

CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, November 8, 2021 – via Zoom with thanks to the Cowichan Watershed Board

Items: Rotating chair: Jim Deck	Action: What? By Whom? When?
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rick Bryan, Lyndon Keeping, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Dave De Pape, Diana Gunderson and Ken Traynor. Members: Mike Patrick, Genevieve Singleton and Maureen Quested. Guests: CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu Absent with regrets: Chantelle Carden, Lois Atchison, Carrol Patrick, Tom Rutherford, CWB Executive Director and Elodie Roger</p>	
<p>We acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Ditidaht 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:</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 printed.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Lyndon Keeping/Dave DePape CARRIED</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of October 4th, 2021.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Diana Gunderson and Lyndon Keeping CARRIED</p>
<p>Treasurer's report: NIL report this month</p>	<p>Jim Deck is now doing the day-to-day bookkeeping and financial administration for Treasurer, Lyndon Keeping.</p>
<p>Guest remarks from the Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristine reported on the situation of the Town Hall project. No discharge into the lake after recent rains; on-site supervision by a QEP; excavation for shoring up foundations and bank stability is complete; tender out for further Town Hall construction (closes Nov 16th). • Applications for variance for Prospect Ave. properties were approved with conditions as set out in planners report to council. • TLC is hosting a Round Table on Nov 16 to discuss past summer's experience and ideas for improvement. • Kristine suggested that it is best to deal directly with TLC staff for timely information on ongoing issues.
<p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison</p>	<p>Ian reported that planning capacity in the CVRD parks</p>

	<p>department was down due to staffing losses, but he would be calling a meeting for December to begin discussion re development of Little Beach Park area. Lori Iannidinaro was elected as CVRD Board chair. Ian is working on challenges in Area F. Fifty percent of taxes come from Forest land but BC Assessment has frozen any increases on assessments of forestry land for last 5 years while they finalize their calculations. This action has meant residential taxpayers have had to shoulder larger than usual tax increases recently. The goal is to get new valuations of Class 7 forest lands updated for this upcoming tax year.</p>
<p>Guest Remarks from Cowichan Watershed Board ED, Tom Rutherford</p>	<p>Tom was absent. Ken Traynor updated members on the report to CWB by Mike McCulloch from MOE fisheries, which included discussion about Joe Saysell's proposal to close the upper river during spawning season.</p>
<p>President's Report: 1.) Update on the Prospect Avenue property. 2.) Update on the Town of Lake Cowichan Hall expansion. From October: A motion by Rosemary Danaher was carried at the October meeting to draft a letter to the Town, raising issues about the hall expansion project activities in the riparian area. (See Appendix 2 below) 3.) Ken reminded members about the Shoreline Assessment On-line Public report at 7:00 p.m. on Nov. 17 (see cowichanlakeweir.ca for details) Jean Atkinson reported that an announcement about this meeting was placed in the Youbou Community Association's recent newsletter.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Variance request was passed by council with extensive conditions as per the TLC planner's report and will be current for 2 years. 2. Letter drafted and sent (see appendix 2 below) Kristine Sandhu reported on recent actions by TLC. Ken Traynor circulated link to Cowichan Valley Citizen article on council meeting where CLRSS letter was discussed. https://www.cowichanvalleycitizen.com/news/lake-cowichan-town-hall-tenders-issued-project-on-track-so-far/ .

