

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 9am-noon @ the Old Freshwater Ecocentre

Minutes by Jill Thompson and Eric Marshall

Attending: See last page.

Regrets: Kai Reitzel, Tim Kulchyski, Cheri Ayers, Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi (for Koksilah Watershed Group – see note below), Chris Morley and Joe Saysell (Friends of Cowichan – see note below)

Item	Discussion	Action/Decision
<p>9:00 Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory. Regrets, agenda changes, Attendance list to be circulated. Approval of Minutes</p>		
<p>9:10 Isabel Rimmer, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association: Environmental Implications of Vancouver Island Motorsport Circuit Proposed Racetrack Extension on Mt Prevost</p>	<p>Dr Isobel Rimmer, spoke about the proposed extension to the car race track on Hwy 18. Speaking on behalf of the Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association she circulated a leaflet they have prepared and a copy of the proposal.</p> <p>The existing track (46 acres) makes so much noise that the cars can be heard from many miles away. The new proposed Phase II (225 acres) would go up the slopes of Mount Prevost which will project the noise even more.</p> <p>Environmental implications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - mud from off-road track entering streams (winter) - proposed track extension would cross 2 fish bearing creeks that contribute to Somenos – crosses Menzies 7 times. - noise - climate impacts of gas - 100 cars/day racing - many rubber tires being shredded – where does that go? Particulates? - due to fire hazard, trees will need to be removed <p>She urged that all members prepare to voice opposition to the extension when the rezoning comes before North Cowichan Council. More info on their website. https://www.sahtlamneighbourhoodassociation.com/</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vimy area residents also hear the noise. - Bings Creek supports steelhead - consider ‘hardening of the surfaces’ as another impact 	

