

CLRSS Board Draft Meeting Minutes - Monday, April 4th, 2022

May 2, 2022 06:30 PM

Jun 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: April rotating chair: With thanks, Ken Traynor for Dave DePape</p>	<p>Action: What? By Whom? When?</p> <p>Roster for the next 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May - Jim Deck • June - Chantelle Carden • July - Lyndon Keeping • August – Dave DePape • September - Rick Bryan
<p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Chantelle Carden, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Lyndon Keeping and Ken Traynor. Members: Mike Patrick, Maureen Quested, Joe Saysell. Guests:, CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison and Cowichan Watershed Board ED, Tom Rutherford. Absent with Regrets: Rick Bryan, Rodger Hunter, Lois Atchison, Genevieve Singleton and ToLC Councillor, Kristine Sandhu.</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 as revised.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Chantelle Carden and Diana Gunderson CARRIED</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of March 7th, 2022.</p>	<p>Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Lyndon Keeping CARRIED</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 Judy Brayden CARRIED</p>
<p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison.</p>	<p>Ian Morrison commented on the CSSP presentation that was given to the recent Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities (AVICC) by Elodie Roger (Origins Environmental Services) and Dan Swainson (BCCF); Ken Traynor has distributed the presentation to the Board and Attendees and has also posted it</p>

	<p>to the CLRSS website.</p> <p>Further, Ian had met with Josie Osborne (the new BC Minister of Water) at the conference and felt that his time with her was fruitful; acknowledging that the Cowichan watershed planning and organization is well esteemed by other communities and levels of government.</p> <p>He also commented on the recent CVRD budget and reported that unfortunately because of the reduction of the requisition from forest lands from 44% to 35% (since 2018), there will in fact be a residential tax increase for Area F again this year; He expressed concern that the BC Government's deliberations re: forest taxation needs to be concluded asap.</p>
<p>Guest Remarks from Cowichan Watershed Board Executive Director, Tom Rutherford.</p>	<p>Tom Rutherford reported that the water license required to continue the plans for construction of the new weir in Lake Cowichan will proceed sooner than later; Stakeholders have learned that the process can go no further at this point if a name is not associated with the application and also that the named applicant can withdraw from that application at any time.</p> <p>The very important report on critical flows in the Koksilah watershed will be received at the May meeting.</p> <p>Cowichan Tribes is hiring a watershed consultant to lead the project to develop the Watershed Sustainability Plan for the Koksilah.</p> <p>Tom expressed his respect and appreciation for the work of past Chief Seymour, and added that his meeting with new chief and new CWB Co-chair, Lydia Hwitsum, was extremely positive.</p> <p>Tom reported he is 'stepping back' as Executive Director of the CWB this year and a process is underway to find his successor. He will continue to work on certain projects and provide limitless help with smooth transition for the new appointee.</p>
<p>President's Report: Ken Traynor</p>	<p>The final meeting of the TAC Shoreline assessment committee is April 14th and the final report is expected in June 2022 followed by a public presentation of the Final Shoreline assessment and the tools available to shoreline owners to assess the impacts on their properties.</p>
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <p>1.) Re - Submission to: Water Protection and Sustainability Branch, Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change Strategy Regarding (See Appendix 3)</p> <p>2.) Possible education session request to FLNR re Riparian area regulation and development requests. Motion from March 2022, that Chris Morley and Joe</p>	<p>1.) See Appendix 3 below</p> <p>2.) Joe Saysell had nothing further to report to the group about his request for an educational session here in the ToLC as referred to at the previous Board meeting, other than to say that he had left 6 unanswered phone messages for Andrew Appleton at FLNROD. He</p>

