

CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 1, 2021 – via Zoom, with thanks to the CWB

Items: Rotating chair: Lyndon Keeping 6:30 p.m.	Action: What? By Whom? When?
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rick Bryan, Rosemary Danaher, Diana Gunderson, Rodger Hunter, Parker Jefferson, Lyndon Keeping, Ken Traynor. Members: Genevieve Singleton. Guests: CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu and Cowichan Watershed Board Executive Director, Tom Rutherford.</p> <p>Absent with regrets: Chantelle Carden, Lois Atchison and Maureen Quested</p>	
<p>The chair acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Cowichan, Lake Cowichan and Ditidaht 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 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>Motion to accept the agenda as amended. Di/Ken Carried</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Diana Gunderson and Ken Traynor CARRIED</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of December 7, 2020.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Parker Jefferson CARRIED</p>
<p>Treasurer's report: Lyndon Keeping (See Appendix 2 below)</p>	<p>Acceptance moved and seconded by Lyndon Keeping and Judy Brayden CARRIED</p>
<p>Guest remarks from Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu.</p>	<p>1. Advisory Planning Commission committee two-year appointments, beginning January 1st, 2021: Darlene Ector, Lynn Klein, Pat Lamont, Janice New and Robert Patterson. They will be meeting shortly to review among other items, zoning bylaws, policies, and the active transportation project (trails, sidewalks, roads in the Town).</p> <p>2. T of LC Youth Advisory Committee Idea (See Appendix 3 below) The Mayor had met with the school in December. The concept of a Student Councillor for Town will be discussed at a future time.</p>
<p>Correspondence: For information only - Please discuss as items occur in agenda</p> <p>1. Email from Youbou citizen, Deborah Whittingham</p>	<p>1. Ken Traynor reported that once the weather improves, he will undertake more communications and possible site visits to individual properties in Honeymoon Bay. He reported that several Honeymoon Bay residents have been in contact about high water concerns. There will be a public</p>

	<p>presentation around the shoreline assessment project and likely our work will begin after that. Ken's sense is that the residents understand that the changes to the weir and lake levels are inevitable. The gravel being deposited annually in creek mouths is of considerable concern to residents of Honeymoon Bay</p>
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Engagement working group update 2. Eurasian Milfoil – Ken Traynor – 3. A Watershed Year – the watershed thru the lens of art (See Appendix 4 below) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Engagement working group update: Judy Brayden reported that the conversations with Noni Battye of LCS have gone well; she is very enthusiastic about the process of a Zoom youth forum, however until Chantelle regains her health, we cannot advance the timeline. Chantelle had committed to communicating a simple outline of the questions that she would be using for the Zoom focus groups. 2. Ken Traynor reported that the first steps in any such program would be to identify the locations of milfoil invasion; some form of survey could be conducted in the summer; CLRSS could go forward in a small way. Th suggestion to consider a request for funding from the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service fund. <p>Further:</p> <p>Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Lyndon that CLRSS should investigate the possibility of becoming a strategic partner in this work. CARRIED Ken Traynor will proceed and report back asap.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Judy Brayden reported that The Cowichan Valley Arts Council (CVAC) has made a proposal to the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) for its next agenda. There is a financial request and if it is successful, the arts council will convene a "Watershed Year", looking at am understanding and appreciation of the watershed thru the lens of art. She expressed interest in involving CLRSS should the opportunity arise.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leads conversation and updates as needed: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Lyndon Keeping (RCU) b. Parker Jefferson (Fry Rescue) NIL c. Bee Greenway (Lake Monitoring) NIL d. Ken Traynor (Shoreline Owner Education & Promoting Riparian Restoration) – NIL e. Lois Atchison and Rosemary Danaher (Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden) f. Judy Brayden (Monthly meetings) – Rotating Chair for March g. Ken Traynor (regular newsletters) – update - NIL h. Membership work – Maureen Quested update - NIL i. Diana Gunderson - Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary NIL 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1a. Lyndon briefly discussed some options that we have for the annual event; we could work with the tubing company; we could run a smaller, Covid-friendly event or we could be lucky enough to be able to resume our usual event format by that time. We will discuss this as time advances. 1e. Rosemary has submitted a written report (See Appendix 5 below) <p>Moved and seconded Rosemary Danaher and Diana Gunderson that we approach the Town of Lake Cowichan for a grant-in-aid to replace the directional sign at a cost of \$100. CARRIED</p> <p>Rosemary Danaher agreed to apply for the Grant in aide, before next week's deadline.</p>

