

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES

DATE: Thursday, June 18, 2020: 9am to 11:30 pm Zoom meeting, invite sent with agenda email

www.cowichanstewardship.ca questions write to co-chairs at cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

We will be meeting on the lands of Coast Salish peoples. Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave Zoom meeting whenever is necessary. Sorry, you will have to do your own coffee and treats this time!!

The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner at all times. Please note the Agenda timing is approximate only!

Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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. Genevieve spoke about how the Black Lives Matter movement has renewed her desire to broaden the diversity of voices at CSRT, while noting that CSRT has been co-governed by Cowichan Tribes since its inception. ● Appreciation to Tom Rutherford of CWB for hosting our meeting. Tom expressed his desire to be able to meet with people again and spend more time in the places that he's passionate about rather than spend entire days in front of the computer. Tom outlined a short history of CSRT. It began in 2003, the first year of a significant drought. Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the mill, Cowichan Tribes and the mill's union were unable to resolve the mill closure dispute that ensued, resulting in all parties engaging legal representation. The formation of the CSRT, starting in a parking lot discussion about better ways to resolve the conflict, also spawned the Cowichan Watershed Board. ● Regrets: none ● Attendance: Genevieve Singleton: Co-chair CSRT, Parker Jefferson: One Cowichan, Co-Chair CSRT, Tom Rutherford: CWB, John Lofto, Joanna Vera-Florez: Environmental Stewardship and Land-Based Program at Cowichan High School, Rick Bryan: Paddle Sport Community, Stephanie Cottell: Cowichan Land Trust, Salmon Enhancement Advisory Board, Ian Morrison: CVRD, Christine Rikley: BC Parks, Joe Saysell: Friends of the Cowichan Eric Marshall: President CVN, previously DFO in Winnipeg, Barry Hetschko: SMWS, CVN, David Belezny: Mosaic, Keith Lawrence: CVRD Environmental Services, Richard Lake: Sydney Anglers,

	<p>Edmond Duggan: recreation paddlers, Bruce Coates: CVNS, review of management of North Cowichan forests, Melissa Nottingham: Community Advisor, Salmon Enhancement, Erik Piikkila: Forest and Watershed Ecologist, Jacqueline Ronson: The Discourse, Kevin Pellet: DFO, Cheri Ayers: First Nations Coastal Restoration Project, Zachary Fisher: SFU Education student, interested in place based learning, Peter Bey: Sydney Anglers, Sandy Cummings: CLRSS, Karen Deck, Jim Deck: Save Our Holmes Society</p>
<p>9:10-9:20 CSRT Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Karen Deck for taking last month's notes and today's notes. • Update re website: Emma Robson • Payment for Website: Thank you to Pam Jorgenson of Mosiac Forests organizing Mosiac to kindly pay for this. Gratitude to Joe Saysell and Cowichan Watershed Board for also offering if needed. • Terms of Reference held over till in person meeting. The annual July field day will be postponed until August 20. Stoltz and Bright Angel Parks were discussed at venues; the largest one available would be optimum to allow for physical distancing. Christine said that BC Parks are opening. Stoltz is open for volunteer events for numbers under 50. Attendees were asked to contribute ideas for fall speakers. There will be no river clean up this year.
<p>9:20-10:15</p>	<p>Round the Table: Everyone introduces themselves with name and affiliation, if any.</p> <p>Parker Jefferson: There is still no fry rescue going on in the tributaries, they are making their own way down to the lake</p> <p>Tom Rutherford: Weir update: Engineering has been on site since June 9. Geotechnical drilling begins week of June 22. There have been 5 proposals to do the shoreline assessments, 3 interviews have been done and a decision will be made end of June 22 week. Information can be found at www.cowichanwup.ca. On Tuesday, June 16, Alison Nicholson Area F Director chaired a meeting scoping a process on long and short term water sustainability plans for the Koksilah, under the Water Sustainability Act. Cowichan Tribes and FLNRORD will also be working on this plan next month.</p> <p>Erik Piikkila: He is connecting with Fresh Water Alliance, projects in Grand Forks and a virtual hike with Save Our Holmes.</p>

