

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

Items: Rotating chair: Parker Jefferson	Action: What? By Whom? When?
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rosemary Danaher, Diana Gunderson, Parker Jefferson, Lyndon Keeping, Ken Traynor. Members: Genevieve Singleton. Guests: CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu and Emily-Soder-Duncan</p> <p>Absent with regrets: Lois Atchison, Rick Bryan, Chantelle Carden, Rodger Hunter, Maureen Quested and Cowichan Watershed Board Executive Director, Tom Rutherford.</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 printed.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by: Lyndon Keeping/Diana Gunderson Carried</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of February 1, 2021</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by: Judy Brayden/Parker Jefferson Carried</p>
<p>Introduction of new attendee Emily Soder-Duncan by Judy Brayden.</p>	<p>Emily is a UBC student working on her master's in landscape architecture, who is living in Lower Sahtlam by the Cowichan River for the winter. She told us briefly about her community involvement component of the program</p>
<p>Treasurer's report: Lyndon Keeping</p>	<p>NIL REPORT</p>
<p>Guest remarks from Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu.</p>	<p>Kristine reported that ToLC grants in aide are announced in April; the ToLC Parks Committee will discuss the security camera at Saywell Park, suggesting that a live feed is not as appropriate as a recording device. On the CLRSS GTMNP Garden letter and PowerPoint, Kristine apologized, saying that this information had not yet been brought to the attention of the councillors; it will be on the March 16th meeting agenda.</p> <p>Kristine suggested that communications with the Council be carbon copied to the entire council and the CEO.</p>

<p>Presentation:</p>	<p>Ken Traynor made a special presentation of some educational/lake science links that are going up on our website. This would facilitate 'one-stop shopping' for scientific information rather than asking community members to scan and search many sites in order to understand the 'full picture'.</p>
<p>Correspondence: For information only - Please discuss as items occur in agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. From Area F Director, Ian Morrison: Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund 2. BCLSS – Online Forum: Boating on BC Lakes - Is it time for something different? 3. FYI: Note from Rick Nortin of BCLSS and report on the State of Cowichan Lake – Ken Traynor 4. Long running concerns about the land clearing on Cowichan Lake Road and Highway 18 in TLC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We had a brief discussion during which the Area F Director spoke about the nature of the letters that were submitted and again expressed his thanks. 2. Diana Gunderson reported that this was good news and that she will consider attending the BCLSS, Lake Windermere Ambassadors (LWA), and Living Lakes Canada (LLC) online forum on Wednesday, April 28, 2021. Time TBA. 3. Ken Traynor will contact Rick Nortin of BCLSS and ask him if he available to present at our 2021 AGM. Date TBD. FYI: BCLSS reported that that the Cowichan Lake report should be finished soon. 4. Ken Traynor apprised us of the involvement of local Qualified Environmental Professionals in mitigating any damage done to riparian areas around local streams in that area.
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anything further about what we envision the summer of 2021? 2. Jim Deck –Youbou Road clearing/srapings. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We briefly discussed the possibility of the annual RCU going ahead as usual this summer. Due to the uncertainty around the Covid situation, we are not in the position to speculate about this. However, 2021 RCU Lead, Lyndon Keeping, agreed to informally 'reach out' to Aaron Frisby, owner of the local tubing company, to ascertain whether a collaboration might be possible. He also will book Central Park for the date of August 21st. We were reminded that the Watershed Art Work would be taking place, as well a River's Day. 2. Jim Deck updated members on the ongoing issue over the scrapings on Youbou Road. The DFO has become involved. Parker Jefferson assured Jim that once the DFO was involved the RAPP line would also be informed. The issues is being resolved.
<p>3. Leads conversation and updates as needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden - Lois Atchison and Rosemary Danaher b. Monthly Meetings - Judy Brayden c. Maureen Qusted - Membership (see Appendix 2 below) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rosemary reported that all was well with the garden. b. Judy confirmed that Chantelle Carden would chair the April meeting. c. After discussion it was agreed that members of the Board need to 'step up' and assist with the membership drive that Maureen Qusted, Project Lead, has suggested. Bee Greenway agreed to assist with phone calls and Ken Traynor will contact Maureen asap. Guest, Emily Soder-Duncan suggested that an Instagram account would be a useful social media tool. Ken will contact Chantelle about this possibility and report back to the next meeting.

