



MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Paul Rickard at 9 am.

In attendance

Meg Loop & Kai Rietzel (CLT), Tom Rutherford (DFO), Keith Lawrence, Lori Iannidinardo, Klaus Kuhn, Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi (CVRD), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Dave Preikshot (Madrone), Ray Demarci, Goetz Schuerholz (CERCA), Grant MacPherson & Clive Lane (SAA), Claude Theriault & Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers), Rodger Hunget (CWB), Diana Gunderson & Leroy Van Wieren (CLRSS), Rob James & Al Moore (Western Stevedoring), Todd Carnahan (HAT), Elizabeth Bailey (SMWS), Paul Rickard & Ted Brookman (BCWF), Don Closson (BC parks), Cheri Ayers (Cowichan Tribes/ DFO), Carol Hartwig (CVNS), Guy Johnston (Fisherman's Wharf), Shaun Chadburn (North Cowichan), Dave Lindsay (Timberwest), Chris Morley (Friends of the Cowichan)

Regrets: Derek Haupt, Genevieve Singleton,

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December meeting were circulated and approved.

Roundtable updates

Keith Lawrence - Discussing regional water governance, going to local municipalities. Reporting to task force, potentially steering committee for a regional water entity (13 watershed groups we have in the region). Cowichan/ Koksilah, MoE putting together report for the water sampling program. Putting together the Yellow Point watershed sample, hydrological functioning modeling. Fish in Dougan Lake were being caught with lesions; the Freshwater Fishery staff will test the fish. If fish are caught in any other system, especially trout, they will test.

Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi - Central Sector Liquid Waste Plan Amendment, South Sector Liquid Waste Plan Amendment.

Parker Jefferson - Still several hundred if not thousand coho spawning in the River with trout behind eating the eggs. Two locations on the river by Parker's house, 5 - 6 drift boats going stoltz to skutz every day. Local enforcement needed as there is poaching (report to Provincial for the steelhead).

Dave Preikshot - Summer habitat for coho and steelhead within the Somenos system.

Goetz Schueholz - Shortly after the new year started the herring recover project, with funding from Sidney Anglers. First trial on Fisherman's wharf, wrapped 23 poles. Start monitoring by the end of the month, may have to use scuba to monitor due to challenging winter tides. Still waiting for permit approval from FLNRO, ready to go ahead if approval comes in time. Working with Pacific Industrial Marine. Clean up and rehabilitation of Salt marsh on Mariner's Island. Had a productive meeting with WFP, they will provide in-kind services, removing logs by excavator to yard the logs and then bring them over with a grapple yarder. Elizabeth Bailey - Wetland Creation Project on Beverly St on North Cowichan land. Build a wetland to treat stormwater coming from the street currently as ditches. Potential for up to 10 wetland ponds and 3 creek restorations. Tom Bebighauser visit. North Cowichan exited for the project as well.

Lori Iannidinardo - 3rd reading on Marine Zoning By-law. Lot of concern about anchorage of freighters. Vessel Operated Restricted Operations has passed, took us 3 years. Safe navigational channel, how do we pay for the bouys. Local Harbour Authority or Coast Guard they have to witness the violation (ie the bilge water, proper permit in place).

Tom Rutherford - Resource Restoration Crew (engineer, biologist, etc) work all over the Island on restoration work. No budget within DFO to look after fish ways, so this small work team is thinking to take on. First is to take inventory of all the fish ways in the region. These things have been built over the past 70 years, so first step is to find and document them all. Try to come up with a plan so people are looking at fishways, especially the one at the weir, is it functioning for fry and adults at all times of year? Some concern that coho smolts are unable to get up to rear in the lake, and some fish ways totally clogged with gravel. David Groves proposal unfed chinook put into the Somenos system, production planning discussion and that idea is being brought forward.

Kai Rietzel - Tom Bebighauser visit and tour. Started in the AM at the Quamichan wetlands built in 2012 and additional series built summer 2014. Looking at the entire watershed with shale build up from the clearing up the mountain heavily impacting Aiken creek. Art Mann Park potential getting a dock for the many user groups. Nobody is catching any fish from Quamichan, last year was phenomenal fishing.

