



MINUTES

DATE: 19th January 2017.

Present: Eric Marshall (CVNS), Kerry Davis (CVRD), Dale Desroches (DFO), Goetz Schuerholtz (CERCA), Jock Hildebrand (CERCA), Wilf Luedke (DFO), Chris Steeger (Amec & CLRSS), Diane Gunderson (CLRSS), Leroy Van Wieren (CLRSS) Jill Thompson (CWB) Claude Theriault (Sidney Anglers), Loren Duncan (River resident), Bruce Fraser (Shawnigan Basic Society), Paul Rickard, Brian Tutty, Rob James (Western Stevdoring), Ken Clement (Sidney Anglers), Alison Nicholson (CVRD & CSAA) Alistair MacGregor (MP) Seamus Wolfe (MP's Office), Ray Demarchi, Ted Brookman (BCWF), Ian Morrison (CVRD), Tim Kulchyski (Tribes), Cheri Ayers (Consultant), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Genevieve Singleton (Nature Interpreter), Tom Rutherford (CWB), Chantal Nessman (DFO), Lori Iannidinardo (CVRD).

Apologies: Elizabeth Bailey, Barry Heschko, Rosalie Saury

9:00 Meeting called to order by Parker Jefferson who provided welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory

Any changes to the minutes? None. Thanks to Don Closson of BC Parks for Jan. minute taking

Who is taking upcoming minutes? February: Tom Rutherford (CWB), March: Leroy Van Wieren (CLSSR)

Business

9:20 Round the table, check-ins and update

BC Parks: Don Closson

- Nothing to report

BC Wild Life Federation: Ted Brookman,

- Integrated fisheries management work is on going
- Answering phone calls about rumours from DFO about salmon

Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association: Goetz Schuerholtz

- Introduced the book by Geoff Strong: Convenient Mistruths; a novel of intrigue, danger and global warming.
- Happy to work with Bruce Fraser on climate change issues – has recently read a paper written by Bruce and recommend it be read
- Reporting on work with community risk network
- Working on a three dimensional model (drone) interactive model of the estuary to serve as a base map as the atlas; 1st map will be a habitat map with help from Ducks Unlimited, benthic mud flats; 2nd blue carbon assessment in association with SFU concentrating on salt marches, and would like to focus on mudflats with support from UVIC and have an intern who will help; all work will be geo referenced with a strong atlas

- Symposium on climate change on March 31st scheduled here in Duncan and have been very successful getting speakers with a theme of how it impacts the economy
- Nature trail that they have been working on is on a tight time line (no work during bird nesting season) and has been challenged by Western Stevedoring and activity is suspended.
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Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society: Diana Gunderson, Jean Atkinson, Leroy Van Wieren,

- Doing their reports for 2016
- Working on finding new sites for restoration in 2017
- Should they become a charitable organization? Change their society status?
- Met with CVRD and has scheduled a meeting Feb. 6 at Country Grocers Lake Cowichan - Watershed Alternative Approval Process (an alternative to referendum)

Cowichan Tribes: Tim Kulchyski

- Funding from PSF approved – beach seine for trout work – predation study in upper river
- Chinook fry work in the upper tributaries and looking for chinook fry
- Tracy working with province for funds for chinook fry in the Estuary – may be more at next meeting

Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society: Eric Marshall

- The swan and goose count made yesterday showed higher numbers of trumpeter swans than at the end of 2016 – over 500. The number of Canada geese was down to 815 compared with over 1000. Among the raptors sighted was a gyrfalcon – quite a rare bird in these parts. Our January count of birds in Cowichan Bay show an increase in duck numbers – mostly bufflehead and widgeon – the unusual thing was that a larger number was seen on the south side of the Bay – usually the number is higher on the north side but hunting activity was noted on the north side by Blackey's farm. Our Christmas Bird Count took place on January 1st with 37 people taking part. 20,483 birds were counted of 112 species. Bohemian waxwing, northern mockingbird, American tree sparrow and palm warbler were rare species seen.
- Ray Demarchi thinks that hunting did not disperse the ducks; it is the availability of food. Shorebirds eat bio-film which is a recent understanding

Cowichan Valley Regional District Area A: Kerry Davis

- Shawnigan Lake dumping has gone to the Supreme Court of Canada for appeal
- Waiting on the Shawnigan Lake residents court challenge

Cowichan Valley Regional District Area D: Lori Iannidinaro

- Has been hearing the same frustration year after year, now may be able to advance the issues now as an MLA (if elected).
- Two fish boats went down in the Cowichan Estuary
- Broadway farm drainage cut off and needs reconnection

Cowichan Valley Regional District Area E: Alison Nicholson

- Working with the community of Cowichan Station to do some work around the Koksilah River and do a condition assessment – needing to raise money to hire a specialist to conduct the work
- Toured Herb Hammond around the Koksilah Watershed

Cowichan Valley Regional District Area F: Ian Morrison

- Committee assignment to the Cowichan Watershed Board
- There appears to be an organized "information misinformation" efforts about water storage at the lake – will engage with CVRD towards information sessions around what is happening regarding the potential for more water storage (weir) summer water storage
- One Cowichan supporting this effort

Cowichan Watershed Board: Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson

- Apologizes for the lack of attendance of WB personnel
- 5 working groups (fish & flows, estuary, education, water conservation, riparian)
- How can this type of model achieve sustainable funding (working with provincial resources) on going work

