

CLRSS Board Draft Meeting Minutes - Monday, May 2nd, 2022

Next meeting: June 6, 2022 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83002307700?pwd=ZHFfdTMwME9Sc1ZZenBla2Qzam55dz09>

Meeting ID: 830 0230 7700

Passcode: 508326

<p>Items: May rotating chair: With thanks, Jim Deck</p>	<p>Action: What? By Whom? When?</p> <p>Roster for the next 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June - open • July - Lyndon Keeping • August – Dave DePape • September - Rick Bryan
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Lyndon Keeping, Dave Depape and Ken Traynor. Members: Mike Patrick, Maureen Quested, Bee Greenway and Joe Saysell. Guests: CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison and ToLC Councillor, Kristine Sandhu. Absent with Regrets: Cowichan Watershed Board ED, Tom Rutherford, Board members, Judy Brayden, Rick Bryan, Chantelle Carden, Members, Genevieve Singleton, Chris Morley.</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.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Dave DePape and Diana Gunderson</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of April 4th, 2022.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Ken Traynor and Lyndon Keeping</p>
<p>Treasurer's report: (See Appendix 2 below) Jim Deck</p>	<p>Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report moved and seconded by Jim Deck and Lyndon Keeping</p>
<p>Guest remarks from ToLC Councillor, Kristine Sandhu</p>	<p>Town Hall renovations are on track. Roofing will be done on the information centre and washrooms and buildings at CLEC. The gate at Lake View public beach will be opened to make it easier for public to get to the beach.</p>

	<p>Next meeting, Kristine will report on Diana's question about the cutting of trees at the Duck Pond. Joe Saysell asked where the water was coming from for new homes and Kristine replied that water wasn't such a problem as sewage treatment capacity which needs upgrading before there is more development.</p>
<p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison.</p>	<p>CVRD staff complement is down 55% of normal so there is not much new initiatives being done. UBCM will meet with provincial ministers May 18 – 20 and Ian will raise anything we want put forward. You may contact him directly. The Watershed Security Fund will probably not happen until the spring of next year. Report of boaters from Port Renfrew pulling into Bear Lake to clean their boats. Please report to the RAP line. On a side note, Joe asked him, or anyone who sees or hears of any signs of goldfish in the lake to let him know ASAP.</p>
<p>President's Report: Ken Traynor</p> <p>CWB Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) shoreline assessment update from April 14th meeting.</p>	<p>Ken participated in a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee for the Shoreline Assessment work. The quality of the work was excellent and provides a wealth of information on the lake including the on-line Property Assessment Tool. There will be a public meeting in June for the Committee to report out. Identifying specific low-lying properties will be in the next step in the process once the water licencing process begins.</p>
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>1.) Annual General Meeting - June 26, 2022 – 9:00 – 1:00 Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge and Board nominations.</p> <p>NOTE: As of May 24, 2022, four current board members will not be returning after June 2022: President, Ken Traynor, Secretary, Judy Brayden, Treasurer, Lyndon Keeping and Newsletter Editor, Chantelle Carden.</p> <p>2.) Report from Joe Saysell regarding the request to Andrew Appleton of FLNROD.</p> <p>3.) Report from Joe Saysell regarding the request to close the upper Cowichan River to fishing. (See Appendix 4 below)</p> <p>4.) CLRSS Annual Signature Event, Dave DePape – next step?</p>	<p>1.) Ken Traynor is contacting board members (6 sitting members have confirmed they are continuing) as to their board commitment and attempting to find new board members to replace four members not returning. There will be further discussion of Board makeup and Board roles at the June board meeting.</p> <p>Speaker suggestions for AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BCCF power point presentation (Elodie Rogers) - BCLSS Dr. Rick Norden (UVIC) <p>2.) No calls returned from Andrew Appleton; Joe tried Denise Blid of the Riparian Legislation Division in Nanaimo but no reply was forthcoming from her either. Joe reported that Chris Morley sent his regards to CLRSS.</p> <p>3) Joe reported that the winter steelhead run has collapsed. Joe, on behalf of Friends of Cowichan, sent an articulate and clear letter to the Ministry making seven salient points. He suggested Sonia Fursteneau float down the river with him to get a good feel for the issues and the river itself. Will happen soon.</p> <p><u>MOTION:</u> that CLRSS send a message to the Minister in support of the above letter from the Friends of Cowichan. Moved by Ken Traynor, seconded by Diana Gunderson. CARRIED</p> <p>4.) Dave DePape is awaiting more feedback on evaluating activities from the committee. After the AGM, a Lead should be</p>