<p>Saysell approach Andrew Appleton of FLNR on behalf of the Friends of the Cowichan and CLRSS, requesting an education session regarding riparian area regulation and development requests for people/groups in the valley.</p> <p>3.) CLRSS Annual Signature Event, Dave DePape</p>	<p>will advise us asap should there be any further information forthcoming.</p> <p>3.) Dave DePape reported on the upcoming April 14th sub-committee meeting as well as the in-person general meeting about the CLRSS Annual Signature Event decision; Sunday, April 24, 2022 - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge. He expressed appreciation for the work of the sub-committee to date.</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 NIL</p> <p>c.) Membership</p> <p>d.) Fundraising NIL</p> <p>e.) Decibel Coalition</p> <p>f.) Youth Engagement</p> <p>g.) Water Monitoring</p> <p>h.) Newsletter</p> <p>i.) Paddlesport report NIL</p> <p>j.) Fry salvage – Dave DePape NIL</p>	<p>a.) Rosemary Danaher reported that there will be a work party at the GTMNPG on Thursday April 21st at 10.30 am as our first possibility to do Gerald's spring garden clean-up. If the weather is against us, then we offer Monday April 25th, again at 10.30 am, again weather dependent. Chantelle Carden will circulate a special "all members email" with this as one of five important announcements for members.</p> <p>c.) Maureen Quested reported that several CLRSS memberships have been renewed but these must be done so asap. Please do so using the CLRSS website.</p> <p>e.) Diana Gunderson shared the latest Decibel Coalition newsletter earlier and she has asked that members sign in and respond to the Government of Canadas' citizen survey about solutions to noisy boats on Canada's waterways. She and the coalition are recommending that Option 5 be endorsed by CLRSS and that individual members also submit responses, comments and contributions to the online discussion. This will be included in the above-mentioned "all members email".</p> <p>f.) Chantelle Carden suggested that she would have final 2022/23 school year report for the June 2022 CLRSS Board meeting.</p> <p>g.) Bee Greenway reported that the regular water monitoring would begin in late April and that there would be three boats involved in the work.</p> <p>h.) Chantelle Carden asked for contributions to the monthly newsletter but much of the emergent and upcoming notices will be included in the upcoming "all member email".</p>

<p>k.) Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary NIL</p> <p>l.) Cowichan Climate Hub NIL</p> <p>m.) CSSP</p> <p>n.) Lamprey</p> <p>o.) Mitigating Ultraviolet Filter (UVF) contamination in the Cowichan watershed</p>	<p>m.) Ken Traynor will circulate the recent report to the AVICC conference. Genevieve Singleton had indicated that she had nothing to report this month.</p> <p>n.) Genevieve Singleton had remarked earlier that there was no funding being made available for the “lamprey awareness” initiatives of the past year.</p> <p>o.) Mike Patrick reported that this sampling work would begin on June 18th and he will be seeking volunteers to help with this work.</p>
<p>New Business:</p> <p>1.) CLRSS Annual General Meeting –</p> <p>2.) 2022 – 23 CLRSS Board nominees</p> <p>3.) Request from BCCF – water monitoring for 6PPD-quinone (see Appendix 4 below)</p> <p>4.) Update on the sweeper across the river that was reported to the board last week.</p> <p>5.) Broom Busting</p>	<p>1.) Announcement: June 26, 2022 – 9:00 – 1:00 Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge</p> <p>2.) As of April 10, 2022, three current board members will not be returning after June 2022: President, Ken Traynor, Secretary, Judy Brayden and Treasurer, Lyndon Keeping.</p> <p>3.) Mike Patrick made mention of this earlier in the meeting and will report more at future meetings.</p> <p>4.) Joe Saysell reported that the sweeper that has fallen across the River near the Patrick’s home on Greendale Road, will make very good fry habitat and he felt that in low water, it would not interfere with tuber traffic.</p> <p>5.) Bee Greenway announced that local trailblazer groups will be participating in a “Broom Busting” day on Bald Mountain in Lake Cowichan, Saturday, May 7th, at 9:30 onward; this is in participation with a new CVRD program, “Fire Stop”.</p>

<p>Stewardship Community Reports:</p> <p>1.) Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable</p>	<p>1.) Jim Deck reported that an announcement was made at the recent CSRT meeting by Mosaic Forest Management; they introduced the BigCoast Forest Climate Initiative, which will defer harvesting on nearly 40,000 hectares (100,000 acres) of private land throughout Coastal British Columbia – an area over 3 times the size of Vancouver – for 25 years. They said by removing old forest from the company’s baseline harvest plan, Mosaic will increase carbon storage and avoid future greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from logging operations. This reduction in GHG emissions will be packaged into high-quality nature-based carbon credits to be available for sale to reputable organizations to help them achieve their net-zero commitments. The sale of BigCoast Forest carbon credits will generate revenue for Mosaic, with a portion of the proceeds flowing each year to the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) Innovation Program to support scientific and First Nations cultural research on and around the project lands. BigCoast Forest also provides the opportunity for other managers on the BC coast to add their forests to this initiative, further increasing its potential to reduce emissions and generate ecological and economic value. Carbon credits generated by BigCoast Forest will be certified under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), the world’s most widely-used and rigorous voluntary carbon program. (from Mosaic website); Members, while optimistic that this could include the timber on Holmes Mountain, will expect further reports as the process unfolds.</p>
<p>Motion to Adjourn</p>	<p>Moved by Dian Gunderson</p>
<p>Important Upcoming Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thursday, April 21st at 10.30 am or Monday April 25th, at 10.30 am – GTMNPG spring clean-up (weather dependent) ● Sunday, April 24, 2022 -1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge – Annual Signature Event (ASE) ● Reg. Meeting Monday, May 2, 2022 - 6:30 p.m. Reg. Meeting Monday, June 6, 2022 - 06:30 p.m. ● Saturday, May 7th, 9:30 on Bald Mountain in Lake Cowichan join the local trailblazers in a “Broom Bust” in conjunction with the CVRD Fire Stop program. ● Annual General Meeting Sunday, June 26, 2022 – 9:00 – 1:00 Lake Cowichan Curling Lounge 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 	
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Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