<p>d. Diana Gunderson - Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary</p> <p>e. Rosemary Danaher –Retail sales and cards</p> <p>f. Youth Engagement – Chantelle Carden</p> <p>g. Our Watersheds – Through the Lens of Art - Viewing Ecosystems Creatively- Judy Brayden</p>	<p>d. Diana reported that she has confirmed with LCS that the criteria etc. for the bursary is as usual again this year. She has completed all paperwork so the school selection process may proceed.</p> <p>e. \$70.00 and social update - no cards sent.</p> <p>f. See Appendix 5 below.</p> <p>g. See Appendix 3 below. Judy also suggested that she will convene a 1-hour Zoom meeting next week to engage members in a brainstorming activity to generate ideas for our project.</p>
<p>New Business: (numbers NOT used in the original agenda)</p> <p>1. Board Building – Ken Traynor</p> <p>2. Riparian Education signage concerns – Genevieve Singleton</p> <p>3. Trailor park on Sutton Creek concerns – Genevieve Singleton</p> <p>4. Shaw Creek video – Genevieve Singleton</p>	<p>1. Ken suggested that he would begin to contact existing Board members to ascertain vacancies etc.</p> <p>2. Genevieve spoke about the state of two of the three riparian informational signs at Saywell Park. Moved and seconded by Rosemary Danaher and Judy Brayden that we investigate replacing any damaged signs. CARRIED. Parker Jefferson agreed to work with Genevieve to revise them and get a quote for their replacement. He will report to the April meeting.</p> <p>3. Genevieve, Ken and Ian reviewed the situation and the members agreed that Ken would ascertain if an educational program might be appropriate using our knowledge of water levels and augmented with lamprey habitat information by Genevieve Singleton and Joy Wade. Ken will report updates to subsequent meetings.</p> <p>4. Genevieve suggested that an educational video about the ecological value of Shaw Creek could be possible as a collaborative project with Save Our Holms. Moved and seconded that CLRSS support this initiative in principle. CARRIED She is also seeking help with a boat that the videographer can use to record the shoreline of Shaw Creek from the water.</p>
<p>Community Stewardship Reports:</p> <p>1. Cowichan Watershed Board</p> <p>2. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Lyndon Keeping</p>	<p>1. In Tom's absence other reported that the UVIC Environmental Law Centre report on the criteria for holding the water license for the new weir was received. Annual reports are now being prepared.</p> <p>2. CLRSS Representative, Lyndon Keeping. reported on two interesting items: Thea Rodgers report on the correlation between Oxybenzone and the number of people swimming in a body of water and the initiative to better manage the freighter traffic/ mooring in the Salish Sea, while waiting for the Ports to accommodate them.</p>

<p>3. Other reports as needed:</p> <p>a. CLRSS Volunteer hours</p> <p>b. Lamprey update – Genevieve Singleton</p> <p>c. Area F Director, CVRD, Ian Morrison - update</p>	<p>a. CLRSS Volunteers hours fiscal year to date: 986 hours to February 1, 2021</p> <p>b. Genevieve updated us on the lamprey education works that she has been contracted to provide. Her contract has been extended; she is convening a park activity for the Lake Cowichan cubs.</p> <p>Further she reminded CLRSS members that the River's Day event will be going ahead on September 25th and that Oxford is invited to attend.</p> <p>c. Ian updated members on the Little Beach acquisition. While the deadline of June 30th will not be met, progress continues to be made.</p> <p>He reminded us that while the Provincial the Housing Needs Assessment predicted growth in Area F, the Official Community Plan still states that development must be around existing centres (urban containment boundaries) and that rural sprawl is not desired.</p>
<p>Motion to Adjourn at 8:37 p.m.</p>	<p>Moved by: Rosemary Danaher <i>No seconder required</i></p>
<p>Important Upcoming Dates: Future Regular Meeting Dates: Monday, April 12, 2021 – 6:30 p.m. with guest speaker, Leroy Van Wieren, CVRD. Monday, May 3, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>NOTE THAT BECAUSE THE FIRST MONDAY IS EASTER MONDAY, THE MEETING IS ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL</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: Membership Committee Report:

It appears that we only have 58 current members.

In April, I will be starting a membership drive to re-sign current members and try to bring back lapsed members. I will also try beating the bushes to flush out new members.

Until we can safely gather, I will be using email, telephone and written approaches to increase our membership. I also plan to redesign our membership application which I will present to the Board for approval. I think all Board members should have copies of the application so we can sign up new members when we engage with them. In other words, **'Strike while the iron is hot.'** I hope that we can get back up to 100 members while still under the constraints of COVID.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen

Appendix 3: Our Watersheds – Through the Lens of Art - Viewing Ecosystems Creatively

The goal is to raise awareness about managing our watersheds wisely through community-based, experiential, artistic activities.

Cowichan Watershed Targets for a Healthy and Sustainable Ecosystem

- 1) **River Flows** - We want to ensure that Cowichan River summer flows are at levels that support the needs of people and fish.
- 2) **Fish** - We want healthy fish populations in the watershed.
- 3) **Water Quality** - We want clean water in our watershed.
- 4) **Estuarian Health** - We want to be able to eat shellfish from Cowichan Bay.
- 5) **Riparian Habitat** - We want to protect and enjoy the benefits of healthy stream, lakefront, and estuary habitats.
- 6) **Watershed Knowledge**- We want Cowichan watershed residents to increasingly know and value their watershed. We can't fully value what we don't understand.
- 7) **Wise Water Use** - We want Cowichan watershed residents to use water wisely.

CLRSS has joined a unique, nine-month arts and environmental science opportunity being organized by the Cowichan Valley Arts Council (CVAC). Contact judybrayden@shaw.ca if you are interested in becoming involved with the CLRSS project work.