<p>5.) Bee Greenway - "Broom Busting" day on Bald Mountain in Lake Cowichan, Saturday, May 7th,</p> <p>6.) Mosaic Open House – Jim Deck to report on Carbon Sequestration Areas they are designating.</p>	<p>chosen and a working group appointed to design a SE for 2023. Diana Gunderson thanked Dave for the informative meeting on April 24.</p> <p>5) Bee Greenway reminded the group of the Broom busting event on Bald Mountain. CVRD's new program "Fire Stop" is the lead but it is a joint effort by many groups and corporate sponsors.</p> <p>6) Jim Deck reported that the MOSAIC carbon sequestration is a 25-year program. Trees in the designated areas will be at least 40 years old. The very end of the north arm is not going to be protected so Spring Beach may be affected by logging on the hills above it. Mt Holmes above Youbou along the north shore road is included in the 40,000 ha area.</p>
<p>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</p> <p>a.) Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden</p> <p>b.) Social and Retail Sales – Rosemary Danaher - NIL</p> <p>c.) Membership – Mike Patrick, Maureen Qusted</p> <p>d.) Fundraising - Maureen Qusted</p> <p>e.) Decibel Coalition – Diana Gunderson</p> <p>f.) Youth Engagement - Chantelle Carden - NIL</p>	<p>a.) Lois Atchison was very pleased with April 21 garden work by eight volunteers. There may be another cleanup the 3rd week of May. Bring rocks for edging. Rosemary Danaher said a load(s) of gravel is needed for pathways. Funds are there if needed. Jean Atkinson said signs are needed for the riparian plants. She will send a list of plants and Judy and Genevieve will be approached to follow through.</p> <p>Kristine Sandhu suggested applying to the Town for a grant for the gravel or the signs.</p> <p>c.) There are currently 37 members including lifetime members. Board members need to sign up now.</p> <p>d.) Maureen reported that \$240 was raised from sale of Thrifty Foods Smile Cards; \$186.70 received from bottle & can returns. Account 484 (CLRSS) at Duncan Return It</p> <p>e.) Please submit your comments/letter to the Government of Canada by May 13. Diana Gunderson sent out the Decibel Coalition information in late March early April for how to go about that. Website at Transport Canada. Write your MP directly.</p> <p>f.) Maureen Qusted suggested giving free memberships to students at LCS who are involved in Noni's group or who volunteer for CLRSS. We need to make plans to actively involve youth.</p> <p>Ken will pass on information on BCCF summer students to LCS (Noni). NEED A MOTION AT THE JUNE MEETING.</p> <p>g.) Bee Greenway reports trained volunteers are in place and</p>

	Cleanup or lend it, as Dave DePape said river cleanup was still on our activity list for the Signature Event. <i>Contact Lyndon if you can assist.</i>
Stewardship Community Reports: 1.) Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Jim Deck	Cowichan Tribes has a marine division and though the boat operates mostly in the Salish Sea, they will take it to the Lakes. A comment from the Roundtable on being proactive on development in riparian areas prompted suggestions of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Going back to realtors so we can approach new owners, particularly of properties CLRSS has worked on in the past - Resuming some of the in-person visits - Putting some CLRSS brochures in a welcome letter to a new waterfront landowner from the CVRD
Motion to Adjourn	Moved by Rosemary Danaher
Important Upcoming Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reg. Meeting Monday, June 6, 2022 - 06:30 p.m. ● Annual General Meeting Sunday, June 26, 2022 – 9:00 – 1:00 Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge ● Reg. Meeting Monday, July 4, 2022 06:30 p.m. ● Reg. Meeting Monday, August 8, 2022 06:30 p.m. ● Reg. Meeting Monday, Sept. 12, 2022 06:30 p.m. ● Sept. 25, 2022 All Day River's Day Event 	

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	

Goals

- 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

April 2022 Treasurer's Report(As at April 24, 2022)			
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account	12,092.83	-	12,092.83
to be deposited	-		
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,934.21
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities			10,158.62
Bursary Account Total			6,938.49
Comments:			

