

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE

minutes

DATE: February 15, 2017 Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan www.cowichanstewardship.ca

A reminder for new and returning members: Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave whenever is necessary. Please allow enough room in parking lot for Fish Hatchery vehicles and emergency vehicles, no parking in yellow painted areas. Please bring your mug for tea or coffee!

The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner.

Time	Agenda Item
Attendees	<p>Dave Preikshot, Trophologic Consulting; Melissa Nottingham, DFO Community Advisor; Jessica Lines, BC Parks; Rick Bryan and Edmond Duggan, Paddlers; Ted Brookman, BCWF; Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers; Ian Morrison, CVRD; Pam Jorgenson, TW; Shaun Chadborn, NC; Barry Hetschko, SMS; Eric Marshall, CVNS; Jared Bates consultant; Cheri Bealieu, SMS and CVNS; James Craig, BCCF; Jacqueline Ronson, journalist; Keith Lawrence, CVRD; Tom Rutherford, CWB; Ken Travnor, CLRSS; Rob James, WS; Genevieve Singleton, nature interpreter, co-chair; Lorne Duncan, Cowichan River resident, Judy Brayden, CLRSS.</p> <p>Common Acronyms: BCCF BC Conservation Foundation, BCWF BC Wildlife Federation, CERCA Cowichan Estuary Restoration and Conservation Association, CLSES Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society, CLRSS Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society, CT Cowichan Tribes, CVNS Cowichan Valley Naturalists' Society, CVRD Cowichan Valley Regional District, CWB Cowichan Watershed Board, DFO Department of Fisheries and Oceans, TW Timberwest</p> <p>Please let us know of other ones that are missing.</p>
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory. • Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting out meetings. • Regrets. Cheri Ayers, Jennifer Hermary, Alistair McGregor, Tim Kulchyski, Alastair MacGregor, Deborah Toporowski, Parker Jefferson • Elke Wind sends regrets, but will provide a Cowichan Watershed Board talk on toads at VIU on April 26. No longer on list of speakers as a result. • Attendance list to be circulated. Approval of Minutes, please note an additional change to minutes, Jacqueline Ronson is a journalist, not a journalist student, apologies Jacqueline!

9:10am

- **CSRT business:** minutes taken this month by Pam Jorgenson. Recording of minutes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Eric Marshall for taking Jan. minutes. Minute recorders for March 15th – Ted Brookman (BCWF), and April 19th – James Craig (BCCF).
- Money owed to Genevieve and Meg Loop for website annual costs **NOT Done**
- Follow-up from October meeting re GIS Story Map from BC Parks. Chloe, Edmund
- Update re **CSRT website** (Edmond), – photos now up as well as minutes – Please review recent email re updating partners info www.Cowichanstewardship.com. Two types of customers: general public and meeting attendees/members. There is now a 'partners' page to appeal to the general public. Views are up 60%! Should consider using the Roundtable to highlight important projects underway by member groups – can provide blurb/links. Looking at more Facebook integration, and a community calendar (where partner groups can post important community events). Nature Cowichan calendar posts local events. Dave Preikshot will support Edmond with website as needed.
- Update re **future meetings:** March = knotweed; April = Ted/Jacqueline (Watershed Reporting Update and Feedback Session)
- Discussion re **Qw'utsun River Celebration** for 2018, hold over for 2109. Feels very tight to find funding opportunities, and volunteers. Run a September event, but proposing a smaller event like a talk. If running in 2018, TimberWest could provide summer student time to support; template is available to provide direction. Cowichan Tribes is willing to host, but can't organize. Can partners provide support in terms of staff time? Consider using 2018 to do fundraising, and plan next event for 2019. **Revisit in March with goal of building a strategy for delivery in 2019. Genevieve to send 'template' for River Celebration to Rick, and any others who express interest.**
- Also report needed on **Cowichan Heritage River** for Volker Michelfelder of BC Parks, groups need to send in reports of anything done on river in **2017**. **Send notes of any work on river to Genevieve as soon as possible. Deadline is early March. Anything your group did on the River, or in the watershed. Eric – bird counts; Tom – Watershed Board; Edmund – Paddlefest; Jessica – Parks; James - BCCF (Stoltz Bluff); etc.**