<p>j. Rosemary Danaher – Retail sales/social update (see Appendix 6 below)</p> <p>k. Website – Ken Traynor – NIL</p> <p>l. Decibel Coalition – Diana Gunderson - NIL</p>	<p>1f. Judy Brayden thanked the rotating chairs that have volunteered to date. Parker Jefferson will convene the March meeting.</p> <p>1j. Rosemary Danaher submitted a written report (See Appendix 6 below)</p>
<p>New Business:</p> <p>1. Park's Acquisition Fund – Lyndon Keeping</p> <p>2. Summer of 2021 – Ken Traynor</p> <p>3. Board Building – Judy Brayden</p>	<p>1. Lyndon Keeping referred to a letter that Joe Saysell had written to the CVRD about the ongoing threat to the CVRD Parks Acquisition Fund - function 285, a fund established as a result of the 2008 referendum, at which time 82% of the voters voted in favour of the tax allocation for this fund. Area Director Morrison explained the history of the function and how taxes had been levied to date. The 2021 allotment is slated to be \$750,000 but can be as high as 1.4 million dollars annually. Attendees committed to writing personal emails to the Board members before their upcoming meeting. President, Ken Traynor, had written a letter in support of the fund in September, but agreed to revise it and resubmit it on behalf of the CLRSS.</p> <p>2. The attendees agreed that the art show, A Watershed Year, would be a do-able activity as well as possibly the annual River Clean-up, possibly the Weir Ready campaign, ongoing BCLSS water monitoring, and possibly milfoil surveying. Others discussed what they could do individually, such as household-based stewardship activities. Watershed ambassadors in Saywell Park was mentioned as well.</p> <p>3. Postponed to the next meeting.</p>
<p>Stewardship Reports:</p> <p>1. Cowichan Watershed Board - Tom Rutherford</p> <p>2. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable - Parker Jefferson and Genevieve Singleton.</p> <p>3. Other reports as needed:</p> <p>a. CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison - update</p> <p>b. Genevieve Singleton - the Cowichan Lamprey Education Project</p> <p>c. Jim Deck - water pollution in Youbou due to leeching of pollutants from road waste into Cowichan Lake.</p>	<p>1. Tom Rutherford, CWB Executive Director, commented that any coordination/assistance that we can offer each other regarding Covid clean-ups, would be very welcome.</p> <p>Further, he reported that despite the dynamics of Covid 19, the CWB is seeing a very productive, watershed year. He highlighted the work on the weir (resources have been secured to identify a licence holder); the ever-engaged community; increased access to resources in order to get things accomplished; identification of targets for the Koksilah watershed; continued outreach work for public education; Jill Thompson's videos with Cowichan Tribes and the sense of optimism in these difficult tough times. While the future is uncertain, the CWB is in a solid position to make good progress. Tom is in his fourth year as ED. Ken Traynor added that the CWB website is strong and transparent.</p> <p>2. Genevieve Singleton and Parker Jefferson reported. Judy expressed appreciation for the inclusion of CLRSS on the meeting notes distribution list.</p>

