



MINUTES

DATE: Oct. 19. 2017

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

Attendance: Don Closson (BC Parks), Ted Brookman (BC Wildlife Federation), Haley Guest (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre), Bob Crandall (Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society), Genevieve Singleton (nature interpreter), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Eric Marshall (Cowichan Valley Naturalists), Tom Rutherford (Cowichan Watershed Board), Ian Morrison (CVRD), Chloe Boyle (CVRD), Seamus Wolfe (Alistair MacGregor office), Loren Duncan (river resident), Barry Hetschko (Somenos Marsh Society), Dave Preikshot (Somenos Marsh Society}, Edmond Duggan (VI Paddling Society), Chris Steeger (Wood Assoc/ CLRSS), Rick Bryan (VI Paddling Society), Jessica Lines (BC Parks), Chris Morley (Friends of the Cowichan), Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes), Cheri Beaulieu (SMS/CVNS) , Martha Lescher (SMS/CVNS), Geoff Strong (Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association), Rob James (Western Stevedoring)

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9:00 Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory. Regrets, agenda changes, Attendance list to be circulated. Approval of Minutes

Reminder that our December meeting is changed from Dec. 21 to Dec. 14, meeting will be followed by a finger food potluck social.

Recording of minutes rotation; Thanks to everyone sharing in this important task.:

Thanks to Don Closson, BC Parks, for kindly doing the Oct. minutes. Hailey Guest to do Nov. minutes, Jess Lines, Dec. minutes

9:20 Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out is more than three simple points the secretary will not record it, longer reports must be emailed to secretary or co-chairs

-Chris Steeger-Wood Company (Engineering) Wildlife Biologist will present next meeting on terrestrial wildlife. Featuring a data-base he has created. Would like to see

it being Valley wide and continually updated. Observation: Cowichan Bay area construction site is rerouting traffic and conflicts with amphibian migration and many are killed as they cross the road. Could contact local Area Director Allison Nicholson.

Bob Crandell – Sutton Creek gravel extraction and replacing the boat launch at the weir, gearing up at the hatchery to collect eggs.

-Edmond Duggan – Paddle enthusiast gearing up

-Rick Bryan river recreation enthusiast and will be busy on the river this weekend.

--Rob James – rezoning application still under way and investigating a second breach

-CERCA- busy with a variety of things

-Cheri Ayers-southern BC Chinook study – draft action plan and test driving several tools – Southern Chinook health initiative Kevin Pellett states that the fish are moving very quickly through the fence

-Haley Guest-Estuary Nature Centre (1) Feel good Fridays for restoration opportunities for the public at large Hecate Park Bings Creek and go to Facebook for update (2) Sea level rise workshop (3) Fund raising event at Cow Bay Pub beer November 5th and burger event

-Chris Morley Friends of Cowichan River - No response to letter to Minister Leblanc

-Tim Kulchyski – short meeting with BCCF working in the estuary and trying to record information with a camera (trying to save seal pups) BCCF has had some difficulty setting up cameras for monitoring seals. pit tag program ongoing and hopes for enhancements (Heron Rookery, seal haul outs). confirm 7000 Chinook have moved through the counting fence 50% Jacks – river 38 CMS currently and could cause problems at the fence. Finished the mid-river Didson data collection along with some go-pro data, moved the ditsun monitor on Sept 8th to the Koksilah, getting hits on the Koksilah, now has been moved to the lower Cowichan and counting Chum salmon, attended the Salmon/Orca symposium in Vancouver quite a political event more pressure needed to move on some of the ideas that have been put forward – discussed the various impacts that are affecting the southern pods (food supply, ocean traffic and noise, low number of breeding males) FN were not a significant part of the conference and did not feel heard – Efforts to improve early education in FN community

-Ian Morrison- Area Director- report from UBCM CVRD had several meeting with senior ministry staff -Aquifer Pump tests need community notification – discussed the concept of “environmental monitor” moving from the land owner hiring the EM the EM should come from a list of pre-qualified professionals – Sahtlam area planning effort is live and on the CVRD web-site part of the OCP – Air quality collection apparatus have been set up around the Valley – No update on the Shaw creek – public meeting – applicants may be submitting a modified submission

-Ted Brookman - BCWF – felt as though they were not part of the discussion at the Orca (southern resident killer whale) symposium -expertise was not called on by the people in charge – possibly shutting recreational fishery in the straight (FN and local anglers BCWF were not consulted on this possibility) Ottawa is driving the bus and little west coast participation – DFO nervous about Parks Canada taking control of the south gulf island fishery – no common thread between the East coast fishery and the West coast fishery - Mill Bay salmon enhancement efforts are producing results

-Dave Preikshot – Somenos Creek study to determine how that wet-land is functioning planting on going as is the invasive plant removal efforts – a effort has been made to create a study on “Parrots feather” in Somenos and Cowichan River – Quamichan stewards water quality monitoring blue green algae bloom understanding – set to begin water quality monitoring in the Cowichan River – baseline – historic and on going

-Barry Hetschko – Wild Wings well underway, mushroom education session, Somenos marsh work riparian planting, event at Dinter’s Nursery, Dave Alcroft doing a walk at Estuary (birds ID) Ancient trees walk at Koksilah Nov. 4 – Water monitoring at Somenos lake top layer 24 degrees bottom 18 degrees wind flipped the lake – hedge row planting at the open air classroom – Highway trail watermain that will cross two creeks and impacts to wildlife and pet interaction may require a buffer zone or fence information given to limit impacts to salmon bearing systems – used as a utility corridors Environmental Assessment was done and submissions were made but not sure how much uptake there was – Vancouver Island motorsport track wants to expand and will cross Menzies creek seven times, also Elk habitat (blue listed) – knotweed removed by the Forestry Museum

-Eric Marshall CVN – 90 nests at the rookery – north side of the estuary very busy – south side not as busy

-Chloe Boyle CVRD – Environmental services – Cowichan Water Use plan, lake storage capacity meeting and web-site to be developed – Mapping to create a watershed atlas – south sector watershed plan and consultants have been hired –

-Tom Rutherford – Cowichan Water Board – water sampling collection and future report – Speaker series – Tom Gleason ground water specialist

-Genevieve Singleton – Museum Panels are now the property of the CSRT – Web-site work is a challenge and we would benefit from someone helping out on this work, CSRT now has a Facebook page and lots of action on social media.

Genevieve reported for Chantal Nessman (DFO) that Wild salmon open house in Duncan tonight

Parker Jefferson – One Cowichan – fund raiser at Jakes on the Lake and silent auction went very well and was well attended.

Don Closson, BC Parks, presented on the GIS Story map Cowichan River. It was decided that there should be follow up on this and should be discussed at our next meeting.

10:50 Cheri Ayers and Tom Rutherford presented talks on Cowichan/Koksilah Watershed to Sea: Protecting and Restoring Canada's Wild River Heritage as an Integral Link to the Salish Sea – Canadian Coastal Restoration Fund Projects and Stoltz Bluff Sediment Remediation – September/October 2017 Maintenance Project

11:20 update from River Celebration team: update of Quw'utsun Cowichan Heritage River Celebration held Sept. 30. Genevieve reported that about 500 people attended and reviews were all positive. Some general conversation of people's thoughts followed.

11:50 upcoming meetings Nov. 16: Chris Steeger, Lake Cowichan, wildlife biologist, "Wildlife in the Cowichan Valley: A Baseline for Stewardship and Conservation",

Dec. 14, Rick Bryan and Edmund Duggan, Recreational Canoeing Assoc of BC Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Assoc., followed by potluck lunch till 1 pm.

12:00 meeting ended promptly