Diana Gunderson - Technical report Peter Wa from Shoreline Stewardship Project is almost done. Planning meeting for year 2 of shoreline project, tentatively putting in plant orders, funding applications.

Traci Flemming - Road into Stoney Hill, coordinating the archaeological investigation out there, attending political meetings at North Cowichan. CT is not going to oppose new road, conditional to not changing zoning for beaches so now docks are built.

Dave Lindsey - Continuing to support the Water Governance Study, Beaver Lake Dam is continuing to go on. An agreement to sign with Beaver Lake resorts and should allow the BC government to roll over the water license to the resort. Somenos Lake process ongoing to transfer ownership to the nature Trust and the help of Ducks Unlimited, quite a title transfer process. Snow Pillow Installation, getting an agreement with the CVRD. Broadway Run rehab program has changed gears, note from Craig Whiteman the habitat rehab will be more of a biological stabilization project with live staking.

Ted Brookman - DU monitoring properly, sign in books can't go on DU property without signing in. BCCF, looking at doing funding for the Shaw Creek Park. Meeting at some point with DFO to habitat restoration. Poaching on the Cowichan, if you observe something phone the RAPP Line. Have to phone the line or they don't do anything. Serious Resident Canada Goose problem within BC, the only way to deal with it is to hunt them (addling is dangerous and difficult as they'll lay 3 clutches). Serious problem, Parksville spends \$75,000 on a vacuum to suck the poop from the school fields.

Carol Hartwig - Very Successful Christmas Bird Count, results can be emailed. This Sunday had the monthly BC Coastal Water bird Survey on both sides of the estuary. 18 species on the North Side, just over 380 birds on the North Side.

Guy Johnson - Fishermans wharf helped with the herring pole wrapping. If there is other work that needs help, let them know. Likely to have spawning happening in March.

Cheri Ayers - Cowichan Chinook Initiative, official invitation letters to establish shorter termed advisory committee 4 different volumes of material that will result out of the initial phase from that project. Putting together funding applications to continue DNA fall run in addition to the early run of chinook, as well as a project in the upper watershed to trap and DNA juveniles. Aboriginal fund for species at risk, Sidney Anglers, to the PSF community program. Big referral around the upgrade of the Fisherman's Wharf, one of the key is looking at Kil-Pal-Is beach, looking at the change and the causation of that change. Then looking at long term what are ways to restore and stabilize the beach.

Don Closson - Washout in Carmanah Wallbran access, now repaired and open. Sometime in March, BC Parks and MoE will be hosting a knotweed management workshop in Nanaimo, open for interested parties.

Broadway Run has changed from a very large project to stop the fines from entering the river, to a bioengineering project. BCCF, Cowichan Tribes, Dave Polster, to look at the site to see what can be done in the short term (live staking). Has to be completed by March 31. Roughly 4000 cottonwood, red- osier, and willow cuttings helicoptered in while labour walks in.

Paul Rickard - Broadway Run, will send photos of raw exposed slope. Craig is trying to pursue funding to work on it. PSF sent out note that they are open for applications, deadline is mid-Feb, should have a reasonable amount of money available. The key to PSF is reporting back on projects and how you spent their money previously. High priorities, what is the volunteer contribution? What other leveraging are you picking up to match?

-> ACTION ITEM. Roundtable write a letter of support for Cheri Ayers in support of the DNA testing of early run chinook.

Business

Somenos Watershed Salmonid – Dave Preikshot

See presentation.

- what are the dominant areas that are important survival areas for juveniles in regards to temperature
- Groundwater flow makes the river habitable during the hot summer temps from the lake. If we raise the weir, that is more hot water from the surface. How do we have colder water enter the river, not cook it further.
- How is habitat made up within the Cowichan in regards to temperature?

