

Minutes of the January 8, 2024 CLRSS meeting  
Via Zoom thanks to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

CHAIR: Jim Deck

SPEAKERS' ORDER: Beverley Nimmo

Recording of volunteer hours

**ATTENDANCE:**

Board: Jim Deck; Judy Brayden, Beverley Nimmo; Maureen Qusted; Don Prescott; Jean Atkinson; Diana Gunderson; Rosemary Danaher

Members: Genevieve Singleton; Joe Saysell

Guests: Kristine Sandhu, Town of lake Cowichan Councillor; Tom Rutherford, CWB

Absent with regrets: Cam McCauley; Dave DePape; Elodie Roger, Origins Environmental Services;

**PREAMBLE:**

- a) Acknowledgement: that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Coast Salish people who have stewarded these lands since time immemorial. We hope that our work here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in the Cowichan Valley.
- b) Conduct Meeting in 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:**

1. **MOTION:** that the agenda be accepted as amended. 2 additions 7d. Upper River & 7e. Roundtable  
**Moved by:** Maureen Qusted  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Judy Brayden **CARRIED**
2. **MOTION:** that the minutes of December 4, 2023 be approved as circulated.  
**Moved by:** Maureen Qusted  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Diana Gunderson **CARRIED**
3. President's Report – attached to these minutes
4. **MOTION:** that the treasurer's report be accepted as presented  
**Moved by:** Beverley Nimmo  
**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Judy Brayden **CARRIED**
5. Guest Remarks
  - a. Tom Rutherford CWB
    - Every major waterway in the province had fish kills this summer
    - CWB will hire project co-ordinator to move quickly to response mode
    - CWB has a funder
    - Heather Pritchard and Tom reaching out to DFO and province

Weir – Minister Rankin suggests Clause 7 of DRIPA would allow for C. T. to hold water licence  
Community Collaborative Advisory Table – broad community representation; farmers, loggers etc.

  - good structure in place in how to manage water & land

Water Quality Sampling Project - Water quality monitoring guidelines are shifting: not firm yet  
Update next month

  - concern by Friends of the Cowichan to close river from the weir down from Dec. – April to project last spawners- b. Kristine Sandhu, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor
  - Town recognizes how important it is to manage waste water given this year's fish kill, so they are getting on with the sewage lagoon right away.
  - \$500 grant-in-aid made to LCS to do riparian planting on a steep slope (via Genevieve and Dave Elliot of Cowichan Tribes, a Native Plant Expert.)

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

- a) Signature Event Review – Cancelled on January 11; **CHANGE** to January 25 at 11:00 a.m. at Judy's – pot luck lunch
- b) Play wave in weir design – refer back to Executive committee
- c) Accessibility to membership list

**MOTION:** that the membership application be redesigned for 2024 – 2025 membership year, with all members submitting revised applications this year, to include specific volunteer activities and opportunities in order to generate volunteer lists pertinent to particular projects which will then be shared with the Executive and the Project Leads for their discrete use.

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Judy Brayden

**CARRIED**

- d) Non-Board member help with newsletter – help needed
- e) Bursary – criteria have not yet been changed but will aim to have criteria in place by June 30, 2024.

**MOTION:** that the Gerald Thom Memorial Bursary be \$1500 (one thousand, five hundred dollars) with the provision that, if there is a second qualifying applicant, and with the permission of the CLRSS Board, a second bursary of \$1500 will be awarded.

**Moved by:** Diana Gunderson

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Maureen Quested

**CARRIED**

- f) Saywell Park – Jean will convene a meeting of interested parties including Genevieve Singleton, Heather Pritchard, Elodie Roger, Jacqueline Sherk, Lois Atchison, Rosemary Danaher, Diana Gunderson, and Alex Work.
- g) December get together – good food, beautiful surroundings, compatible guests and very interesting legacy contributions.

7. New Business

- a. Post seasonal Social – as so few members were able to attend in December, another event will be planned, probably in March before CLRSS year end.
- b. “W the W” book – 253 books remaining, 36%
- c. KBA Canada Coalition Request – Jim will speak to Roger and try to add Shaw Creek as a Key Biodiversity Area while completing the online documents.
- d. Upper River – creeks flowing into the upper river are crucial as they keep the river cool in hot weather. For example, Exeter Creek flows year round. Gravel was dug out in September and now salmon are back in the creek. Upper river tributaries are important for spawning and rearing areas so should warrant attention.
- e. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Genevieve reported that Rivers’ Day will take place on September 22. She expects to cohost with Cowichan Tribes, but it is not a done deal yet.

8. Rosemary moved adjournment at 8:09 p.m.