

## CLRSS Board Meeting Agenda - Monday, September 13, 2021 – via Zoom with thanks to Ken Traynor

Items: Rotating chair: Chantelle Carden	Action: What? By Whom? When?
<p><b>In attendance - Board Members:</b> Jean Atkinson, Chantelle Carden, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Dave De Pape, Diana Gunderson and Ken Traynor.  <b>Members:</b> Lois Atchison, Mike Patrick and Maureen Quested. <b>Guests:</b> None.  <b>Absent with regrets:</b> Judy Brayden, Carrol Patrick, Rick Bryan, Lyndon Keeping, Joe Saysell, Tom Rutherford, Bee Greenwood, Rodger Hunter, Kristine Sandhu and Ian Morrison.</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><b>The Fourfold Way was reviewed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• respect each other by having just one speaker at a time</li> <li>• expect people to speak from the heart with passion</li> <li>• expect people to show up to solve problems <i>and</i></li> <li>• expect people to speak without blame.</li> </ul>	
<p>FYI only Our Strategic Plan (See Appendix 1 below)</p>	
<p>Motion to accept the agenda as amended.</p>	<p><b>Moved and seconded by Approved.</b></p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021.</p>	<p><b>Moved and seconded by Diana Gunderson/Rosemary Danaher. Approved</b></p>
<p>Treasurer's report: See Appendix 2 below            Dave De Pape requested information on the Bursary entry. Ken passed on the information to Dave. Dave asked if CLRSS could reimburse him to buy two oxygen bubblers for fry rescue.</p>	<p><b>Acceptance moved and seconded by Diana Gunderson/Ken Traynor</b></p>
<p>Motion to accept report and purchase two bubblers from Fry rescue funds.</p>	<p><b>Ken Traynor/Rosemary Danaher Approved</b></p>
<p>Guest remarks from the Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu</p>	<p><b>No report</b></p>
<p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison</p>	<p><b>No Report</b></p>
<p>President's Report (See Appendix 7 below)            Chantelle to represent CLRSS at Climate Hub            Ken to contact Kristine Sandhu concerning construction behind Town of Lake Cowichan town hall.</p>	
<p><b>Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RCU 2021 Update – deferred to the special meeting of September 20,</li> <li>2. The Watershed Through the Lens of Art Show (August 27<sup>th</sup> to September 25, 2021) – Judy Brayden (See Appendix 5 below)</li> <li>3. Annual River's Day contribution from CLRSS - Judy Brayden</li> <li>4. Celebrating Arts and Nature event, September 4, 2021, in Lake Cowichan – Rosemary Danaher</li> </ol>	<p>RCU to be held at a later date due to September 20 being election day.</p>

<p>5. Riparian request – Jean Atkinson and Di Gunderson met with a couple of lake front owners who had requested an evaluation of the riparian area. The riparian areas were perfect.</p> <p>6. Paddlesport Update – Rick Bryan (See Appendix 6 below)</p>	
<p><b>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</b></p> <p>a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden – NIL</p> <p>b. Social and Retail Sales – Rosemary Danaher</p> <p>c. Monthly Meetings rotating chair for October 2021 – with thanks to Dave DePape</p> <p>d. Membership – Maureen Quested reports that 4 renewals at the CLACS event on Sept. 04, 5 new members were signed up at RCU, <b>75</b> members in good standing</p> <p>e. Fundraising – Maureen Quested reports that BBQ – further \$100 donation received; \$139.55 from a CLAC fundraiser at the Arts in Library Square Day, Sept. 04. Many thanks to the Arts Council members who participated in this fundraiser for CLRSS. \$ 90.00 in our Account (484) at Duncan Recycle.</p> <p>f. Decibel Coalition – Diana Gunderson - NIL</p> <p>g. Youth Engagement – Chantelle Carden</p> <p>h. Water Monitoring – Dave De Paper for Bee Greenway – They are exceeding the number of samples required which is good.</p> <p>i. Newsletter – Chantelle Carden. Next newsletter in early October and will highlight activities over the summer and early fall.</p> <p>j. Fry salvage – Dave DePape (See Appendix 4 below)</p> <p>k. Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary - NIL</p>	
<p><b>Stewardship Community Reports:</b></p> <p>l. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable - NIL</p>	
<p><b>Motion to Adjourn</b></p>	<p><b>Moved by Rosemary Danaher/Diana Gunderson</b></p>
<p><b>Important Upcoming Dates:</b></p> <p><b>September 21, 2021</b> – Special one item, meeting – 4:00 at 5658 Riverbottom Rd., W. at the home of Judy Brayden. Appys and meeting at 4:00 p.m. Out of doors and respecting all Prov. Health Orders.</p> <p><b>September 25, 2021</b> – Heritage Rivers’ Day – last day of the Watershed Show at the CVAC Gallery (2867 James St., Duncan)</p> <p><b>October 4, 2021</b> - regular Board meeting</p> <p><b>October??</b> – Beer N Burger fundraiser???</p> <p><b>November 8, 2021</b> - regular Board meeting</p>	

## Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

<b>1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir</b>	<b>2. Increase Youth Engagement</b>
<b>Goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase public support</li> <li>• Increase community understanding of new weir benefits</li> <li>• Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir</li> </ul>	<b>Goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase youth membership</li> <li>• Re-establish Lake Studies program</li> <li>• Collaborate with other valley youth programs</li> <li>• Establish youth roundtable</li> </ul>
<b>3. Protect Lake Shore Lands</b>	
<b>Goals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect critical undeveloped shoreline and tributary habitat</li> <li>• Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed</li> <li>• Expand shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks</li> </ul>	

## Appendix 2 - Treasurer's Report

July August 2021 Treasurer's Report			
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash
<b>CLRSS General Account</b>	<b>11,564.35</b>	<b>350.00</b>	<b>11,353.90</b>
to be deposited	139.55		
<b>Salmon fry rescue funds</b>			<b>1,934.21</b>
<b>Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities</b>			<b>\$9,419.69</b>
<b>Bursary Account Total</b>			<b>\$6,378.63</b>
<b>Comments: eTransfer to Westland Insurance Group for 2021 River Cleanup liability insurance. Fundraising from CLACS event to be deposited.</b>			

CLRSS 2021/2022 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 31/08/2021					
Revenue			Expenditures		
Category	Budget	Actual	Category	Budget	Actual

<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4500</b>	<b>2,854.2 0</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>4,500.0 0</b>	<b>1,535.9 3</b>
Memberships	1400	940.00	Signs	0	257
Donations	2000	10.00	Accounting	100	0
Sales	300	0.00	BCLSS	50	50
Fundraising	800	0	Society Fees	250	0
Interest	0	0	Printing Costs	400	0
		1,904.2	Purchase for Sales	100	0
			Gifted Apparel	100	0
			Insurance	0	501
			Bank Charges	100	5
			Office Expenses	200	0
			Courses & Mtgs	0	0
			CSSP Activities	0	0
			River CU	0	0
			Fundraising Expenses	100	0
			Misc. other	500	34.45
			Transfers to Bursary Fund	500	476.8
			Fry Rescue	300	0
			Landowner Education	500	0
			GT Memorial Garden	400	0
			Website Update	100	0
			Watershed Art Project	800	211.68

#### **Appendix 4 – Fry Salvage – Dave DePape**

Dave reported that there has not been very much fry salvage work done since our last meeting. He and two others worked on the Robertson Creek for two sessions, rescuing approximately 500 coho fry.

#### **Appendix 5 – The Watershed Through the Lens of Art – Judy Brayden**

Judy reported that the show is a tremendous event, with good responses and high level of interest for the viewers. 200 people have attended to date. Donations have been low. Please do not miss an opportunity to see all the arts in the show! The official opening was on September 9<sup>th</sup> and again the response was good.