Christine Rikley: John King has taken on Don DellaVedova's Park Ranger role. Herb Stark is overseeing firewood. BC Parks are opening, with enhanced cleaning. Some facilities are closed; all high touch and traffic areas are closed as are high level visitation sites like hot springs, Cathedral Grove. Areas close to indigenous communities are closed due to the possibility of COVID spreading to the community. Volunteer groups can meet in parks as long as physical distancing and safety rules are followed. There is a lot of work being done to clean up the vandalism, theft, tree damage during the closure. Student rangers are back in the Carmanah and will be working in other areas. Volunteer groups may now apply for small grants for conservation projects in parks.

Edmond Duggan: According to a book from the 1970's, Cowichan Tribes were involved with the Canoe and Kayak club, inspiring the club to reach out to them again.

Bruce Coates: Cowichan Valley Naturalists' conservation committee has reached out to CVRD Parks manager Brian Farquhar to help with trail management. The working group for the North Cowichan forest management practices has developed a 12 page information package and discussion guide to provide the public with information before doing the survey. The Forest Advisory Committee will provide information to the councilors.

Eric Marshall: 3 new volunteers have joined Cowichan Valley Naturalists. Averill Creek is running beautifully. A draft pamphlet on Green Streams has been created. It will provide owners on creeks along the Somenos watershed to inform them about riparian enhancement.

John Lofto and Joanna Vera-Florez: John and Joanna both expressed a commitment to the long-term environmental stewardship and land-based program at Lake Cowichan School.

Ian Morrison: CVRD parks are beginning to open, including tennis courts, playgrounds, washrooms. CVRD meetings are being held virtually. There is live streaming to the public to provide access and efforts are being made to make the process more interactive. There is unprecedented use of parks and trails, however there is resistance to provide adequate funding to maintain them. Mayor Peters of Lake Cowichan is on leave. There is lots of activity in riparian zones along the lake front. It is expensive to fight offenders in these areas, but CVRD is determined to do so.

	<p>Joe Saysell: The ministry responded to a letter written by the Friends of the Cowichan regarding an area that was logged in November. The riparian area was destroyed around the creek that joins into Stanley Creek. This area is important because it is fed by cold ground water which is good for fry, so the group will continue to press for restoration. The water height of the river is good; less fry than normal were seen, which means they are making their way down the river. The Lake weir is needed because irresponsible logging has led to less sustained release of water that intact forests provide. A new contractor has been hired for working on the Cowichan Trail and has begun to make the trail safe from the dangerous branches left by the old contractor. Joe spoke about an incident that Dr. Augereau had read about: a cyclist had fallen off her bike and was speared by a branch that had been trimmed in the same fashion as the trees along the Great Trail.</p> <p>Karen Deck: The CVRD has provided an updated hazard report. In contrast to the 2019 report which outlined areas of severe risk of slides, which would increase due to climate change and clear-cut logging, the new report doesn't address either of those two factors. Over all, the slide risk is now deemed to be far less severe. We have written for clarification from the CVRD.</p>
10:15-10:25	Break
10:25 - 11:45	Kevin Pellett, South Coast Stock Assessment, DFO, <u>Annual Update on Cowichan Chinook</u>
10:50-11:30	Keith Lawrence, CVRD Environmental Services Division, <u>Update on Drinking Water and Water Protection Plan</u>
11:30	We plan to end at 11:30.

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

Upcoming meetings: No meeting on July 16, Field day cancelled for August 20. Thursday, Sept. 17, Zoom. Speakers: Jane Kilthei, of the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre will be speaking with an update of the Ecoaction Project. Also, Erin Gertzen, team lead of Freshwater Species at Risk, of Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be speaking on the newly gazetted threatened Cowichan Lamprey.

It is expected that all meetings will be by Zoom for the rest of the calendar year.