<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:</p> <p>1.) Saywell Park Riparian area trimming – Ken Traynor, Diana Gunderson</p> <p>2.) Motion for CLRSS to make \$100 contribution to CowichanSearch and Rescue as thanks for presence during RCU event and their good work in the valley.</p> <p>3.) Special facilitated meeting – future of CLRSS and the RCU. (see Appendix 3) – Dave DePape</p> <p>4.) Winter meeting schedule and decision re zoom or face-to-face engagements (with some costs for meeting rooms)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The TLC trimming of Saywell Park riparian area was discussed and it was agreed that CLRSS representatives, Rosemary Danaher and Diana Gunderson will meet with TLC gardeners to discuss collaboration on the GTM Native Plant Garden and the riparian upkeep that needs to be done. 2. Ken Traynor moved and Lyndon Keeping seconded this motion, that was carried. 3. It was decided that the CLRSS will work on further definition and details of a “Signature Event” for 2022 i.e., what, where, when, etc. over the winter. 4. It was agreed we would meet by Zoom this winter and reconsider face-to-face meetings in the spring.
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<p>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</p> <p>a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden – Lois Atchison</p> <p>b. Social and Retail Sales – Rosemary Danaher Nil</p> <p>c. Monthly Meetings rotating chair for December,2021 – with thanks to Ken Traynor</p> <p>d. Membership – Maureen Quested – Nil</p> <p>e. Fundraising – Maureen Quested</p> <p>f. Decibel Coalition – Diana Gunderson – NIL</p> <p>g. Youth Engagement – Chantelle Carden</p> <p>h. Water Monitoring – Bee Greenway</p> <p>i. Newsletter – Chantelle Carden</p> <p>j. Fry salvage – Dave DePape Nil</p> <p>k. Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary – Diana Gunderson</p> <p>l. Cowichan Climate Hub – Nil</p> <p>m. CSSP – Genevieve Singleton</p> <p>n. Lamprey - Genevieve Singleton - Nil</p>	<p>a. Maple and Alder leaves needed.</p> <p>e. \$240 has come in recently from Thrifty's Smile Card use.</p> <p>f. Diana reported on Decibel Coalition activities and upcoming Transport Canada consultations. She will have a more complete report at next meeting.</p> <p>g. Chantelle's report:</p> <p>Update with Noni Baanstra from LCS: I've sent her an e-mail at the end of last week regarding any updates on her environmental group students. I'm still waiting to hear back.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All School clean-up • Signage on river (in collaboration with CLRSS) to help with garbage clean-up. Goals to work on next spring/summer with Tube shack to help encourage keeping the river clean. • Native plant gardening for this school year. • The newsletter has gone out and is on the website. <p>h. Water monitoring - Dave De Pape reported that he and Bee Greenway will be meeting with MOE rep to discuss training on the use of the new MOE data input tool.</p> <p>j. Dave DePape will consult with Parker Jefferson about final numbers and any recommendations for future work.</p> <p>K. Diana read the thank you card from the 2021 Bursary winner, Kyle McKechnie.</p> <p>m. Genevieve Singleton and Elodie Roger will make a special presentation on the status of the CSSP at the December meeting.</p>
<p>Stewardship Community Reports:</p> <p>1. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Jim Deck</p>	<p>Jim Deck and Genevieve reported on the recent River's Day, expressing thanks to CLRSS for its participation.</p>
<p>Motion to Adjourn</p>	<p>Moved by Rosemary Danaher</p>

<p>Important Upcoming Dates: November 17, 2021 Shoreline Assessment On-line Public report back at 7:00 p.m. see cowichanlakeweir.ca for details</p> <p>Monday, December 6th CLRSS Board Meeting</p>	
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Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir	2. Increase Youth Engagement
<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public support • Increase community understanding 	<p>Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase youth membership • Re-establish Lake Studies program • Collaborate with other
<p>f new weir benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir 	<p>valley youth programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish youth roundtable
3. Protect Lake Shore Lands	
<p>Goals</p> <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

Po Box 907
Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

Dear Mayor Day and Council:

I am writing today, on behalf of the **Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS)**, regarding the work that has been done in the area immediately behind the Town Office on South Shore Road between the old firehall bays and the top of the riverbank.

As you are aware, for over a decade now, the CLRSS has worked to educate and encourage waterfront property owners to respect the important function of an intact riparian zone in their shoreline areas whether on the river or the lake. Our goal is to create a community where there is a balance between the

development impacts of property owners and their riparian responsibilities.

Which brings us to the renovation work that is going on behind the Town Office. Some CLRSS members observed the extensive excavation behind the Town Hall near the top of the river bank at a time in September very close to the end, September 15th, of the open period for works in a stream. We have also received comments on this from other members of the public.

The Lake Cowichan area is now experiencing a time of rapid growth with many new people moving in who are often unaware of regulations governing the riparian zone. It is up to all waterfront owners to do whatever they can to protect the riparian zone and to set an example for others on how development of waterfront property must coexist with respect for the riparian zone. There is no more important water front property owner than the Town of Lake Cowichan itself in setting an example.

We understand that the planning and execution of this project has been challenging for a number of reasons and we would like to know:

CLRSS DRAFT Agenda of the Board Meeting of November 8th, 2021 – KT and JB

1. Did the Town investigate ways to expand the Town Hall without disturbing the riparian zone? For example, by using the parking areas immediately adjacent to South Shore Road.
2. If other areas for expansion were considered and rejected why was this option selected with its attendant threats to the riparian zone?
3. Does the Town have plans to make any compensatory riparian restoration on other waterfront property that they own which would set an example for others and clearly indicate to the public that the Town values the importance of our riparian zone?

I look forward to your reply.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Traynor', written in a cursive style.

Ken Traynor President CLRSS

Appendix 3

For Nov 8th Meeting
Rephrasing the Question:

The majority of the group did not feel the correct question was being asked given the preceding discussion about the CLRSS's strategic plan, reasons for holding the event, what's changed since the event was originally held, and the consequences of not holding the event.

- The group decided to rephrase the questions and felt the following wording better addressed the issue: ***Should the river cleanup be part of a signature event that engages the community.***
- Following further discussion about the issue and concerns still arising by some participants, the group felt that the actual question on the table should be: ***“Does the CLRSS want to have a signature event?”***

Outcome:

- There was support i.e. consensus by all present, for the question as rephrased.
- It was decided that the CLRSS will work on further defining the details of the Signature event i.e. what, where, when, etc. over the winter.