Judy has spoken with many of the Board members about possible ideas for the future of the Ribbon of River. A single-item meeting will be convened in October to continue this conversation. The mural presents a tremendous opportunity for future collaborative work in the watershed.

The costs paid out for the entire Watershed art activities is \$1011.68. This does not represent the actual costs and many hours and materials were donated by individuals. With thanks. Judy will advise Rosemary of an appropriate message of thanks to major supporter, professional photographer, Cim MacDonald.

#### **Appendix 6 – Rick Bryan**

**Promoting Passion In Watershed Stewardship  
Through Engaging Youth In Recreational Paddlesport:  
Pilot Project Report – August 31, 2021**

“Can you pinpoint a time when your love of rivers became an interest in conservation? Was there a moment when that became a passion?”

**“Yeah. I think back to my time in Montana, the late '60s, I did a five-day rafting trip down the upper Blackfoot River. It was my first multi-day rafting trip, at a time when rafting was a new thing, and while I had spent a lot of time on rivers and streams, I just became so immersed in the river. It just struck such a chord in me. From that point on, I knew that I wanted to spend my life devoted to river conservation, to the protection of rivers.”**

-- **Mark Angelo**, originator of World Rivers Day



**PROJECT BACKGROUND**

Over a year ago, several Cowichan Valley stewardship agencies discussed the possibility of jointly seeking *Youth Community Partnership Program (YCPP)* funding. The goal -- to share funding, in order to engage youth during the summer, thereby to support agencies' summer programs.

To support this initiative, the paddlesport community offered to provide a river-paddlesport program for YCCP-funded youth. The notion was to balance their “work” experience with a recreational opportunity, and thus to broaden youths' perceptions of watershed stewardship.

Unfortunately, by mutual agreement, the initiative was shelved.

This summer, (2021,) some local agencies independently engaged summer students to support their programs.

In response, the recreational community renewed its offer to provide introductory paddling instruction to individual summer students who were interested. The response from agencies varied from “excited” to “ignored”. Feedback from participating students was enthusiastic! Herewith, a brief report:

**PROJECT RATIONALE**

Young people will become our future watershed stewards.

Increasing environmental problems, such as climate change (or global pandemic), cause stress. Stress can negatively affect mental health. Outdoor recreation is proven to reduce stress, thereby reinforcing mental, physical, spiritual, cultural, and social health. The conclusion? Outdoor recreation must therefore be recognized as an integral component in environmental management.

The Cowichan River is designated a *Canadian Heritage River*. The *Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS)* specifies recreational values as one (of three) criteria for designation. NOTE, also, that the icon of the CHRS is a canoe!

Effective stewardship, based on ecology, requires a balance between “hard” sciences such as biology, and social sciences such as education, psychology, communication, and recreation & leisure studies. Recreational paddlers are known for practical use of effective social science principles: promotion, education, and youth engagement.

River paddlers' practices comprise strict environmental ethics: (a.) Human- and gravity-powered – no engines, no emissions (b.) No impact on riparian areas (c.) No damage to river-beds or spawning grounds -- no silt stirred up, no garbage left (d.) Strongly self-regulated, with an outstanding river-safety record, supported by effective instructional programs

Through meeting other youth affiliated with different agencies, participants will broaden their understanding of the wide scope of environmental activity through informal conversation with new friends.

As suggested in the epigraph above, (quoting Mark Angelo,) RECREATION may be more effective than WORK, in promoting a sense of passion for stewardship.

### **PROJECT OUTLINE:**

We acknowledge that our activities occur on unceded traditional territory of Coast Salish peoples, and we are also aware that our water-craft (canoes and kayaks) are based on designs originating from North America's Indigenous peoples.

The intent: to provide a low-cost recreational component for youth participating in the *Community Partnership Program*, or for summer students otherwise engaged in the work of local stewardship agencies.