- Not sure they will be granted the “provincial model approval” for community sustainable watershed management
- Watershed Board work ongoing
- Will have more to report in the near future

DFO: Chantal Nessman /Dale Desroches

- Recent announcement of the DFO funding opportunity
- Every two years the salmon enhancement forum is being held in Quesnel and should be interesting and everyone welcome to attend
- Received notification Dec 15 about the Cowichan Lamprey and impacts for habitat
- Very good salmon returns this year going back to the 2013 ocean changed conditions
- River productivity in the Cowichan seems to be improving partly as a result of the effort of the CSRT and Watershed Board
- DFO wants to replicate Cowichan Roundtable throughout the country and certainly the province
- Dale Derouches introduced himself and expressed his interest to work with CSRT

Federal MP Office, Alistair McGregor, Seamus Wolfe

- Happy with the support from his assistant on water and valley issues.
- Acknowledged the petitions sent to Ottawa and also will petition the current government for action water storage and valley issues

Nature Interpreter: Genevieve Singleton

- Herb Hammond engaged with the Koksilah Watershed
- Feeling frustrated that the Koksilah watershed was been forgotten but brought this project forward
- Amazing day in the field with Herb Hammond Jan 18, toured the watershed
- Gathering of CT Elders to talk about values

One Cowichan: Parker Jefferson

- Holding a campaign of public engagement coming up to the provincial election, not supporting any particular party but encouraging the need to get out the vote
- Partner with CVRD to bring about a forum to determine what should be included in the AARP

Sidney Anglers: Ken Clements, Claude Theirault

- Still have some money available for work in and around the area, please let them know if you have a need for funding for projects (access via their web-site)

Shawnigan Basin Society: Bruce Fraser

- Need for restoration – engaged with the CVRD on Climate change – UVIC using global models on the Cowichan and see what has happened and forecasting 2050 and 2080 and the dramatic impacts – need a public take away on how it impacts the various segments of society (agriculture, forestry etc) Kate Miller of the CVRD will provide more possibly

Western Stevedoring: Rob James, Alan Moore

- The WS president will be speaking at the Roundtable next month

Citizen Champions:

Cheri Ayers

- Southern BC Chinook Plan – would like to provide a draft
- Working for Cowichan Tribes on flow rates and information for CT and Catalyst – Excel Spread sheet for drought and flood info
- Critical Habitat project for Chinook

Lorne Duncan

- Watching the dialogue around the weir at Cowichan Lake
- Feels there may be some traction as per the interest of CVRD, fish needs, climate issues, Catalyst’s water supply, pumping may become a permanent features
- Need to change the term water storage to “reservoir” for valley needs How do we start the dialogue?

Ray Demarchi

- Raya and Carol are not moving away.
- Witnessed some interesting bird movement, primarily diving ducks, probably eating salmon eggs. Eelgrass appears to be having a tough time getting established on north side of estuary
- Dabbling ducks were prominent and now we have diving ducks
- Need another breach of the causeway
- Dinsdale farm concern, feels he needs more support from the group, witnessed very few waterfowl using the property, no reaction to farmer spraying roundup on the farm land

Brian Tutty

- Reintroduced himself and gave some background on the need for water storage in the valley
- Believes that the work at the roundtable is changing the way communities are doing business in the province
- Recounted the effort to stop the amount of silt coming from Stoltz Bluff into the river and how this may be responsible for the increased return of salmon species

Paul Rickard

- Keeping in touch behind the scenes in and around the valley
- Writing a document around the history of sport fishing on Cowichan and the economic impacts
- Also feels that the Dinsdale farm is not serving the community very well – amazed by the lack of reaction from the community

Chris Steeger (new to the valley)

- Habitat research biologist
- Works for Amack Foster Wheeler
- Joined the Watershed Boards riparian working group
- Member of the Cowichan Lake and River SC

10:30 break

10:40 Cheri Ayers and Wilf Luedke, DFO, Cowichan Watershed Health and Chinook

- Handout provided (may wish to attach to the this)

11:40

- payment of website, hat was passed around to seek donations to cover cost of web-site improvements and to reimburse Meg Loop, since the fee was charged to her Visa account. Genevieve will look after this.
- insurance questions from Freshwater fisheries (deferred to next meeting)
- update on 150 Heritage River Celebration, Genevieve provided update: Date of Sept. 30 selected possibly 12:00 or 13:00 to 16:00, same days as National Rivers Day, Planning possibly includes: having local community relevant booths, First Nations dancers, local artists demonstrations, lunch provided, CVRD provide "Green Theme", opportunities to discover nature and the river
- discussion on Terms of Reference, This was broached at the meeting but insufficient time to hear all the thoughts that needed to be shared, suggestion from Tom Rutherford to table at a future meeting where appropriate time and effort can be dedicated to the discussion (possibly March or April).

12:00 end promptly

Upcoming meetings:

Upcoming speakers/agenda items:

1. Feb. 16, 2017 Brad Eschleman of Western Stevedore talking about rezoning application for their property and Brian Corruthers and Kate Miller, CVRD speaking on Cowichan Watershed Alternative Approval Process (an alternative to referendum)
2. Insurance questions from Freshwater fisheries, terms of reference

March meeting:

1. March 16, 2017 Kevin Pellett, BCCF updates on PIT tagging

Our meetings are always the third Thursday of the month, with the possible exception of August. Until further notice meetings are at the old Freshwater Eco-centre.

Next Meeting

February 16, 2017, 9 to 12 am