

CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, August 2nd, 2021 – via Zoom with thanks to the Cowichan Watershed Board

Updates further to the meeting are in red font below

Items: Rotating chair: Ken Traynor	Action: What? By Whom? When?
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rick Bryan, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Dave De Pape, Bee Greenway, Diana Gunderson, Rodger Hunter, Lyndon Keeping, Ken Traynor. Members: Lois Atchison, Mike Patrick, Carrol Patrick, Joe Saysell, and Maureen Qusted Guests: CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison.</p> <p>Absent with regrets: Chantelle Carden, Genevieve Singleton, Elodie Roger, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu, Cowichan Watershed Board Executive Director, and CWB ED, Tom Rutherford.</p>	
<p>We acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Difidaht and Quw'utsun First Nations. We hope that our work together here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in this valley.</p>	
<p>The Fourfold Way was reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <i>and</i> • expect people to speak without blame. 	
<p>FYI only Our Strategic Plan (See Appendix 1 below)</p>	
<p>Motion to accept the agenda as amended.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Di Gunderson and Lyndon Keeping CARRIED</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of July 5th, 2021.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Dave DePape CARRIED</p>
<p>Treasurer's report:</p>	<p>NIL report</p>
<p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison</p>	<p>Ian Morrison reported that the harmonization and modernizing of the Official Community Plan model in the Cowichan Valley is proceeding as is the ultimate transfer of the land near Little Beach to the CVRD. He reminded us to report any situation in which emergency vehicles are being or could be prevented for accessing Greendale Road. The idea of making Greendale</p>

	<p>Road a one-way road for the summer season was briefly discussed, but the Director felt that no such change would be happening this summer.</p>
<p>President's Report:</p>	<p>Ken Traynor reported that he had spoken with Joe Saysell twice about Orka Tubing. Joe spoke with Christine Rilkey of Parks about the use of the park as a pull out by Orka and she said she would contact them about it as they did not have permission. He emailed and left calls for Orka but they did not respond. It appears that they are not actively using the river this year.</p> <p>2. If members were not able to attend the Zoom weir update call it is posted on the lakecowichanweir.ca website. There were 60 folks on the call.</p> <p>3. The CLRSS OpEd piece was sent as a news release but we have not seen it on the Gazette website yet.</p> <p>4. The fry rescue work continues; the flow past the weir is being lowered to 5.5 cms and may go lower to 4.5 cms if nothing improves. Joe Sayswell reported that he helped out the environmental consultants who are out in the river checking to see if any fry are being trapped by the lowering of the flow below 7 cms. The environmental monitoring is done as one of the conditions required when the flow is dropped below 7 cms in the summer.</p> <p>5. On July 27, Ken Traynor was interviewed on CBC radio on the fry rescue work.</p> <p>6. Ken Traynor sent a letter under CLRSS letterhead to Transport Canada and a number of MPs supporting the call for new regs limiting boat noise. Diana Gunderson sent in a letter to Alistair MacGregor as well. We were asked to send in your own letters/emails and promote the issue with your valley acquaintances.</p> <p>7. Chantelle Carden was thanked for getting the newsletter out and a very big Thank You was expressed to Maureen and family for their excellent hospitality and for the great BBQ in Honeymoon Bay.</p> <p>8. Ken Traynor was out doing Lake Levels on Your Beach at the mouth of Sutton Creek on the 28th. He was relieved to see that his measurements on the lake levels for the present weir and where they would be for the new weir, and average high water mark matched well with the photos from the online, shoreline assessment tool that is being developed under the CVRD project. The site has 110 trailer pads and the very nice beaches they have consist of gravel and silt brought down with the regular floods of Sutton Creek every year. The actual beaches</p>