	<p>A major issue reported was that Stoltz bluffs has been assessed by a geotechnical crew and while the assessment has not yet been reviewed, the feeling is that the bluffs are more stable than previously assumed and therefore the sediment issue is better than last winter. An ancient forest grove in the upper Koksilah watershed is to be protected.</p> <p>While there are several CLRSS members attending the Cowichan Environmental Roundtable, it was agreed that CLRSS should have official representation at the regular meetings. Lyndon Keeping agreed to attend on our behalf and Judy will set up a rotating back-up list should Lyndon be unable to attend. Judy will receive the notes and will circulate as part of the agenda package if possible.</p> <p>3a. CVRD Area F Director Ian Morrison reported that the provincially mandated five-year regional Housing Needs Assessment is now available on the CVRD website. Of note is that Area F is slated to see considerable growth over the next years. While density is of importance, the existing BC Building Code does not approve of mini homes (or houses on wheels). Ian reiterated that the CVRD is in regular communication with Mosaic Forest Management regarding forest lands being sold for development. In the region. This is of importance to CVRD Areas F and I.</p> <p>3b. Genevieve Singleton commented on recent educational work on the lamprey awareness educational program. She is looking for more contacts in school and/or with community groups. The recent Save Our Homes/CLRSS joint Zoom presentation was well received by its 30 participants, as was her work with Lake Cowichan Scouts.</p> <p>3c. Jim Deck reported on a pollution problem in Youbou that exists when the CVRD plows forest debris and mud from the road, depositing it on the lake side edge, where chemicals and pollutants can leech into the lake. It was agreed that all poaching and polluting issues should immediately be reported to the RAPP line. This is the simplest way to get the problem routed to the correct jurisdiction. Ian Morrison suggested that he could contact Jim with any update on the involvement of the CVRD.</p>
<p>Motion to Adjourn at 8:37 p.m.</p>	<p>Moved Diana Gunderson <i>No seconder required</i></p>
<p>Important Upcoming Dates: Future Regular Meeting Dates: Monday, March 1, 2021– 6:30 p.m. Guest Speaker, Leroy Van Wieren, CVRD Monday, April 5, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.</p>	

Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir	2. Increase Youth Engagement
<p style="text-align: center;">Goals</p> <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 	<p style="text-align: center;">Goals</p> <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	
<p style="text-align: center;">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: Treasurer's Report

January 2021 Treasurer's Report						
	CASH in Bank		Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash		
CLRSS General Account	9,773.42		0.00	9,773.42		
to be deposited	0.00					
Salmon fry rescue funds				1,934.21		
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities				\$7,839.21		
Bursary Account Total				\$6,039.59		
Comments:						
CLRSS 2020/2021 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 28/01/2021						
Revenue			Expenditures			
Category	Budget	Actual	Category	Budget	Actual	
Total Revenue	4700	1,251.30	Total Expenditures	4,700.00	1,474.81	
Memberships	1300	1,000.00	Signs	0	0	
Donations	2000	223.30	Accounting	100	0	
Sales	590	0.00	Public Information	500	0	
Fundraising	800	28.00	BCLSS	50	50	
Interest	10	0	Society Fees	250	0	
			Printing Costs	400	0	

Purchase for Sales	400	-17.64
Gifted Apparel	0	17.64
Insurance	0	241.5
Bank Charges	100	8
Office Expenses	200	10.52
Courses & Mtgs	0	0
CSSP Activities	0	0
River CU	0	0
Fundraising Expenses	100	0
Misc. other	300	189.93
Transfers to Bursary Fund	500	130.82
Fry Rescue	300	0
GT Memorial Garden	500	657.44
Website Update	1000	186.6
Strategic Plan	500	0

Appendix 3: Letter to the Mayor and Council, Town of Lake Cowichan from the LCS Youth Council

Dear Mayor and Council;

My name is Tristen Peterson and I am a grade 11 student at Lake Cowichan School. Over the past couple of months myself and several other students along with our teacher Mrs. Erika Bfume, have been meeting for the purpose of forming a Youth Council.