CLRSS 2021/2022 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 30/04/27						
Revenue			Expenditures			
Category	Budget	Actual	Category	Budget	Actual	
Total Revenue	3950	710.00	Total Expenditures	3,950.00	169.31	
Memberships	1400	420.00	Signs	200	-	
Donations	250	50.00	Accounting	0	-	
Sales	300	0.00	Public Information	50	-	
Fundraising	2000	240.00	BCLSS	50	-	
Interest	0	0	Society Fees	0	-	
			Printing Costs	100	-	
			Purchase for Sales	200	-	
			Insurance	900	-	
			Bank Charges	10	2.00	
			Office Expenses	200	-	
			Courses & Mtgs	100	83.05	
			CSSP Activities	0	-	
			River CU	0	-	
			Fundraising Expenses	100	-	

Misc. other	0	-
Scholarship Fund	560	60.00
Fry Salvage	300	-
Gifts Apparel	250	-
GT Memorial Garden	400	-
Website Update	100	24.26
Signature Event	430	-

Appendix 3:

From: **Haley Tomlin** <htomlin@bccf.com>

Date: Fri., Apr. 1, 2022, 12:27 p.m.

Subject: Seeking participants for new monitoring program with BCCF

To: lykeeping@gmail.com <lykeeping@gmail.com>, m_patrick@telus.net <m_patrick@telus.net>

Good afternoon Lyndon and Mike,

My name is Haley Tomlin and I have recently been hired on with the BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF), based in Nanaimo. I'm reaching out to you because I understand your group, the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, has volunteered with BCCF before – I acquired your email from Thea Rodgers as you have participated in her flow monitoring project. I am currently looking for individuals and groups interested in participating in a new monitoring program we're establishing this fall along the East Coast of Vancouver Island.

This monitoring program is specifically looking to identify what extent a recently identified common tire preservative compound (known as 6PPD-quinone) exists within our waterways. We intend to focus our efforts on waterways that are utilized by coho salmon, as they are vulnerable to 'urban runoff mortality syndrome' (URMS) when 6PPD-quinone is released into a system. BCCF in collaboration with Vancouver Island University's Applied Environmental Research Lab have developed a rapid, cost-effective method to analyze for 6PPD-q right here in Nanaimo.

The east coast is home to the majority of Vancouver Island's residents and, as such, has the highest roadway utilization. Most, if not all, streams along our coast run beside or under numerous roadways, which are likely sources of this toxicant. Understanding what anthropogenic (e.g: traffic patterns) and environmental conditions equate to the highest risk for URMS is essential in any future mitigation effort.

Therefore, at this point, **we are seeking interest from individuals and groups that are keen to help out with this monitoring program.** Sampling events will be based on recent weather events (particularly heavy rain following a 48-hour dry period), which will aim to capture the events that will be washing these toxicants from our roads into the local waterways. In working with the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, we're interested in monitoring the Cowichan River at locations where the river and roadways intersect for any evidence of 6PPD-q. If you or members of your group are interested in participating or learning more, please feel free to email me back at htomlin@bccf.com. For those interested, I will be sure to keep you posted with any upcoming information and training dates.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Haley Tomlin, B.Sc, BIT
Junior Biologist
BC Conservation Foundation
(250) 390-2525 ext. 106

Appendix 4: Letter from Friends of the Cowichan

Friends of the Cowichan
 Joe Saysell
 Box 169
 Lake Cowichan, B.C. V0R 2G0

April 12, 2022

Josie Osborne, Minister
 Ministry of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship
 Parliament Buildings
 Victoria, B.C. V8V 2L8

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Friends of the Cowichan, we welcome you as the first Minister of Land, Water and Resource Stewardship, and the Minister Responsible for Fisheries.

We are once again writing to the provincial fisheries staff with concerns about the Cowichan River, especially the upper Cowichan River.

First, steelhead stocks have collapsed on the Cowichan, just as they have elsewhere on the coast, in the Interior, in the north on the Dean and Skeena systems, as well as in Washington State. Yet the ministry has not put in place any closures or restrictions, at least not to my knowledge, and the fishing pressure has never been more intense. Everyone seems to be trying to catch the last remaining steelhead before they become extinct. Also, the guiding pressure, especially on the upper river, is completely out of control at a rate that is historically higher than we have ever seen, and therefore is adding untold stress to our last remaining spawning fish.

Minister, is it not time for the province to get serious about protecting fish stocks – salmon, trout and steelhead – on one of the province's most prestigious heritage rivers?