	<p>themselves are not within the surveyed property boundaries of the site.</p> <p>9. Finally, the group Insurance that CLRSS gets based on our membership in the Pacific Streamkeepers Federation has been finalised and they have been successful at getting both new Directors and Officers Insurance as well as general liability. The bad news is that it will likely be \$150 to \$200 more than the \$235 per year we paid last year. I should get the final invoice in the next week or so.</p>
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:</p> <p>1. RCU 2021 Update</p> <p>2. CLRSS contribution to the annual River's Day event, September 25, 2021</p> <p>3. Our Watershed – Through the Lens of Art</p> <p>4. CSSP report</p> <p>5. Fundraising update</p>	<p>1. Lyndon updated the members on the proceedings so far for the 2021 Annual River Clean-up. The Park booking and the tipping application have both been received and approved; Most of the Area Leads have been confirmed; Louis Atchison reported that once again Country Grocer has agreed to provide the breakfast snacks for the RCU and Judy Brayden asked how the registration would proceed; The Tube Shack will do online registration before the event so they can control the numbers. We will receive a spreadsheet of those who participated. The poster is all ready and is awaiting the registration information including the timeline for registration.</p> <p>2. CLRSS will once again have a table and have Oxford in attendance as weather permits; Judy will ascertain what can be at the table, relative to the materials used for the RCU in the Stewardship Zone on the 12th of September.</p> <p>3. Judy Brayden reports that the <i>Watershed Through the Lens of Art Show</i> is proceeding well. There are 19 individuals and groups, who have registered. CLRSS will be submitting a 65' River Ribbon, a video loop for Witnessing the Water, 2 pieces of Before and After photography, and a 6' x 6' installation of the "How is this water like..." work from the Stewardship Roundtable fieldtrip. Rosemary Danaher suggested that a bus be hired to shuttle people back and forth to the Watershed Show from the River's Day event. She has cleared this with CVAC and the CWB and is undertaking the logistics of this process. There could be two round-trips organized.</p> <p>4. See Elodie Roger's written CSSP report Appendix 2 below. Judy Brayden commented on the calibre of the report, thanking Elodie for her thorough and professional report.</p> <p>5. Maureen Quested reported that while even more donations are forthcoming, our total funds raised this year are \$1544. She broke this down as follows: \$1064 was raised at the recent Bar-b-que at her home, and 2 - \$240 Thrifty Smile cards have raised \$480. Expenses for the bar-b-que were \$31 for the T shirt and</p>

	cap that were part of the draw. The members expressed their thanks to Maureen for this tremendous effort.
<p>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</p> <p>a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden</p> <p>b. Social and Retail Sales</p> <p>c. Monthly Meetings rotating chair</p> <p>d. Membership</p> <p>e. Fundraising</p> <p>f. Decibel Coalition:</p> <p>g. Youth Engagement</p>	<p>a. Lois Atchison reported that the GTMNP Garden was very dry. She said that she would ask the Town if they are watering it regularly.</p> <p>b. Rosemary Danaher reported that we have had no retail sales, but we have gifted \$102 worth of merchandise.</p> <p>c. September, 2021 - Chantelle Carden</p> <p>d. Maureen Quested reported that we have 59 members to date.</p> <p>e. See Business RISING #5.</p> <p>f. Diana Gunderson reported on the following: Membership – 50 Lake Associations and Municipalities representing approximately 80,000 shoreline residents. Key Message of Decibel Coalition containing 11 speaking points – can be used to facilitate discussion regarding the Coalition and its progress (on website? Or from DG) Letter Writing – to MP Alistair MacGregor (Alistair.MacGregor@parl.gc.ca) (template from DG). Petition – (https://www.change.org/Stop Excessively Loud Boat Motor Noise) (website?)</p> <p>g. UPDATE: Further to this meeting, a request for CLRSS Youth engagement Program to join the Fraser Basin Youth Program: From Judy to Chantelle: Do take a look at this: We need Youth to co-create climate solutions! - Fraser Basin Council Youth Program (fbcyouthprogram.ca) On that topic: I just spent an hour Zooming with Stephanie Chong, from the Fraser Basin Youth Program. She is still trying to recruit student participants in the Cowichan Valley for this program. It is so much like what you have organized with Noni, I wonder if they (the cohort from LCS) might want to and benefit from participating in this province-wide work? The Fraser Basin project is quite like what Noni had structured for the kids this spring: a chance to design a project that supports climate sustainability. It would help them see the issues as a global ones and to meet and share with other like-minded youth around the province??</p> <p>Chantelle replied:</p> <p>Thanks for this Judy!! I think province-wide thinking is a fabulous idea on this all. I wonder if I can contact Noni even during the summer to pass on this information to any one in the group who</p>