Questions:

- Datalogger attached to radiotelemetry, how often are the early run chinook exposed to high temperatures that would affect the maturation of eggs within body and out. Groundwater inclusion, there is a point when the flow starts to pick up in the fall (used to be late Sept, now it's until the end of Oct), the flow of water then overwhelms the groundwater signature. In the summer, could put in a bunch of loggers every km, and build a map of the surface lake water interacts with the groundwater. Pinpoint high reward habitat areas.
- Tom Rutherford. With respect to coho densities, up to 10 years ago the density of coho fry was the highest in the Richards Creek system. Perhaps an over subscription of the number of fry being born and the carrying capacity of the creek. Extensive g-trapping done by CVNS and Somenos winter habitat data. Identified cold water refugia in the upper Cowichan, there are data loggers in those areas now.
- Nutrients have increased the bacteria and algae (blue green algae provides food that is not useful for fish), as this algae dies it gets eaten by other bacteria that uses up all the oxygen. Oxygen levels in the Somenos Lake were nearly zero through the whole column.

Watershed Board Update – Rodger Hunter

Priority #1 for this year is the weir. Work to continue on the water quality, support on riparian work happening within the valley.

Flows working group did a great job working through the summer. Could get involved with the chinook issue. We have a short term issue and a long term issue to ensure enough water flow through the spring and summer. Feel like should have a lake specific tour as there is a lot to highlight and praise the great community. 6 videos of water woman and her origin story and struggle against her brother, Leaky Hoser. Speaker series begins next Wednesday talking about birds.

Water Quality. The Bay still has "right to poop" issue. A farmer is investing in a Bed Master which will reduce manure by 25% and bring the field load to more manageable for his acreage.

Central Sector Liquid Waste Plan – Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi

Liquid plan is from 1998/95, requirement to update every 5- 10 years. Key part is the central sewage treatment plan (JUB) and the outfall currently in the River, includes stormwater management and non-point pollution. First priority is to move the outfall.

The plan:

We will undertake study and pre-design to evaluate routing options. Doesn't say we will move. Will be spending a lot of time involving stakeholder and public meetings for support prior to any decision. The Plan is under the CVRD and CVRD staff is working on the project. Lease land from Cowichan Tribes, run by City of Duncan and North Cowichan. Public and technical committee has people with technical backgrounds and advice on how to consult with the public and reach all needed groups

Substantial impact assessment work:

The project won't be allowed to move forward without demonstrating level of work regard the impacts of the project. Legal obligation to CT, JUB signed a lease with them for 49 years (began in 2011) stipulated to take all reasonable measures possible to move outfall by 2021. Environmentally, water flows are less predictable and may not be able to meet dilution levels. Once this amendment is finished, follow immediately by a non-point pollution and storm water.

Options:

- Irrigation: use effluent, difficulty to store water in many months when cannot irrigate. ex) City of Vernon
- Discharge to ground: We are in very settled areas with many wells, unable to safely discharge to ground.
- Discharge to Other surface water: what is "no go" options in the area. Quamichan and Somenos identified as no go, discharge would still be within the system. Cowichan Bay was presented as an option but requires more information. Satellite channel was deemed as appropriate. Right now investigating community support for outflow.
- Catalyst suggested, would have to bring effluent up to drinking water standard and volume is minimal.

This is the first of many conversations with the roundtable in this process. What information would the roundtable like to see at future meetings? Are there any other locations within satellite channel that need to be protected?

- Timeline. Funding of this massive scale project. Federal Infrastructure Grant for Small Communities with a deadline of Feb 18th. Working with North Cowichan, so we need to get far enough in this process to be able to make this application. Hope to have this phase of the process completed by June.
- The engineering consultant to investigate the technology that is known or emerging in regards to pharmaceuticals and their treatment.
- Shellfish industry, prawning and crabbing recreationally and commercially. Heavy metals?
- Was there a cost analysis to tertiary treatment to raise it to drinking water standard versus moving it out to the marine environment? What would it cost to upgrade the treatment to drinking water quality?

Next Meeting

Feb 19th, 2014.

DRAFT