9:20am

Round-table

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

Report emailed in from **Cheri Ayers**, of BioAyers Research and consultant to Cowichan Tribes. *We are still waiting for the signed Contribution Agreement for CRF funding so can't make any 'official' announcements. Unofficially we are moving forward on many fronts and starting to put together a great picture of the geomorphology and hydrology of the estuary that sustains habitat as well as the history of development and how it has affected landscape processes. Phase 1 breach maintenance work has been delayed a year (logistical and needing to determine benefits more fully) and we are narrowing down options for a Phase 2 breach location and starting to do more detailed designs. By March the funding will be more official and I can give a more fulsome overview in our round-table meeting.*

The Stoltz CRF project is basically complete this year with some remaining bio-engineering work to complete. The CRF Riparian project is up and running full swing. Both Riparian and Stoltz are projects are being managed by BCCF (thankfully!) and I am sure most of the roundtable has seen the updates on the Stoltz sediment concerns.

The Chinook Initiative is linked to the estuary work so I am focusing for a bit on the estuary project and the rest of the initiative is ticking away in the back-ground through other avenues.

I have been continuing to attend the SBC Chinook Strategic Planning Initiative which is slowly moving forward to test some of the management 'levers' that can be pulled to affect change. Modelling is taking longer than expected as the modelers work through data issues.

James Craig (BCCF) – Cowichan River Riparian Restoration (PPT). Next 4 years include inventory and planning re veg cover; restoration of sites; monitoring and maintenance of treated sites. Hoping to include Cowichan River park lands in restoration work – applied for park permit to do works in near future. How do Roundtable members feel about work taking place in the park? **Please contact James with ideas on work in park via email/phone: jcraig@bccf.com; 250-714-3088.** Hoping for two weeks at fiscal year-end with lots of work! Federal money must be spent >March 31/2018. Looking for sites in Robertson Creek (with TimberWest) to work on ahead of the deadline.

Dave Preikshot – Dave Preikshot (Trophologic Aquatic Ecosystems Research)– Working with North Cowichan on developing a monitoring and management plan for Parrots Feather in Somenos Creek. We will be developing a roadmap of alternative strategies to monitor, mitigate and control Parrots Feather – we will begin with presentations to municipal committees and council as well as eliciting public input before embarking on management alternatives. Also, soon to commence monitoring water quality in Quamichan Lake, in conjunction with team from BCIT. The project will examine phosphorus loading in the lake in order to develop a strategy to control persistent blue green algae blooms.

Dave Preikshot (Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society)- Continuing work on wetland by Beverly Street to treat water ponds are in place now the focus is on planting. The Marsh Society will be hosting planting events in the wetland, on Somenos Creek and in the Open-Air classroom every week until the end of March (Feb 20, 27, March 6, 10, 15, 27). See the advertisement at www.somenosmarsh.com/ or contact Elizabeth Bailey (programs@somenosmarsh.com to sign up.

Melissa Nottingham (DFO Community Advisor) – New to role. Planning to attend CSRT meetings regularly. Contact info:

Melissa Nottingham

Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada
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Rob James (Western Stevedoring) – Rezoning application is in the works; postponed again. Let him know if you would like to have a tour of the site.

Jessica Lines (BC Parks) – Cowichan River Park – reviewing project. Staffing changes may result in a slower approval process. Installing new gates in the park at Three Firs, at Skutz Falls bridge. Contact Jessica if you need access. Stoltz Group Site – losing some of parking lot due to high water events. Doing an assessment of the footpath, and may add campground to the assessment. Comment: would adding rip-rap be reasonable? Some debate on this.

Rick Bryan(Paddlers)- three roundtable members have been out in boats! Everyone is welcome – just talk to Rick/Edmond.