	- letters sent outside of the hearing window do not necessarily get considered as part of the hearing so resend during that window if you have written previously.	
9:20 CSRT business:	Next month's minutes – thanks to Don Closson for volunteering	Don Closson to take minutes in October.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request from the chairs to change December meeting date from Dec. 21 to Dec. 14 	Agreed.	December meeting changed to Dec 14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrate our Quw'utsun Cowichan Heritage River Day, Saturday, September 30 update, filling of jobs required, etc. 	Many volunteers needed for set-up and site help.	Contact Genevieve or Parker if you can help.
9:30 Round the table, check-ins and update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ian Morrison: Maclean Rd – 72 hr aquifer pump test Labour Day weekend. Would like FLNRO to improve public consultation for these. Shaw Creek public hearing still not set. Private wells should be registered to make sure yours has "FITFIR" rights Qualified Environmental Professionals – efforts underway to change system so developer pays the fees but CVRD chooses the professional. May improve quality of reports. Catalyst reported that summer was relatively good compared to 2014-16. Holding enough for 7cms until November. Unless we get some heavy rain there is not enough water to release a pulse flow to help salmon move upstream. Seal predation on adult salmon in the Bay is being studied by BCCF. Pit tags are being placed on adult salmon - great collaboration through CSRT led to 54 fish being caught by anglers and tagged and those that cross a counting array upstream will be counted. TimberWest reported that goshawks are doing well on the lands. They are doing trials to control knotweed in the Caycuse area. This is also being controlled in the Koksilah area using repeated cutting every two weeks – after three years it is still growing but with less energy / smaller. SMWS WildWings coming Oct 5- Nov 4. Come out – good for families. Wildwingsfestival.com Removed 30 tonnes yellow flag iris. Studying parrot feather to predict/control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - donate outdoor gear to students in the land-based learning program at Cowichan Secondary – see below from Kelly Dougan. - Support Wild Wings Wildwingsfestival.com - Parks related funding available. Contact Don Closson. - Salmon habitat related funding available. Contact Sidney Anglers Oct 15 open house on marine conservation area in the Salish Sea. RSVP via Alistair MacGregor website.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality monitoring with CWB • Clay Reitsma: North Cowichan will be relocating JUB outfalls. Major \$30mill/4 yr project. Hope to build a trail along Tsouhalem Rd during project to help with pedestrian traffic in collaboration with Cowichan Tribes. • North Cowichan introduced new open burning bylaw – see below from Shaun Chadburn. • Tom Rutherford: Cowichan Watershed Board received a grant of \$200K to make a study on local governance; • Cowichan Tribes and other partners submitted a major Coastal Restoration Fund application that would approach orca recovery with a ‘whole of watershed’ restoration approach. • Critical flows study underway with FLNRO on Koksilah. Could enable the province to restrict water license use during extremely low flows under Water Sustainability Act. • CVRD has climate change information on their website. • Lake storage study underway • CVRD Coop student working on Airshed Comms strategy (see presentation) • CVRD Coop student working on Env Sensitive Areas strategy • Cow High Land Use Program – need outdoor gear for students; would like projects that their 44 students, grade 10-12, can participate in. (See note below) • Genevieve Singleton: Heritage River Day – food for 500, gates open 7am, need volunteers. • Parker Jefferson: reported on the Greendale Road riparian damage. During the river clean-up day photographs were taken on the mess being made and our local fisheries officer was called to view the situation. A stop order was placed and remediation demanded. A large fine may also be imposed. Good to see cooperation between DFO and FLNRO and the town of Lake Cowichan over this matter. • Don Closson and Jessica Lines, BC Parks reported Caycuse Bridge is out; has funding for conservation projects in parks; renos at Gordon Bay underway. • Bob Crandall: Cowichan Lake Salmon Enhancement – removing gravel from Sutton Creek; leading outdoor ed for students. • Cowichan Tribes Fisheries Committee notifies us that there have been reports of a couple of belligerent people from 	
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	<p>another First Nation taking food fish and pulling traps. They are not Cowichan Tribes members. Trying to work it out.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO reported that since the fish fence went in last week 200 adult and 500 jack Chinook have passed through it. Wild Salmon Plan implementation meetings are being held: 19 October in Victoria and 24 October in Nanaimo. • Sidney Anglers – have \$\$ for education and salmon enhancement remaining for the year • Alistair MacGregor’s EA reported that on October 15th at the Ramada Inn there will be a meeting on the marine conservation area in the Salish Sea. RSVP to reserve • Watershed Board will be running a “Capture the Rain” education campaign this winter. • Jane Kiltnei Nature Centre welcomes a new coordinator – Haley Guest from N.S. Funding for partnering on workshops RE adapting to climate change. • Cameron Hepp: The Land Trust will hold its AGM on 27th September in the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre. • Following the CSRT meeting today a group met to sort out details of the Heritage River Day on September 30th. 	
10:30 Break		
10:40 Keith Lawrence, Senior Environmental Analyst, Environmental Services, CVRD, and Earle Plain, air quality meteorologist, Ministry of Environment: “Cowichan’s Regional Airshed Protection Strategy”	<p>The main presentation was on air quality. Dr Shannon Waters, Earl Plain & Keith Lawrence made the presentation. The medical impacts of poor air quality include breathing difficulties and heart problems. There is a high proportion of admissions to the Cowichan Hospital related to air quality caused problems. BCairquality.ca gives data across the province. Since 2014 a small increase in air quality has been noted locally. Air quality is worse in winter when many wood stoves are burning than in summer.</p> <p>See presentations here: https://cp.sync.com/dl/af9b34680#z2w4dxai-scruci3b-6em6359m-reyu99gk</p>	
11:40 Celebration Day details	<p>See webpage for details. Hang posters. https://www.facebook.com/events/1834544180134313/?ref=br_rs Volunteer!</p>	Contact Genevieve or Parker if you can help.
11:50 future meetings	<p>Third Thursday – Oct 19 9am-noon. Nov. 16: confirmed: Chris Steeger, Lake Cowichan, wildlife biologist, “Wildlife in the Cowichan Valley: A Baseline for Stewardship and Conservation” Dec. 14, followed by potluck lunch till 1 pm.</p>	Dec meeting moved to Dec 14.
12:00 end promptly.		

Submitted Reports:

From Eric Marshall, Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society.

The monthly waterbird count in Cowichan bay on 10th September show, as usual, many more birds on north side than on the south side. 335 on north side - 59 on south. Full details are on Naturecowichan.net blog.

Ospreys did well again - five nests in the Bay so at least 10 young were raised. One made the headlines when it fell out of the nest and was rescued.

Great Blue Herons in the heronry by the Wessex Hotel seem to have also done well - many PIT tags have been counted in the heronry - the largest number (just over 100) were from salmon tagged in 2016 when the Cowichan River was low.

The family of river otters that frequents the Bay close to the Nature Centre has three young this year.