<p>1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir</p>	<p>2. Increase Youth Engagement</p>
<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
<p>3. Protect Lake Shore Lands</p>	
<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

March 2022 Treasurer's Report			
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account	11,552.14	-	11,552.14
to be deposited	-		
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,934.21
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities			9,617.93
Bursary Account Total			6,878.49
Comments:			

CLRSS 2021/2022 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 31/03/22						
Revenue				Expenditures		
Category	Budget	Actual	Category	Budget	Actual	
Total Revenue	4500	5,105.95	Total Expenditures	4,500.00	3,786.15	
Memberships	1400	1,360.00	Signs	0	257.00	
Donations	2000	1,041.75	Accounting	100	-	
Sales	300	80.00	BCLSS	50	50.00	
Fundraising	800	2,624.20	Society Fees	250	-	
Interest	0	0	Printing Costs	400	-	
			Purchase for Sales	100	218.40	
			Gifted Apparel	100	-	
			Insurance	0	876.00	
			Bank Charges	100	11.00	
			Office Expenses	200	97.92	
			Courses & Mtgs	0	104.05	
			CSSP Activities	0	-	
			River CU	0	166.65	
			Fundraising Expenses	100	-	
			Misc. other	500	34.45	
			Transfers to Bursary Fund	500	934.74	
			Fry Rescue	300	-	

Landowner Education	500	-
GT Memorial Garden	400	-
Website Update	100	24.26
Watershed Art Project	800	1,011.68

Appendix 3: Re - Submission to: Water Protection and Sustainability Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Regarding:



P.O. Box 907
 Lake Cowichan, BC V0R2G0
 March 8th, 2022

Re - Submission to: Water Protection and Sustainability Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Regarding:

Request for Public Input: BC Water Security Strategy and Water Security Fund Who

We Are Cowichan Lake & River Stewards have contributed 2,000+ volunteer hours every year for the last 11 years protecting and preserving the Cowichan watershed through our core activities:

- shoreline riparian area restoration and landowner education;
- rescuing stranded salmon fry;
- cleaning up the upper Cowichan river;
- monitoring water quality;
- working with students and providing public education;
- erecting signs on fish bearing streams;
- participating in the technical committees of the Cowichan Watershed Board;
- building support to raise the weir in Cowichan Lake.

The Challenge

For the past 150 years we have been transforming our shared watershed(s) here in the Cowichan Valley, as have others across BC. Gone are the magnificent primary forests of huge red cedars, towering Douglas firs, lichen-draped, maple giants, sheltering acres of soft moss, salal, salmonberries, Nootka rose and so much more in the forest understory. Largely gone too is significant summer rain and thick snow-packs in spring that

historically nourished our creeks and lake in the summer months. The transformed landscape we now inhabit is also the victim of

a changing climate that is the product of our collective choices. It is crucially important that we all take shared responsibility for the reality we now occupy.

Here in the Cowichan Valley the **Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) - a unique joint Cowichan Tribes and CVRD body** - has been key for addressing water problems in the valley. Their collaborative approach has already delivered excellent science, a consensus-based Water Use Plan, access to funding for design costs and a good chunk of the construction costs for a new weir, a project that benefits everyone in the watershed. With the rising uncertainty presented by climate change in the near term, the enhancement of our collective capacity through **implementation** of an effective BC Water Security Strategy and well-funded Water Security Fund would strengthen and revitalise the important work done in our watershed to build a great collaborative stewardship model. **The kind of water strategy and financial support proposed in this Discussion Paper is overdue but we applaud this government for moving this important agenda forward.**

In developing our submission to this public consultation we have drawn on the expertise and ideas of our partners at the Cowichan Watershed Board and the Polis Water Sustainability Project in addition to our own experience. We endorse their views and materials to help guide your finalisation and implementation of the Water Sustainability Strategy and the Water Security Fund.