Edmond Duggan(Paddlers) – Prime paddling season now here! Cowichan River Youth KAYAK Festival April 13-16. He will provide an invite. Summer Games happening this year in Cowichan – looking for volunteers. Victoria Canoe Kayak Club Running of Cow happening soon. UVIC Kayak Club is going to start cleaning up in parking lots to do their part. Environment Canada website is now predicting river flows for up to FIVE days.

"The Coastal Fall Flood Ensemble Estimation (COFFEE) Model provides real-time flow forecasts for the next 5 days, which are updated when a rainfall event occurs to the coastal areas during the autumn-winter-spring seasons."

Cowichan River: <http://bcrcf.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/coffee/08HA011.PDF>

Koksilah River: <http://bcrcf.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/coffee/08HA003.PDF>

Costal wide map: http://bcrcf.env.gov.bc.ca/fallfloods/COFFEE_GoogleMap.html

Ted Brookman (BCWF)– how many people buy fishing/hunting licenses? HCTF receives money from each license – so make sure you buy one! Very busy: killer whales (200m bubble established around southern resident orcas (must move away)), Thompson/Chilcotin steelhead (now SARA listed so will start to see closures).

Lorne Duncan, concerned Cowichan River Resident, CVRD purchased Wake Lake for ecological values. Sahtlam Noted for western toads, peat bogs – bogs over time become great habitat for water fowl, western toads. These are important ecosystems. Make sure community plans consider broad ecological purposes.

Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers) – Working on next derby. Last derby generated good funds, which was applied to salmon enhancement. If anyone is needing funding for good projects, please let them know.

Ian Morrison (CVRD director) – CVRD roles of directors on different boards/groups where applications are 'in-stream' are specific and may require directors to have to excuse themselves to allow for fairness in the process.

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CVRD drinking water watershed outreach initiatives – 3 events to date. What might become part of question/referendum if CVRD provided a 'service function'? Provided an overview of the feedback at each event – all had slightly different focus. If anyone wants to see more on the presentation, Ladysmith tonight (Feb 15). Still interested in input.

Pam Jorgenson (TimberWest) – Staffing changes to cover Dave Lindsey's past work. Molly Hudson will be covering the biology functions, Doug Underhill is the hydrology manager, Pam is the community liaison. Molly will be attending meetings periodically; will add Doug to the mailing list. More summer students hired for 2018, along with an intern from the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

Shaun Chadburn (Municipality of NC) – Working with BCIT on Quamichan Lake, and BCIT/Preikshot on the Somenos Creek sampling/parrot's feather projects. Rehab of Trumpeter Point Park – new project coming online. Environmental student will be hired this summer.

Barry Hetschko (Somenos March Society) – Thanks to TimberWest, viewing platform funds in place, and have go-ahead. Nature Trust/DU just need their permission in writing to place the viewing tower on their property (at the Open Air Classroom site). Come to Craig Street Brew Pub tonight for Cowichan Valley Green Drinks. Noted California Sealion in Somenos Marsh!

Haley Guest (shared by Eric) – (Land Trust)– Beer and Burger Fundraiser Feb 25th and silent auction. People will give short stories with nature focus. If you would like to speak at the event, please contact Haley. Will be running spring break workshops and summer camps. Also hoping for a youth leadership camp (ages 14-18). Land Trust – bioengineering workshop on Feb 24-25 with Dave Polster. Registration is required, but free!

Eric Marshall (Naturalists) - Naturalists swan, goose, raptor count. Small group out recently. Second Sunday of each month do a coastal bird survey. Christmas bird count – 118 species counted, 22,010 birds counted in total.

Jacqueline Ronson (Journalist – Honeymoon Bay) – Hired to do 6 months of reporting in the Cowichan area. Could focus on salmon, but may expand her focus. Wanting to understand the community, and listen, and investigate. Has developed a short, 3-question online survey to help her understand what is important to the community.

