

Minutes of the December 4, 2023 Board Meeting
Via Zoom thanks to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

Chair: Judy Brayden
Speakers' Order: Don Prescott

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Jim Deck; Judy Brayden; Beverley Nimmo; Don Prescott; Maureen Quested; Diana Gunderson; Dave DePape; Rosemary Danaher; Rodger Hunter
Members: Chris Seeger; Jill Thompson, CWB; Ian Morrison, CVRD Area F Representative;
Guests: Elodie Roger, Origins Environmental Services ; Danny Swainson, BCCF ;
Regrets: Lois Atchison; Cam McCauley

PREAMBLE:

- a) **Acknowledgement:** We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. We hope that our work here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in this valley.
- b) **Conduct the meeting in the Fourfold Way:**
 - Respect each other by having just one speaker at a time.
 - Expect people to speak from the heart with passion.
 - Expect people to show up to solve problems.
 - Expect people to speak without blame.
- c) **Introductions** for benefit of first-time guests if necessary.
- d) **Recording** of volunteer hours.

ITEMS:

1. **MOTION:** that the agenda be approved as amended.....Delete: 5(f) - Kristine Sandhu, not present
Moved by: Maureen QuestedDefer: 7(e) Play Wave in Weir design
.....Defer: 7(f) Membership list accessibility.
2nd by: Don Prescott **CARRIED**
2. **MOTION:** that the minutes of the November 6, 2023 Board Meeting
be approved as circulated.
Moved by: Maureen Quested
2nd by: Diana Gunderson
3. President's Report – Jim Deck commented CLRSS had had a busy year with the introductory Signature Event “Connecting Through Water” and ongoing projects. He thanked everyone for their energy and enthusiasm and volunteer hours.
4. Treasurer's Report – Beverley Nimmo
MOTION: that the Treasurer's Report, as at November 30, 2023, be accepted as presented.
Moved by: Beverley Nimmo
2nd by: Maureen Quested **CARRIED**
5. a) Jim reported that a letter of support had been sent to Elodie and Danny re their project.
b) Elodie stated the project would target riparian restoration and concentrate on areas that are the most fragile and that have the most damage.
 - 3 year grant; habitat stewardship project; work against riparian degradation;
 - signage in public areas – **ACTION: Suggest Ian and Elodie work on a plan co-ordinating approach to message to residents**
 - restoration would take place in spring and fall
 - outreach would take place in spring and summer
 - Forest Co-op might provide funding
 - hope to hear funding response by February/March
- c) Chris Seeger – Biologist of riparian and upland ecosystems and conservation of habitat

-Chris is willing to contribute to CLRSS in an advisory capacity.

-He is more conversant with traditional knowledge.

d) CWB – Jill Thompson

- CWB sent a support letter for BCCF shoreline work
- Met in Elders Hall Nov. 30. Main topic was the fish kill – devastating. Tim Kulchyski brought forward the numbers from the province’s research – estimated 84,000 steelhead died.
- Fishing restrictions have been put in the upper river between 70.2 Mile Trestle & Skutz Falls closed to recreational angling effective Dec. 1, 2023 – April 30, 2024
- Tom Rutherford and Heather Pritchard are working on a Fish Kill response to change things before next spring to avoid a repeat of this year’s low water until the weir is replaced, and as a model for other watersheds.
- Weir: Potentially good news – Minister Rankin, MIRR, in discussion with David Anderson, referenced a clause in DRIPA through which the Province could consider taking the liability for the weir licence. Chief Hwitsum has written to follow up. Could be a way that the province holds liability to support Cowichan Tribes leadership, or co-leadership. No guarantees they will choose to do that, but a new path identified.

e) Ian Morrison – Ian supporting Elodie’s & Danny’s BCCF application – Strategic Initiatives Group of CVRD
Point of Concern: development beyond pavement – growth should only happen in areas where services, sewer and water, are available; don’t want forest lands converted to housing developments beyond services.

ACTION by all members: CVRD Special Study Areas – we can & should provide individual input to CVRD on such development.