Areas for Immediate Action by Government

- 1. Resource and implement a coherent and integrated provincial planning regime for land and water that is consistent with UNDRIP and DRIPA.** At a minimum this requires implementing Water Sustainability Act planning and sustainability tools, including groundwater licensing, protection of critical and environmental flows, and supporting communities to establish legally enforceable Water Objectives, area-based regulations, and Water Sustainability Plans. A coherent provincial land and water use planning regime is urgently needed – this must include deployment of new planning tools and mechanisms to deal with cumulative impacts.
- 2. Fulfil drinking water source protection recommendations from the Auditor General (2019) and Hullcar Aquifer Review (2017) independent reports.** These reports offer a comprehensive blueprint on how government can better ensure safe drinking water across B.C. and build public confidence through oversight and accountability.
- 3. Initiate the Watershed Security Fund immediately.** The Fund unlocks the local capacity to partner and drive implementation. This collaborative approach will be key to success and is a point of positive emphasis in the Discussion Paper, but without new resources is unlikely to be meaningfully achieved.
- 4. Emphasise “build back better” in disaster response efforts.** The more cost-effective and robust climate security and resilience options are nature-based solutions.
- 5. Provide State of the Watershed reporting** that draws on collaborative monitoring with communities and Indigenous nations to ensure that baseline information and trends can be tracked, creating a system of evidence- and knowledge-informed decision-making that maximises the impact of both funds spent and actions by government and communities.

Integrate Water Security Needs with other BC Priorities

- 1. Strengthen accountability and coordination.** Successful watershed security will require coordination not only between provincial ministries, but also across all four levels of government— Indigenous, local, provincial, and federal.
- 2. Prioritise watershed security in new forestry tools and the wild salmon strategy.**
- 3. Connect watershed security with climate.** Climate change and associated community insecurity is a critical driver of change, from households and neighbourhoods all the way through local government, Indigenous, provincial, and federal governments, and even internationally. A robust Watershed Security Strategy must have strong and explicit links to climate efforts and the necessary related provincial roles and responses.

Provide Adequate Funds for Local Initiatives

The Honourable Minister George Heyman, in the recently released Watershed Security Discussion Paper has said:

To strengthen the security of our watersheds, we all need to work together. Increasing the role of Indigenous peoples, local governments and communities in watershed governance can help us mitigate the risks to our watersheds.

We heartily endorse this statement and have been actively working in the Cowichan Valley for years to implement such an approach. However, to make this approach a more effective reality, we need resourcing and empowerment from the province of BC. A well designed Water Security fund which invests in community based water governance and management can bring real benefits for all British Columbians and represents a very efficient use of tax dollars. And given our accelerating climate challenges we need it to be a priority for implementation immediately.

We endorse the following key principles identified by the Cowichan Watershed Board for the Water Security Fund.

Recognition and empowerment of Indigenous leadership

- First Nations need to be fully engaged in all aspects of the creation and management of the fund.
- First Nations teachings, perspectives and indigenous water law need to provide guidance in developing and governing the fund

Funding Security

- A short term funding program will not achieve the required outcomes
- Building partnerships, creating more sustainable watersheds through restoration and green infrastructure, improving water governance – are all long term initiatives.

- Local watershed governance entities – like the Cowichan Watershed Board – can leverage resources exponentially – but need secure and ongoing base funding to do so,
- This work is not easy. Ongoing funding is important – and so is the amount of resourcing available. Creating a Trust that would invest 50-100M dollars annually in supporting community driven BC Water sustainability would result in increasing our chances of mitigating and adapting to climate change in a way that would provide water security for all British Columbians

Support Innovative partnerships and Watershed scale initiatives

- Every watershed is different and might require a different model to create meaningful positive change.
- Flexibility should be demonstrated in resourcing different watersheds with different needs
- Partnerships should be key in all watersheds. The work that needs to be done is too difficult and demanding to be approached in isolated silos. Communities need to come together in order to be successful

In Conclusion

The kind of water strategy and financial support proposed in this Discussion Paper is overdue but we applaud this government for moving this important agenda forward and we will continue to monitor the outcome of this consultation and participate in future initiatives. But the key here in BC is to get moving on implementation of a new Water Security Strategy, the status quo is not working.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Traynor', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ken Traynor President

Appendix 4

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