Tom Rutherford (CWB) – Meeting with Ministers Donald/Heyman next week – Cowichan Watershed ready to be a pilot for the Water Sustainability Act. Dates – Speaker Series (4th Thursday of each month) – Dave Polster (Restoration); Blaine (Elected Director – District of Highlands); Elke Wind; Koksilah Watershed at Hub March 30 6:30 – looking at critical flows in the Koksilah.

Ken Traynor (CORSS) – Shoreline restoration project continues into the second of a three year program. Identified 7 private properties around the lake that will be worked on. Have submitted comments on the professional reliance model. Green Shores Workshop. Collaborating with others to monitor lamprey in Cowichan Creeks.

Judy Brayden (CLRSS) – Working to have conversations with waterfront property owners. Planning to host public gatherings with restored properties on the Lake.

	Genevieve Singleton – Eagle Heights file is moving forward.
10:30am	BREAK
10:40 am	<p>Dr. David Preikshot, presentation on Cowichan / Koksilah water quality sampling: 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --Prelim results- need to consult with Province before deciding on which sites to report on and how to determine performance of parameters in study -see PPT for details -sampling creeks/estuary/marine at low and high flow periods -Enterococcus sp – marine (at high flows - Nov): single sample limit exceeded (primary contact) for each sample; meet standard for secondary contact, but vast majority of marine sites exceed the standard. Means... 22/1000 swimmers could get an infection of some sort. Areas nearer the Cow Bay Marina have higher numbers. -Fecal Coliform (more concern for shellfish harvesting): exceed limits for single sample; and most median values are at or above the limit. - E coli (Cowichan/Koksilah): At low flows - Meet secondary contact guidelines (mostly); >50% of sites don't meet primary contact guidelines. At high flows also >50% of sites exceeding primary contact limits. -Turbidity: Most sites much higher than thresholds at both low/high flows. -Phosphorous: low flow means far above thresholds. (Not reviewed in high flows). Has impacts like improving opportunity for parrotfeather (which limits fish migration, lowers oxygen levels...). Also encourages blue-green algae/bacteria development. Biggest sources of phosphorous are fertilizing gardens/lawns, agriculture, septic systems... -Drainages are highly altered from historic, natural flows/routes. -Funding is available to work with some of the potential sources of the issues.

11:20 am	<p>Keith Lawrence, CVRD Senior Environmental Analyst. Drinking Water and Watershed Management Community Engagement update</p> <p>-see PPT for details -2016 – community satisfaction survey identified water as the number 1 concern for residents -regional approach needed to address water quality/supply; some level of taxation makes sense -reaching out to community in various ways to understand concerns and share information – see newspaper/Facebook/Placespeak/Storyboards/posters and public meetings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowichan Recreation Center – February 6th • Island Savings Center – February 8th • Kerry Park – February 13th • Frank Jameson Center, Ladysmith February 15th <p>Upcoming public meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sahtlam Firehall – February 20th - 7 to 9 pm • Bench Elementary, Cowichan Bay – February 22nd - 7 to 9 pm • Glenora Hall – February 26th - 7 to 9 pm • The HUB at Cowichan Station – March 1st – 7 to 9 pm <p>-could lead to a draft by-law, and a region-wide referendum to all RD to provide a specific service (see poster for potentially provided services)</p> <p>Comments: -Qualicum Beach went through a good process that was able to get residents on board -Is the CVRD considering population growth/and future planning for population growth in this?</p>
11:55 pm	CSRT items missed
12:00	Meeting ends promptly, thank you and see you next time!

Meetings are always the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly summer months.

Upcoming meeting topics (suggestions always appreciated!)

March: Chelsey Toth, Timberwest, knotweed treatments and the Koksilah Watershed Knock Back Knotweed Committee

April: Ted Brookman, The Role of BC Fish and Wildlife Federation in the Roundtable and Outside the Roundtable and Jacqueline Ronson, journalist who will be discussing Watershed reporting update with feedback session

May: Molly Hudson, Goshawks