We suggest that the province consider the following recommendations very carefully. They are based on years of observations and fishing expertise on the Cowichan River, especially the upper river, by our members, who are residents, anglers, biologists and conservationists.

We would like to emphasize that our group has seen many problems and changes to the river's fish populations over the years, but with the added guiding pressure and overall angler pressures, this is something different, almost a death knell, for our famous Cowichan River fish populations.

There are obviously many different reasons for this: climate change, headwater logging of second growth, unstable water levels, pollution, human growth leading to more fishing pressure, or all of these factors. Even though many of these problems can't be addressed in the short term, there are management tools we can use as responsible fish conservationists to bring in effective angling and guiding regulations that will help fish immediately and also in the long term.

I know that a lot of people don't want to go into the toolbox as it might be controversial, but it is time to face the fact that our fish are in peril. If we want to have a fishery of any kind, we are going to have to look at all options, controversial or not.

We therefore would like to recommend the following regulation changes:

1. An upper river closure to angling from 70.2-mile trestle upstream to the weir at Lake Cowichan from December 1 to March 31. This would help all species of salmon, trout and steelhead during spawning times and also kelt stages of brown trout and steelhead. This upper section is actually a continual spawning redd from the trestle upstream to the weir between these dates and is where the majority of the river's chinook, trout and steelhead spawn and rear. Actually, this regulation should have been brought into effect years ago.
2. The section of river from the 70.2-mile trestle downstream to Skutz Falls should be fly-fishing only all year. This fly-fishing-only regulation is one tool that the ministry could use to help protect spawning steelhead, because a fly-fisher is not nearly as effective at catching winter steelhead – which are what the Cowichan

steelhead are – as anglers with weights and/or floats. This is mainly because the water is high, fast and turbid and it is very difficult to get a fly down to a steelhead compared to a weight and lure.

3. In all sections where it is fly-fishing only, there should be a floating-fly-line-only regulation in place, with no weighted flies and no weighted leaders.
4. The summer angling closure of the Cowichan River from July 15 to September 1 should be amended to June 15 to September 1. Anyone angling in the low, warm water in June and early July will basically only be hooking steelhead smolts or parr. This regulation will help protect this vulnerable life stage of steelhead at this time of year.
5. Enact the regulation of a daily catch-and-release limit of one steelhead per day or even one steelhead per week, month or year.
6. Since the guiding pressure is so intense, it is time that the ministry limits the amount of guiding in some sections or even eliminate guiding, especially in high-density spawning sections like the upper river – i.e., Skutz Falls upstream to the weir at Lake Cowichan. This could be done with a management tool developed to address what has emerged on the Cowichan and dozens of other unclassified waters in B.C. This would be an amendment to the regulations governing guiding described in the Angling and Scientific Collection Regulations (BC Reg 125-90). The government should eliminate the word “classified” from section 13 of the regulations (BC Reg 125-90) and substitute “waters.”

Another option would be to add an additional specific section to 125-90 for guiding management on unclassified waters. The government could do this easily, and it would greatly help the regional manager, providing them with the means to place conditions on guiding on unclassified waters. This would greatly help our fish stocks when conditions warrant it.

7. The ministry should engage in a program of educating anglers on fishing ethics, especially what is ethical angling and what is unethical angling – for example, fishing over dark, spawning fish or angling or walking on redds. A well-done brochure by the ministry and handed out by the conservation officers while checking on anglers on the river would go a long way to helping fish stocks and educating anglers, especially the new, younger ones.

Over the years the fisheries section has enacted some very good regulations on the river – for example, bait bans, barbless hook rules, a fly-fishing-only section, a horsepower limit, and others that have greatly helped the river’s fish populations.

Even though other regulations might be controversial to some groups, now is the time to really reach into the bottom of the regulation toolbox and bring out as many forward-thinking, progressive options as possible, which might help turn our dire situation around. We all have to remember that fish come first, before anglers and angler opportunities.

If possible, we would really welcome a meeting with you and would like to request a meeting in the near future, depending on Covid rules. Better yet, I would like to invite you to take a drift down the Cowichan River with me in my drift boat so that you can get a first-hand appreciation of this valuable resource. Thank you.

Sincerely yours in conservation,

Joe Saysell

cc Katrine Conroy, Minister of Forests
 Fin Donnelly, MLA, Parliamentary Secretary for Fisheries and Aquaculture
 Sonia Furstenau, MLA
 Alistair MacGregor, MP
 Cowichan Watershed Board
 Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