The plan: to provide two-day, sanctioned "Basic Solo-Canoe Moving Water" clinics (based on *Recreational Canoeing Association of BC [RCABC]* standards

Dates – to be determined according to participants' availability

Program to include basic paddling skills, defensive swimming & self-rescue, boat rescues, shore-based rescues (throw-bags), basic river hydrology for paddlers, including recognition and avoidance of hazards).

Lead Instructor – Rick Bryan (certified *Moving Water Instructor-Trainer, RCABC*).

Waivers must be signed by participants (or parents, if participants are minors).

Maximum 6 participants per clinic

Location – Cowichan River, subject to suitability of river conditions (flows).

Equipment – canoes, paddles, PFDs, and helmets will be supplied by the instructor; participants (or sponsoring agencies) will provide wetsuits, footwear (neoprene booties, runners), lunches/snacks, water bottles, and transportation to/from the river.

Promotional opportunity – if requested by sponsoring agencies, we'll try to provide photos &/or video footage of the project's activities.

Follow-up -- we will encourage participants not to view the experience as a "one-off", but as the first step toward a life-long activity. We'll apprise participants of opportunities to further the development of their skills and experience, and to meet and engage with other members of the paddlesport community.

Participants requesting certification will be given the opportunity to engage in further supplementary instruction.

Cookies for the instructors will be required.

### **PARTICIPATION REPORT**

<u>Number of Participants</u>	<u>Sponsoring Agency or Affiliation</u>
2	Cowichan Watershed Board
3	Canadian Freshwater Alliance (including 1 supervisor!)
1	Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
1	Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
1	U. of Victoria Environmental Restoration student (unaffiliated)
1	Post-Grad Water-sampling Specialist (unaffiliated)
1	Random addition, strong conservation values (unaffiliated)

## COMMENTS, CONCLUSIONS

In consideration of funding limitations, the paddlesport community provided service and equipment at 'no-charge'.

Participants were generally enthusiastic about wishing to continue with paddlesport in the future.

One participant requested, and earned, certification ("Basic Solo Moving Water Paddler")

Our THANKS to those Agency Administrators who recognized the value of the program by freeing up participants for mid-week clinics. We thus avoided weekend crowds!

We regretted having to discontinue the project past mid-August, because of decreasing river-flows.

Heartfelt THANKS and CONGRATULATIONS go out to all participants for excellent skill development, perceptive conversations about river stewardship issues, amazing and positive companionship on the river, banter and laughs, and of course -- cookies. To all – **"Keep the Open Side UP, and SYOTR!"**

## Appendix 7 – President's Report

### CLRSS President's Report September 2021

1. We are all waiting to see if substantial rain comes this month or whether Catalyst will have to pump again this year. Right now pumping may start as early as Sept 21 unless lake levels improve.
2. Elodie and her team have been very active planting on beaches around the Lake and we have received positive reports on those done at Sandy Beach and on Jean's very exposed Sa-seen-os Drive beach. We did have an engaged conversation about the plantings at the Forestry Station with a long time Lake user who felt the plantings were taking over the beach unnecessarily and restricting their use for boaters.
3. The Pacific Streamkeepers Federation has been able to secure a group D&O and volunteer Insurance policy for member groups and kept our overall coverage as before and held the increase in fees to \$100 above recent amounts paid.
4. Di and Jean had a meeting recently with a shoreline owner on Meades Creek Road interested in maintaining her shoreline and advocating with her neighbours,
5. The planner for Town of Lake Cowichan asked for our input on a request for a variance on a property on Prospect Ave which was requesting a reduction in the size of the Shoreline protection Area setback.
6. CLRSS has been asked to join with others in the Cowichan Valley to form the Cowichan Climate Hub. See below for the email circulated.
7. The Watershed Art Show is on at the CVAC gallery in Duncan. Many thanks to Judy and the folks at CVAC for a wonderful job. If you have not been to it yet please check it out soon. It closes on Sept. 25th and is definitely worth a visit.

