

**DRAFT MINUTES NOVEMBER 06, 2023**  
**ZOOM with thanks to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable**

**ROTATING CHAIR:** Jim Deck  
**Speakers' List Keeper:** Don Prescott

**In Attendance:**

**Board Members:** Don Prescott; Di Gunderson; Jean Atkinson; Maureen Quested; Jim Deck; Beverley Nimmo; Rosemary Danaher; Rodger Hunter; Genevieve Singleton  
**Members:** Ian Morrison (Area F CVRD Director); Jill Thompson;  
**Guests:** Kristine Sandhu; Elodie Rogers

**Absent with regrets:** Judy Brayden; Cam McCauley; Dave DePape

We acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples. We hope that our work together here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in the Cowichan Valley.

**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

**ITEMS:** Volunteer hours recorded 202.5

*Please note Rosemary's email: rdanaher@shaw.ca*

**ACTION: What? By Whom? When?**

1) **AGENDA**

**MOTION:** That the agenda be accepted as amended.....6) Amended letterhead - deferred

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Rosemary Danaher  
**CARRIED** 7) Add: Retail/Social - Rosemary  
 - GTMG Lois/Rosemary

2) **MINUTES**

**MOTION:** That the minutes of the last meeting of October 03, 2023 be accepted as amended.....Diana Gunderson was present at mtg.

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Don Prescott  
**CARRIED**

3) **TREASURER'S REPORT** – Beverley Nimmo/Jim Deck –  
**as attached**

**MOTION:** That the Treasurer's Report be accepted as circulated.

**Moved by:** Beverley Nimmo  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Maureen Quested  
**CARRIED**

4) **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** – attached

5) **GUESTS' REMARKS (if they wish)**

- Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu:  
 The Town has been granted \$10,134,000 to upgrade waste water system.  
 Town has to come up with \$2.7 million. Preparatory work has started.  
 Recycling – Recycler has quit so Town is doing in house recycling as a short term solution. Jill passed along the name of a company with a good reputation looking for clients to Kristine.

- CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison:  
Mansion on South Shore Road was brought up. Ian reported riparian rules being ignored or people are putting in requests for ???
- Cowichan Watershed Board representative, Jill Thompson:  
\*“Weir Getting There” Speaker Night – apologies for the low turnout. Didn’t realize That the ENewsletter advertising the event didn’t go out due to a power outage the week before. Thank you to CLRSS for being there with letter-writing bee & to Maureen for hand-delivery!  
\*Xwulqw’selu Watershed Planning progress – 1<sup>st</sup> mtg. of the Collaborative Commun.Advisory Table. Very hopeful. Diverse group of people willing to have hard conversations together with respect and understanding. Thanks for Chris’ offer – Wish there was room for everyone. A nice cluster of 4 biologists.  
\*Fish Kill response – CWB (Heather and Tom) are working with partners and Pacific Salmon Foundation to coordinate a better system of monitoring & response to low flows in the Cowichan before next year, and to make sure that the loss of those tens of thousands of dead fish didn’t happen in vain.  
\*Estuary Resilience Project – community event was held last week. Great facilitation by Genevieve. Recording available. Tom’s remarks at Speaker Night can be found on CWB You Tube page.

- Elodie Rogers – long term viability of riparian restoration:  
Elodie and Danny at BCCF are looking for long term funding for riparian restoration. They would like CLRSS support and suggestions. Grant deadline is Dec. 15. There is a need to do more follow-up to monitor completed properties. Ian stated his wish for frequent signs advising that modifications and vegetation removal are by permit only. He is willing to go after grants for signage & the Min. of Transportation to post signage.

Elodie will send a brief for next meeting

Ian should liaise with Elodie.

#### 6) **Business Arising from previous Minutes**

- Approval of amended letterhead – deferred until December
- Meeting with Sheila Karrow – Palsson Elem. teacher –  
**about**  
Jean Atkinson & Di Gunderson: met with this teacher on Oct. 4 and gave her useful classroom materials. She is working on a PhD and is very interested in conservation.
  - Letter writing campaign – 8 letters were delivered to the Legislature with 7 more to be sent. Letters to the editor have been sent to Editors of Citizen/Gazette and Times Colonist by Maureen as a private citizen.

Maureen will approach her becoming a member.

Write at least 1 letter (to David Eby first) Ask 2 others to write letters.

#### 7) **New Business**

- Executive protocol regarding holding of meetings: Committees must take minutes, approve them and send them to the secretary for inclusion on next agenda. They should start with traditional territory acknowledgement and follow the four-fold way.
- Communications – Inquiries to CLRSS are to be sent to President, with cc to other executive (VP, Treasurer, Secretary) Maureen notified Ken Traynor of this protocol.
- Speaking for CLRSS – President or his designate only, may speak on behalf of CLRSS. If an idea is brought up in the community, the Board is responsible to convene a meeting to clarify the society’s values. Then the group will decide if the society will speak for or against an issue or will remain silent.
- Observation of Executive meetings – notify president of wish to observe Minutes of Oct. 26 Executive meeting have future executive schedule.
- Riparian Maintenance and Town of Lake Cowichan update – Jean/Di

Met with the Mayor who will has scheduled a meeting with Public Works for Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 3:00. Jim will attend with Jean.