<p>h. Our Watersheds – Through the Lens of Art - Viewing Ecosystems Creatively</p> <p>i. Water Monitoring</p> <p>j. Newsletter</p> <p>k. Fry salvage</p> <p>l. Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary</p>	<p>is interested? I think a number of the students would be keen. It's vital to bring participation from many different areas to touch on this. I'll take a look at the link and thank you for co-creating climate solutions.</p> <p>h. Judy Brayden reported that the CLRSS contribution to the show would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 set of 2 – 20 w x 16 h matted and framed, before and after pictures of the Youbou Mill site in Youbou. Could be hung one above the other. (NFS) • The video loop using the projector borrowed from the Cowichan Public Art Gallery Society. • The River Ribbon with didactics (65 feet by 15 inches) ceiling installation. (NFS). <p>Further the cost of printing will be between \$450 and \$500 (this includes all of the materials).</p> <p>i. Proceeding as usual thanks to Bee Greenway and her crew of volunteers.</p> <p>j. Nil report</p> <p>k. Dave DePape advised that fry salvage continued in July with more than 5000 coho fry rescued from 3 tributaries (Meade Creek, Robertson River and Robertson River bypass) which were translocated to Cowichan Lake. The Freshwater Alliance participated in one of the rescues and has written an excellent article in support of the program. Members were advised that Paper Excellence sends a crew of biologists to survey the pools to see if fish will be stranded and to access the threat before they reduce the flow.</p> <p>l. Nil report</p>
<p>New Business:</p> <p>1. CLRSS involvement in Celebrating Arts and Nature event, September 4, 2021 in Lake Cowichan.</p>	<p>1. Rosemary Danaher will be hosting a CLRSS table at this event. At the table will be CLRSS brochures and possibly membership sales. Oxford will be in attendance. This event sponsored by the Cowichan Lake Arts and Culture Society will run from 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Library square in Lake Cowichan. Rosemary will be using the CLRSS tent.</p>
<p>Stewardship Community Reports:</p> <p>1. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable</p>	<p>1. Jean Atkinson reported on the Stoltz Park field trip/meeting that was held on July 15th, 2021. She commented on the number of young environmentalists who attended. Representatives from BC Parks were in attendance as well. She outlined the agenda: Tim Kulchulski spoke about the</p>

	importance of story telling and first-hand observation in educating youth about nature; Judy Brayden conducted a creativity activity: "How is this Water Like a..." and Joe Saysell spoke about the history of the changes to the river, referring specifically to the removal of the "Double D" ox bow in the 1990's. The finale was a guest appearance by Stth'aqwi' (chinook salmon), the CWB's mascot.
Motion to Adjourn	Motion to adjourn by Rosemary Danaher at 7:43 p.m.
Important Upcoming Dates: August 27, 2021 - Opening of the Watershed – Through the Lens of Art show at the CVAC Gallery, 2687 James Street, Duncan September 4, 2021 – CLRSS involvement in <i>Celebrating Arts and Nature</i> , (Cowichan Lake Arts and Culture Society) 11:00 – 3:00 p.m. at the Library square in Lake Cowichan (see New Business above) September 12, 2021 – Annual CLRSS RCU September 13, 2021 – regular Board meeting September 25, 2021 – Heritage Rivers' Day – last day of the Watershed Show October 4, 2021 - regular Board meeting October?? – Beer N Burger fundraiser??? November 8, 2021 - regular Board meeting	

Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir	2. Increase Youth Engagement
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public support • Increase community understanding of new weir benefits • Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir 	Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase youth membership • Re-establish Lake Studies program • Collaborate with other valley youth programs • Establish youth roundtable
3. Protect Lake Shore Lands	
Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect critical undeveloped shoreline and tributary habitat • Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed • Expand shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks 	

Appendix 2: CSSP Report from Coordinator, Elodie Roger

Month of June

Confirmed prescriptions for shoreline restoration at 6 locations around Cowichan Lake.