8. Thanks to Cowichan Lake Arts & Culture (CLAC) for support raised through the sale of their art pieces at the Labour Event they organized.

## Re - Climate Hub

Dear Ken and the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society,

As you are aware, the climate crisis is accelerating. Recent extreme heat and ongoing devastating wildfires across our province have brought the crisis to the foreground for all of us. This is an invitation to the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society to work together with others to increase climate action, where we can have the most impact – locally. Join us in working to reduce emissions and protect ecosystems and our communities, including those who are most vulnerable; children, poor and frail seniors, low-income families, the homeless and disabled, and all those whose health and lives are most at risk.

We invite you and your organization to join us in creating the Cowichan Climate Hub with the following purposes:

- foster increased community awareness about the climate emergency;
- engage in collaborative conversations, including with local governments, First Nations and others, to achieve increased solutions-focused climate action locally; and
- work together as a community and with local government so no one is left behind.

The [Climate Hub Network](#) supports over 1200 non-partisan local climate initiatives in 600 communities and regions across Canada with tools and resources to coordinate our efforts to maximize our impact. In 2019 and 2020, the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society joined 50+ local groups, churches, unions and businesses that sent letters to our five Cowichan governments, asking them to declare a climate emergency and take timely, effective action to meet this crisis. Duncan, North Cowichan, the CVRD, Ladysmith and Lake Cowichan all declared or acknowledged the climate emergency. This was an encouraging beginning, and follow-up action has been slower in coming, while climate impacts continue to grow. Duncan was the only one of our five local governments to respond to the 2020 request for a climate action progress report.

COVID-19, understandably, dominated local government's bandwidth in 2020. It also shown us that we can mobilize to address an emergency. Meanwhile, the climate conversation has become polarized at some board and council tables. We need to get the conversation back on a more constructive path and demonstrate the broad support that does exist for stronger climate action across all sectors of our communities so more local politicians find the courage to act.

We invite you to join us in building a strong Cowichan Climate Hub - a diverse group of social benefit and environmental groups, faith groups, farmers, small businesses, schools, labour groups and others concerned about the climate emergency who want to move our communities toward solutions that make a difference. Climate change, and the increasing weather extremes it's bringing our way, affect just about everything in our lives - food security, housing, our mental and physical health, how we get around, the safety of our infrastructure, and the ecosystems we depend on for our water, food, and our ongoing health and well-being – as well as our children's future.

The [Cowichan Climate Hub](#) is now on the Climate Hub map as a "startup", and we have a Facebook [page](#) to follow. If you are ready to join us (we hope you are) - here's [the link](#) for you and your group to sign up. If you want to talk more about what we can do together, email us at [Cowichan@ClimateHub.ca](mailto:Cowichan@ClimateHub.ca) so we can connect.

Once we've heard from a number of groups, we'll contact you to find a time to meet and connect together, either in-person or via Zoom. Our intention with this initiative is to stay connected, support each other and our organizations in positive, coordinated action on the climate crisis, including sharing the work we're already doing. This is not about extra meetings and preaching to the choir. It is about joining our voices and efforts in support of local government and other initiatives to reduce emissions in the face of this climate emergency.



We know our communities will experience increasing stress from climate destabilization. We also know we can create more climate resilient communities locally. Working together we can build social cohesion, support evidence-based policies, and work toward concrete solutions that ensure no one is left behind. We're excited about the possibilities for working together and look forward to hearing from you!

In community,

Adrienne Brown, Chemainus Climate Solutions  
David Slade, Socially Responsible Investing Cowichan  
Jane Kilthei, One Cowichan  
Sandy McPherson, Transition Cowichan  
Stephanie Lindstrom, Cowichan Valley Earth Guardians

Cowichan Climate Hub

[Cowichan@ClimateHub.ca](mailto:Cowichan@ClimateHub.ca)

[www.climatehub.ca](http://www.climatehub.ca)