ERIC

From Kelly Dougan <kdougan@sd79.bc.ca>

The land-based learning program at Cowichan Secondary is a Grade 10-12 program with 44 students currently enrolled. This program focuses on place-based, experiential learning to develop connections to our community and natural world and further cultural understanding. Our program incorporates Cowichan teachings and traditional cultural practices. We are encouraging community involvement in projects related to conservation, restoration and local culture.

We are in need of community experts interested in working with our students and projects that our students could become involved with. We are also asking for your help in securing donations of outdoor gear.

If you have items that you believe would be suitable for donation or would like to get in touch with us, please email Kelly Dougan at kdougan@sd79.bc.ca or Kim Lagimodiere at klagimodiere@sd79.bc.ca or call us at [250 746 4435](tel:2507464435).

Thank you in advance for any assistance you are able to provide!

From Koksilah Watershed Working Group c/o Emily Doyle Yamaguchi

Hello Genevieve and Roundtable,

Unfortunately many folks from the Koksilah Working Group can't make this Thursday's Roundtable meeting. We'd like to do a better job of staying in touch, however, and have put together a few notes to share. Barry Hetschko is a member of our group-- please let him know if you have any thoughts/questions that you would like us to consider.

- Quick recap:
 - The CSRT and others have voiced the need for more information to support stewardship of the Koksilah river and its watershed.
 - The revision of the Area E OCP was seen as an opportunity to incorporate greater ecological understanding into local planning efforts.
 - This opportunity inspired the formation of the Koksilah Working Group, a committee of the Cowichan Station Area Association (CSAA).
 - The CSAA has contracted Herb Hammond of Silva Ecosystem Consultants to undertake an ecosystem-based assessment of the Koksilah River watershed.
 - The Koksilah Working Group provides guidance and community linkages for the project, and is chaired by Natasha Ayers.
 - The project will provide the community with a report and GIS-based maps to help our community better understand and take care of our watershed.

- More information on Silva's method and its application to the Koksilah was presented by Herb Hammond during a community event at the HUB on January 17th.
- The project will help to inform the Area E OCP amendment, and we hope will also be useful to Cowichan Tribes.
- Updates:
 - We have fundraised (with contributions and help from many Roundtable members) a significant portion of the project budget. Major financial contributors to-date include the Real Estate Foundation, CVRD, and the Shawnigan Basin Society.
 - Cowichan Tribes staff, Councillors and Elders have contributed in a variety of ways, including generously providing guidance, sharing important historical and ecological information, and helping with fundraising. Councillor Darrin George has been an active voice in our Working Group meetings.
 - In January, Herb Hammond participated in a preliminary watershed tour, guided by Tom Rutherford, Genevieve Singleton, Roland Brown, Kathy O'Donnell, and other watershed stewards and residents. This tour included Busy Place Creek, Bright Angel Park and the Mountain Road neighbourhood.
 - Field work was scheduled to take place in September, however has been postponed to the spring.
 - We will be using this time to continue seeking guidance from Cowichan elders, and to organize visits to private property within the watershed as part of field work.
 - Anyone interested in attending Working Group meetings is welcome. Meetings are organized as needed--- best to email koksilah@cowichanstation.org to get in touch.

From Friends of the Cowichan

From: "CF Morley & Associates" <cfmorley@shaw.ca>

Genevieve and Parker,

Joe and I regret that we can't attend the roundtable today due to travel and work conflicts.

We encourage attendees to contact the federal Fisheries Minister and/or their local MP if they have concerns about protection of fish habitat in Cowichan Lake and the river. We have noted too many apparent violations of existing legislation around the lake and on the river over the last year, and we encourage others to remind the authorities that their present policy of not enforcing existing legislation protecting fish habitat is inadequate.

Best regards,

Chris and Joe

From Mun. North Cowichan RE Air Quality

From: "Shaun Chadburn" <shaun.chadburn@northcowichan.ca>

Hey Genevieve and Parker,

As requested, please find an update with regards to the changes to our Fire Protection Bylaw Below:

On September 20th, 2017, North Cowichan Council adopted a number of amendments to the Municipality's *Fire Protection Bylaw* in order to help improve air quality. **The proposed changes will come into effect January 1, 2018** and help to reduce the most harmful emissions within the municipality's control. See below for a summary of the amendments:

1. Residential open burning will be prohibited within the Urban Containment Boundaries (UCB's) of North Cowichan (with exceptions for registered farms and parcels of land >2 acres). Burning permits will be issued for properties that are greater than 2 acres in size within the UCB (free of charge). [Click Here](#) to see an interactive map of the UCB's
2. Residential open burning windows will be extended (September 15 to November 30 and March 15 to April 15) to encourage burning when the Ministry of Environments [Venting Index](#) is rated as "Good". Burning activities will only be allowed when the Provincial Government allows Category 2 or 3 fires.