We have now met five times and have come to the conclusion that we would not only like to have influence within the school population, but would also like to associate our group to the Lake Cowichan Town Council, perhaps as a Youth Council, Our thoughts would be to mirror the structure of the Town Council with a Youth Mayor and Four Councillors. Our goal, in following through on the latter, would be for us to discuss and offer a Youth opinion on issues the Town Council May be addressing at their Council meetings.

I would like to suggest that our group and Mrs. Biume arrange a virtual meeting in the near future to discuss our proposal. Our goal would be to gain the support of the Town Council for our initiative and how to move forward.

We look forward to hearing back on a date and time that would be best to meet whether it be as a delegation or as a special meeting specific to this topic.

Respectfully;
Tristen Peterson
(Student)
Erika B fume
(Teacher)

Appendix 4: A Watershed Year?

Cowichan Valley Arts Society - Watershed Show

Purpose: To consider the ideas that can be linked to "A Watershed Year" including education and art ideas.

To prepare an outline of the Watershed Year ideas to be presented to the CVAC board

Background: A **watershed** is dynamic and three-dimensional. It includes precipitation, the network of surface streams and the groundwater stored in underground aquifers, from mountains to oceans.

The word "watershed" is sometimes used interchangeably with drainage basin or catchment. Ridges and hills that separate two watersheds are called the drainage divide. The watershed consists of surface water--lakes, streams, reservoirs, and wetlands--and all the underlying groundwater.

This is what we have considered to date:

- An art gallery show in the month of September
- A watershed themed summer art camp
- A speaker series about Cowichan Valley artists who have focused on the watershed
- An outdoor painting course at a watershed site
- Educational activities for family and youth based on the watershed

Appendix 5: Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden

1. Vandalism to a GTMNPG directional sign,

Co-chair Rosemary Danaher reports that this vandalism occurred on or around Dec. 15, 2020.

Letter from President, Ken Traynor to the Town of Lake Cowichan:

I am writing on behalf of the Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society to report an act of vandalism on the sign at Saywell Park directing people to the Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden. Sometime around the 14th or 15th of December the sign was cut in two (see photos attached). The folks at the Kaatza Museum said that police had been called to park on Sunday the 13th. We have reported the incident to Cst. David Prakt of the RCMP case # 2458. We wanted to report the incidence for your information and will look into replacing the sign in the spring. We would welcome any information you may have about the incident.

Sincerely,
Ken Traynor ¹⁵_{SEP}
CLRSS President



Rosemary had spoken with Christine Sandhu on January 29, 2021 and the Saywell Park security camera is not recording - this matter will come up at the Feb. Parks meeting - Christine Sandhu didn't know the camera wasn't recording. Rosemary will also ask if Constable Prakt made inquiries re the vandalized sign - he was going to follow up on my sign vandalization complaint and find out if the Park security camera was on "recording". Constable Prakt has not gotten back to her.

2. The GTMNP Garden Historical Video:

Rosemary Danaher reports that: Our November 23rd letter to Council (about the PowerPoint Presentation about the background of the garden) hadn't been forwarded to them. This letter will also come before the Feb. Parks meeting. I've asked Christine Sandhu to please give us an update on both issues after the Parks meeting which she said she will do.

Good News: I've phoned the High School and called in to the Museum and this is what I learnt re our powerpoint. The Museum has taken a hard copy of the power-point and has it available for anyone inquiring about Gerald's Memorial Garden.

The grade 5/6 teacher at LCS was excited to access this power-point and is making use of it, generally on a monthly basis. She takes the kids for a scavenger hunt to Gerald's garden, and the kids learn about our local flora and fauna on their field trips. The other teachers know that the grade 5/6 teacher has this resource, so can access it easily.

I have reached out to Kristine Sandhu and asked for feedback from the power-point we delivered to Town Council.

Appendix 6: Sales and Social Report – Rosemary Danaher

Sales – NIL

Special cards - a condolences card to Jim Neiser's family and a Get-Well ecard to Chantelle Carden.