- Chamber of Commerce – Weir Ready info session Nov. 15 – Jim will ask Leroy to attend with him. Diana also volunteered.
- Letter of support for CENCS – attached – no details will be developed until grant approved.
- BCCF – Community Flow Monitoring – if you want to volunteer, notify Jim. Should probably be done in pairs for safety reasons.

Jim will ask/invite Leroy.  
Jim & Diana to attend.

Judy will be liaison.

Adjournment: 8:10 p.m.

Attachments:

Treasurer's Report

## **Next meeting: December 04, 2023 6:30 via Zoom**

President's Report November 6, 2023

We have received a few requests for information to our website that I want to update everyone on.

- On September 14 we received a request from Ryan Allen. He wants to know if there are safe chemicals that can be used to deal with moss on roofs. He uses a bleach-water mixture to remove the remaining moss after scrapping. Beverley contacted the owner of Greendale Cabins and he made a recommendation in response. I contacted the BCCF and they had no suggestions. They did a google search and it looks like zinc strips may work. I suggested he check with other roofers and/or his industry association. They may have some advice.
- On August 29 Alex Fallon from Economic Development Community Advisor Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation requested a zoom meeting. At the meeting we had a brief discussion about the CLRSS. He informed me he is looking at some potential developments on Ts'uubaa'asatx lands and would get back to me once they were further along. He also indicated that he could be an in when it comes to contacting the first nation.
- On October 4 Cliff Gibson requested a call. He is dealing with Millfoil and wanted to know how to properly get rid of it. I suggested he check with our September newsletter and if he need more information to check on the BC Invasive Species Council website.
- At the Connecting Through Water Festival, I was contacted by Don Palmer of Lake Cowichan. He lives by Oliver Creek as it flows from South Shore Road to the Cowichan River. He has concerns about the recent appearance of huge rocks and gravel in the creek and what it means for spawning fish. He would like to clean this creek up to the way it was years ago. I talked to Joe Saysell about this and he recommended talking to Heather Wright of DFO who just happened to be at the festival. He talked to her about the situation and she indicated she would look into it. A couple of weeks later I called Don to see if he had heard from Heather and he hadn't. I went out and spent about 2 hours with him walking along the creek to view the situation. It is in rough shape. I told him I would check with DFO and get back to him. I called Heather Wright and we discussed the situation and she informed me that it is the end of their season for working on fish bearing streams but she would pass it on to her team and have them contact Don. I am assuming they were in contact as I have heard nothing further.
- I received an email from Bernhard Jurlink who is working to set up a website that has all the environmental groups in the CVRD plus their websites listed. I told him we would be interested. It sounds like a duplication of the Roundtable website but it doesn't hurt to have our name out there.
- On Oct 21, we received some questions from Juline Macdonnell about a stream running on her property and what she can do to make it healthier. Plus she wanted to participate in rescuing fry. I had a chat with her and I think she will be taking out a membership in our Society..

On October 24 Judy, Leroy and myself met with Eric Richards of Sun FM to discuss the need for the new weir, our letter writing campaign and Witnessing the Water. Eric would put together a little news report that would be run over the next few days and would be available on their website.

On October 25 I was interviewed by Gregor Craigie of CBC Victoria about the need for a new weir. The reason we contacted him in the first place was to get our letter writing campaign on air to CBC listeners. He informed me that CBC has a policy not to be political but that if I accidentally mentioned it in the interview that it would be okay.

On Oct 30 the Cowichan Watershed Board held a Speakers Night at VIU to discuss the weir. Part of the evening was our letter writing campaign. I would say 15-20 additional letters were written that night and delivered to the legislature by Maureen Quested. Thank you Maureen.

### **Weir Hopeful**

The Cowichan Watershed Board has had a number of meetings with the provincial government over the last month. The first meeting did not go well as the Premier was like a deer in the headlights as he knew very little about weir. However, since then he has been brought up to speed and is well aware of the issues. It sounds like the government will make their portion of the weir costs available as soon as a licensee can be identified. There is a long way to go before someone or group will step up and apply for the license but we are getting closer each and every day.

Our Society currently has a letter writing campaign that is requesting the provincial government to move quickly in approving a license holder and making funds available, that match the federal government funds, and get construction underway. Each and every member of our Society is requested to write a letter to the Premier and a few of the senior cabinet members asking them to make the construction of a new weir a priority. The more letters sent in over the next few months will let the government know just how important the new weir is to the Cowichan Valley and the aquatic life within it.