

**MINUTES for CLRSS Board Meeting**  
**April 8, 2024**  
**In person at the Country Grocer Meeting Room**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Chair:** Jim Deck

**Present:**

Board: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Rodger Hunter, Cam McCauley, Beverley Nimmo and Don Prescott.

Members: Jill Thompson, Joe Saysell, Bee Greenway, and new member, Jan Heard.

Guests: Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, and CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison.

**Absent with apologies:**

Maureen Quested, Dave DePape, Robert Martin, Don Prescott, Rosemary Danaher, Mike Patrick, Lois Atchison and Councillor Kristine Sandhu.

Volunteer Hours were collected with thanks.

**Acknowledgement:** We acknowledged that this virtual meeting takes place on the unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Pauquachin, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Malahat, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht Peoples who have stewarded this land for time immemorial. We hope our work here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in the Cowichan Valley.

**The Fourfold Way was Reviewed:**

- 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.

**Introductions:**

New CLRSS member Jan Heard, was introduced. Jan chose to attend the meeting so she could see how the society works and to meet the Board members. This was well received by those in attendance, as CLRSS has always had an open Board meeting policy and welcome any and all members to attend at any time.

**AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Acceptance/amendment of agenda: Moved Judy Brayden and seconded by Beveley Nimmo that the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED

2. Acceptance of minutes of March 4, 2024: Moved Judy Brayden and seconded Diana Gunderson that the minutes be accepted as amended. The amendment was to correct the position of attendee, Robert Martin. Robert's title is Communications Coordinator for the Lulumexun (Lands and Self-Governance) Department at Cowichan Tribes. CARRIED
3. Comments with thanks from:
  - President Jim Deck: Jim once again thanked the Board and volunteers for their hard work this year. He indicated that he will not be letting his name stand for the CLRSS Board position of president at the upcoming 2024 AGM. Jim's several year contributions to the work of the society does not go unnoticed and thanks will be forthcoming for his work on our behalf.
  - Ian Morrison, CVRD Area F Director, reported once again thanked CLRSS for its work for the watershed and that because of the Fourfold Way, felt that we likely had not witnessed the current phenomena of *uncivil civic politics (toxic culture)* and that this topic will be addressed at the upcoming Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities (AVICC) by keynote speaker, Diane-Kalen -Sukra [Finding ways how municipalities can overcome toxic culture - Municipal World](#) Ian commented that he could bring highlights back to the Board at a future date.
  - Jill Thompson, Communications Director of the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB), had little to report at this time. Jill communicates regularly with the CLRSS Executive Committee as issues arise. With thanks to Jill.
4. Treasurer's report – Beverley Nimmo shared the monthly Treasurer's Report and with our thanks will work on the Year End Financials for the upcoming AGM.
5. Membership Drive, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Country Grocer, Lake Cowichan – the results were nine new or renewing members and a cash donation of \$18.00. Many thanks to Maureen Qusted, Mike & Carrol Patrick and Diana Gunderson who helped out all day. Beverley Nimmo was a big help for three hours in the morning. These volunteers were definitely a positive influence in talking to people about CLRSS and it resulted in some new members and volunteers.

**It was moved by Judy Brayden and seconded by Beverley Nimmo that Mike Patrick be reimbursed for his out-of-pocket printing costs (up to \$50). CARRIED**

NOTE: As Mike was not in attendance at the meeting, we were unclear about the total cost, but the Board members felt that it was likely less than \$50. Should that not be the case, the balance will be submitted at a subsequent meeting.

6. Play Wave motion – from previous meeting.

**It was moved by Diana Gunderson and seconded by Jean Atkinson that: The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society does not support the addition of a Play Wave on the Cowichan River Quw'utsun sta'lo'. CARRIED with one dissenting vote.**

A slight amendment to the rationale was accepted so that we use using the Hul'qumi'num word for Cowichan River in the rationale as it is in the motion.

Rational:

Since its inception, the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society has been focused on the protection of the Heritage Cowichan River Quw'utsun Sta'lo'. The cumulative effect of past and current human activity on and near the river is already taking a toll. This is even more significant because of the on-going effects of climate-related changes which continue to cause droughts and low water flows. A man-made play wave attraction in the river will result in a dramatic increase in users of the river and will cause further stress on the river and on area facilities.

7. Shaw Creek presentation by Rodger Hunter – Rodger Hunter and Jill Thompson presented a PowerPoint outlining the value of Shaw Creek watershed to the health of the Cowichan Lake and River. A considered discussion ensued about possible action to save/preserve and or protect this special and unique eco-system. Jill and Rodger will work on refining possible next steps for CLRSS to consider in regard to a realistic action or campaign to protect Shaw Creek. Thanks were expressed to Rodger and Jill for this presentation.
8. Update on Project 84,000 – Judy Brayden reported that the project has been heartily accepted in several watershed circles. She distributed a flyer to each Board member about “plate-making” days at Vimy Hall on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to come and help. *After this meeting, the Town of Lake Cowichan has approved a \$350 grant-in-aid application for this project.*
9. Update on Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden – Jean Atkinson reported that further to her report in the recent CLRSS newsletter, she felt the goals of including youth in the regular maintenance of the riparian area including the removal of blackberries at the appropriate time of the year and the goal of building a solid relationship with the Town of Lake Cowichan’s maintenance crew had in fact been met. The Board appreciated this conclusion.
10. Update on Celebrating Water Festival – Weir All Connected – see below. Outline was well received.

Ken Traynor has added a link to the CLRSS website at <https://www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca/general-clean> Parker has added information to Facebook page at <https://fb.me/e/3NfXnLYuz> Chamber of Commerce will be including info on their e-newsletter which is coming out every 2 weeks right now. A “Save the Date” connection will be made with possible exhibitors by April 8, and registration forms will be sent out by April 15. We expect to have a firm list of organizations that will be taking part by the middle of May. A small “Note the Date” printing was given out at Country Grocer on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> at the CLRSS Membership Drive table. The theme of the event is to promote a redeveloped weir.

Organizing committee goals are for attendees to:

- realize *Weir All Connected* – all species are connected through their dependence on water;
- understand that *Weir Creating the Future* for generations to come;
- become familiar with the Lake Cowichan weir redevelopment project and the Shoreline Assessment tool, enabling a better understanding of increased water storage;

- sharpen their identification skills of invasive species and adopt methods and habits to stop their spread;
- support CLRSS after learning of its concerns and actions on behalf of community well-being;
- enjoy a *Weir Focused* event filled with educational family-oriented exhibits that feature hands-on activities, along with talks and tours which support weir redevelopment.

11. Invasive Species Committee – Further discussion about this concept ensued. Further to this meeting Maureen Quested has reported that a team of Dave DePape, Cam McCauley, Jay White and Jacqueline Sherk has been formed and they will report back to the Board at their convenience. With thanks.

12. Announcement: Board Brunch date is Sunday, May 5, 2024 - 10:30 until its over. RSVP by Sunday, April 21. Maureen needs to know how many to prepare for and time to buy groceries.

13. Water sampling – the members reviewed the call out information and Jim reported that several people had contacted him: Rodger Hunter, Joe Saysell, Dianna Flood and Leroy Van Weiran have volunteered with thanks. We are still in need of more volunteers.

14. AGM – the Board was reminded about the upcoming May 26<sup>th</sup> AGM.

15. A copy of Rosemary's sales and cards issued report was circulated: 2 get well cards were sent last month to Maureen Quested and Diana Gunderson; 1 hoodie was sold.

16. Adjournment at 9:00 p.m.