3. Large land clearing debris burns (i.e. Category 3 - where piles are greater than 2m high x 3m wide or where multiple piles are being burned concurrently) within the Municipality will be prohibited, unless an air curtain burner is being used.
4. The use of wood-burning appliances for heating will **not** be affected other than being prohibited **during extended periods where air quality health advisories are in effect**. Air quality advisories are issued by Island Health and have only been in effect for a total of 12 days since 2013. Exemptions are provided for homes where a wood burning appliance is the primary source of heating.
5. The liability of open fires will be placed onto property owners or occupiers, rather than the individual who lit the fire and;
6. An incremental fine system has been established to discourage repeat offenders of open burning-related infractions. The initial fine amount has been lowered to \$250 and second and third offences will be \$500 and \$1000; respectively.
7. Campfires (less than 24 inches in diameter) will still be allowed, provided a fire ban is not in effect for the Coastal Fire Zone.

Shaun Chadburn

Engineering Technologist (Environmental Programs)

ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS

Municipality of North Cowichan

From Haley Guest, Cowichan Estuary Nature Center

Hello all! My name is Haley and I recently moved here from the other coast - Nova Scotia! I'm delighted to be working as the new Coordinator at the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre in Cowichan Bay. My role there will be two-fold: managing the operations of the beautiful and engaging Nature Centre, and coordinating a Community Climate Change Adaptation & Restoration initiative.

Over the next 9 months, the Nature Centre and Cowichan Land Trust will be hosting a series of workshops and volunteer action days, and I would love to involve as many community partners as possible. Please reach out to me if you think your organization or initiative could be involved!

Our first event: Feel Good Fridays in November. A chance every Friday of the month to contribute to river, wetland, and shoreline restoration efforts in our watershed. Check out our [website](#) or [Facebook Page](#) for forthcoming info!

CSRT Attendance

NAME	ORGANIZATION	EMAIL
Haley Guest	Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre	haley@cowichanestuary.ca
Cameron Hepp	Cowichan Land Trust	
Jane Kilthei	Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre	admin@cowichanestuary.ca
Kelly Dougan	Cowichan Secondary Land Based Learning Program	kdougan@sd79.bc.ca
Kim Lagimodiere	Cowichan Secondary Land Based Learning Program	klagimodiere@sd79.bc.ca
Ian Morrison	CVRD	
Ted Brookman	BC Wildlife Fed	tedbrookman6@gmail.com
Brian Houle	Catalyst Paper	

Paul Rickard		
Pam Jorgenson	Timberwest	
Dave Lindsay	Timberwest	
Barry Hetschko	Somenos Wildlife Marsh Society	
Erik Marshall	Cowichan Valley Naturalists Society	
Dave Preikshot	Somenos Wildlife Marsh Society	
Shaun Chadburn	Municipality of North Cowichan	
Clay Reitsma	Municipality of North Cowichan	
Tom Rutherford	Cowichan Watershed Board	tom.cowichan@gmail.com
Taylor Alexander	CVRD Coop student	
Keith Lawrence	CVRD	
Genevieve Singleton	Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable (CSR)	twinflower4@gmail.com
Parker Jefferson	Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable (CSR)	parker_jefferson@shaw.ca
Chloe Boyle	CVRD Coop student	
Don Closson	BC Parks	Don.closson@gov.bc.ca
Bob Crandall	Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society	rcrandall007@yahoo.com
Isabel Rimmer	Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association	
Jill Thompson	Cowichan Watershed Board	
Shannon Waters	VI Health Authority	
Edmond Duggan	VI Paddling Society	coldkayak@gmail.com
Debra Toporowski	Cowichan Tribes	debratorowski@gmail.com
Luke Cross	Office of Sonia Furstenuau, MLA	luke.cross@leg.bc.ca
Chantal Nessman	Dept Fisheries and Oceans	
Ken Clements	Sidney Anglers	kclements007@gmail.com
Loren Duncan	River resident	

Seamus Wolfe

Office of Alistair MacGregor, MP

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