanks Dave and Molly

From Erik Piikkila to Everyone: 12:21 PM

Eastern Vancouver Island: Cowichan Valley and Sayward Forest near Campbell River were major centers of Thinning Operations.

From Steph Cottell to Everyone: 12:21 PM

Thanks so much for taking the time to share with us.

Molly – Koksilah River Ancient Forest question from Warrick – yes is the answer – 100 years through the carbon project= will be set aside for 100 years contributing to the carbon equation. Will be internally managing it for a carbon reserve. As David said it might be longer than 100 years but we don't know that yet.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August. Upcoming meetings: April 15, Staff from Ministry of FLNRORD "Cowichan Lake Cutthroat Trout. May 20, Heather Pritchard, CVRD "Protecting Land in the Cowichan Valley. A look at tools and approaches." Further meetings to be announced.