Who: Community environmental groups and individuals

How this works for groups or societies:

- Groups and societies choose of one of the seven aspirational targets and design a “learning bite” to be shared in the Valley Voice (one month per target). The final edit will be completed by CVAC and will be submitted in a high impact template designed to send a consistent and easily recognizable message to the public.
- Groups design one or two activities in which the community creatively expresses their understanding of the chosen target.
- Groups agree to share community promotions of all activities.
- Groups agree to archive evidence of those activities on Facebook pages etc.
- Groups may choose to participate in a multi-media art show at the Cowichan Valley Arts Council gallery Aug. 27-Sept. 23 (optional). A small donation to show costs would be appreciated by groups.

How this works for individuals and/or collaborative groups (artists, dancers, poets, musicians, thespians etc.)

- Individuals and collaborative artist groups choose of one of the seven aspirational targets.
- They agree to share community promotions of all activities on their social media sites.
- They agree to archive evidence of their creative activities on their own and CVAC Facebook pages etc.
- They are asked to participate in a multi-media art show at the Cowichan Valley Arts Council gallery Aug. 27-Sept. 23. Cost of show entry is \$25. per individual and \$30 for collaborative group.

How to register:

On or before May 1st email manager@cowichanvalleyartscouncil.ca. With subject: Watershed Show, include the name of your group (or individual) your contact information and your choice of CWB target. Feel free to contact the arts council for more information.

Watch for an introductory article in the March edition of the Valley Voice

Appendix 4: CLRSS CVRD collaboration on Water Quality

To: Kate Miller from Ken Traynor

Hi Kate - It has come to my attention that CVRD is beginning to develop Strategic Partnerships with valley organizations as part of your implementation of the new Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Function in CVRD. As you are aware CLRSS has been involved in work on water quality monitoring through collaborations with BCLSS over the years and in partnership with the Watershed Board and MOE as well as our riparian restoration work. I would be interested to talk with you or someone from your department about how you see the role for organizations such as ours in the development and the implementation of the new Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Function going forward.

Look forward to discussing this with you. Thanks for all you do for the valley.
Ken Traynor

To: Ken Traynor from Kate Miller

Thanks for reaching out. Our new DWWP staff person will be starting work with us in March and I will be reaching out to make introductions and help connect him to what is going on in the community. RE the water quality program. You will see that Rosie and Deb have just released the water quality attainment report for the lake https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/waterquality/water-quality-objectives/waqo-attainment-reports/2021-01-21_cowichan_lake_attainment_final.pdf

Under the CVRD DWWD strategy we will be separating somewhat from the provincial process for a couple of reasons.

1. Timeliness – we need the analysis and tracking information to inform land use planning so a 8-9 year lag on the reports does not work for us.
2. Moving to a risk based approach. Given we have limited funds and a large region we are limiting the number of sites we are monitoring but able to identify emerging issues and focus tactically where possible
3. changing the methodology from the provincial attainment process 5 in 30s every 5-10 years to ongoing regular monitoring stations and increasing the number of times a year to 3. If possible exploring automates sensors in some key areas.

The CVRD Board approved the regional water quality strategy last year and we have limited funds to implement it in our annual budget. This allows us to identify issues tactically and report out annually re trends to the communities as well as adjusting our environmental planning policies if necessary to address emerging issues.

We have two types of partnerships identified under the DWWP:

- One- strategic partnerships which are long term strategic partnership that are not operational and help the CVRD move the objectives of the program forward (like the CWB) these are approved by the Board based on a set of criteria.
- The second type of partnership proposed is more operational like community based data collection. Historically we did this via working with volunteer groups for data collection which was fairly straightforward as there where no funds being expended. We have a number of community groups which are interested in taking this on in exchange for funding for the service. As we are a local government we are bound by our and provincial/federal purchasing policies and have to go through a RFP process which is fairly onerous. We are currently trying to develop social procurement process

which would allow us to release a limited call for proposals annually to local groups and still meet our regulatory needs.

In anticipate having the Spring Water quality data collection program launched this year if all goes well with my new staff person.

I know a lot of this feels slow and bureaucratic but I think we are at the launch point now we have approval to start the program and we have the greenlight on hiring and communicating outward which had all been put on hold last February.

Drop me a line or give me a shout if you have any more questions.

Kate Miller, MSc. MCIP, RPP, LEED AP+
Environmental Services Manager
Engineering Department
Cowichan Valley Regional District

Appendix 5: Youth Engagement

Chantelle reports that she had a good Zoom call with her Environmental Lead student - Ellsie - She will be taking the questions the Education Committee developed this week and working with the students in groups on them, they are going to whiteboard this as a group. They will be meeting with Chantelle on March 8 - going over and discussing more on the questions. From there Chantelle will be supporting them in potential project ideas. They will be leaving for spring break and then I'll be meeting with them again to discuss the part 2 of the project with a more detailed discussion on the project/idea they will move forward with CLRSS.