6. Business Arising from previous minutes:

- a. Revising of CLRSS logo – Judy Brayden suggested dropping the idea of revision and staying with current logo. Diana Gunderson commented on points favouring current logo over a revision:
 - a 10 year trademark for CLRSS
 - recognized throughout community
 - attracts attention because of simplicity

MOTION: that CLRSS retain the current logo unchanged

Moved by: Rosemary Danaher

2nd by: Jim Deck

CARRIED

- b. Tom Rutherford’s wrote a note explaining why the river running dry is a much bigger deal NOW that it used to be because the geomorphology of the Cowichan has changed significantly. Removal of old growth riparian has resulted in far fewer large pools, much less large woody debris creating holding areas, and fewer shaded runs.
- c. Those taking part in the letter writing campaign have been receiving replies from the government – Reply to CLRSS letter is attached.
- d. SE – Dave DePape – will have a report in draft form ready in mid-December for Board to review

7. New Business:

- a) Water Monitoring – Jim Deck will meet with BCCF to understand stream testing requirements and how we can
- b) assist them.
- c) A public meeting may result to discuss all the water monitoring being undertaken next season.
- d) Riparian signs or brochures – no decisions reached.
- e) Play Wave position **DEFERRED.**
- f) Accessibility to membership list **DEFERRED.**
- g) Revision of bursary criteria – Meeting at CLS with Noni on 8th of January: Jean, Di, Maureen, Jim
- h) Saywell Park update: Jean & Jim met with Jaz. He is knowledgeable about riparian laws. Di and Jean will meet with Alex Work, who is seasonally employed by the Town, to discuss strategies and get CLRSS ahead of any actions by the Town.
- i) Dave DePape has been offered a contract with CWB to take the lead on Water Quality Attainment Standards – a once every 5 years project.

Cont'd i) water monitoring data on state of lake & upper river – volunteer teams needed

- 2 sampling events spanning 5 weeks (one sample each week) in August and October/November
- Teams will be trained
- Chris Seeger offered to volunteer information as he previously co-ordinated Lower River survey
- Ministry of Environment might add new sites and parameters because of recent fish kill

j) Christmas Get together – Dec. 08 2 – 5 at the Brayden’s BYOB & shareable plate/nibbles/appetizers
MOTION: that CLRSS provide 6 bottles of wine, 3 white, 3 red, for the get together.

Moved by: Rosemary Danaher

2nd by: Diana Gunderson

CARRIED Rosemary will purchase.

Adjournment: 8:30 p.m. - Rosemary

December 2023 Treasurer's Report (As at December 31, 2023)			
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account	12,665.90	-	12,665.90
to be deposited	-		
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,934.21
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities			10,731.69
CLRSS Bursary Account (Savings) Total			10,419.11

CLRSS 2023-2024 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 23/12/31						
Revenue				Expenditures		
Category	Budget	Actual	Category	Budget	Actual	
Total Revenue	23,700	15,674	Total Expenditures	19,180	21,610	
Memberships	1,200	920	Signs	200	0	
Donations	1,000	462	Accounting	0	0	
Sales	500	792	Public Information	50	0	
Fundraising	2,000	992	BCLSS	50	50	
W the W Grants-In-Aid	4,000	4,000	Society Fees	0	15	
W the W Sales	15,000	8,508	Printing Costs	1,200	576	
Interest	0	0	Purchase for Sales	1,000	1,435	
			Insurance	1,000	0	
			Bank Charges	30	63	
			Office Expenses	1,000	579	
			Courses & Mtgs	100	155	
			CSSP Activities	0	0	
			River CU	0	0	
			Fundraising Expenses	100	0	
			Misc. other	0	40	
			Scholarship Fund	750	2,416	
			Fry Salvage	300	0	
			Gifts Apparel	0	0	
			GT Memorial Garden	400	0	
			Website Update	500	0	

					Signature Event	2,500	5,546
					Witnessing the Water	10,000	10,585
					Square Expense	0	152