Sent out job offers. No response was received until the last minute, resulting in the hiring of 2 students outside of the Cowichan Lake community (with approval from funders).

Hired 3 great students from July 5th 2021 till August 28th at 7h per day, 4 days per week: Chelsea, high school student in Lake Cowichan, Ana, high school student in Shawnigan Lake living by Lake Cowichan, and Ceilidh, graduated high school student living in Duncan.

To top it up, we have secured a successful partnership with Khowutzun Forestry Services (KFS) and hired 2 Cowichan Tribes members: Jordan and Chris. The team has been worked very well together so far!

Genevieve and Elodie attended a CLRSS board meeting and plan to provide their board of directors with regular updates on the project.

Section 11 was successfully approved for all our restoration sites and was extended by 15 days. The work is approved under the following conditions:

- Have an Environmental Monitor (R.P.Bio.) oversee the project
- Ensure native plants receive sufficient water during the first two summers to fully establish
- Complete work on or before September 30, 2021 (15 day extension)

Forecasted planting for this season: 2010 plants, 12 species, of which 7 will receive herbivory fencing.

We currently have 1208 potted plants delivered. Another 800 plants (sedges and rushes) will arrive late August / Early September from NATs Nursery (Vancouver). Plants were purchased from 4 local native plant nurseries I have worked with in the past: Saanich Native Plants, Lochside Nursery, Streamside Native Plants Nursery, NATS.

A great partnership was secured for the storage of our plants at the Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Station: A fully irrigated greenhouse was made available to us for temporary storage of plants until the end of the summer.

Month of July

Summer crew started on July 5th with site visits in the field to provide an overview of the project to the team.

Restoration schedule (subject to changes):

1. Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Station – restoration work completed.
2. Lakeview Park Beach - restoration work in progress.
3. Gordon Bay Provincial Park – not started
4. Jean Atkinson – not started
5. CLEC – not started
6. Spring Beach – not started

Restoration work completed since July 6th:

- Cowichan Lake Forestry Research Station: 780 plants planted, about 1200 m2 of shoreline restored (6 sites)

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- Lakeview Beach Park: 79 plants planted, 156 m² restored (3 out of 8 sites completed).
- Our crew will be working by Lakeview Park for another 2 weeks.

Another site on the Cowichan River has been identified as a high priority for restoration – the bank is collapsing at an alarming rate. I will be seeking Dave Polster's inputs to confirm bio-engineering practices that could take place in September if time, budget and resources allow.

All plants are being logged in the GPS.

Before (and after) pictures are taken for each site. Flagging tape is installed in the field to identify photo documenting stations in areas not heavily frequented by the public. The decision was made to refrain from adding flagging tape in recreational areas. A database of pictures is kept updated for future reporting needs.

T-shirts were very kindly donated to our summer crew by the CLRSS board of directors. The staff was very grateful and has worn the t-shirts every day so far! Thank you again

Increase in fire intensity and frequency throughout BC resulted in one of our KFS staff being sent to fight fires. I met with KFS Management and discussed having a back-up staff joining our team while Jordan is away. I will hear from them next week. If KFS does not have any back up plan, I have another lead that we could hire temporarily.

Wayne and I connected by phone about the watering schedule, site identification and locations. I will Email Wayne on Monday with watering needs as the plants started suffering from the dry weather despite my crew's efforts to keep them watered at the research station.

Educational posters about herbivory fencing were produced and will be installed at all sites on fences, especially in areas heavily used by the public.

Work at Gordon Bay Provincial Park was approved today by BC Parks! Victory!