**MINUTES ( draft) February 06, 2023 CLRSS Board Meeting**

**ZOOM with thanks to the Cowichan Watershed Board for facilitating**

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| **ROTATING CHAIR: Rick Bryan** |
| **In Attendance:** **Board Members:** Don Prescott; Di Gunderson; Jean Atkinson; Maureen Quested; Jim Deck; Rick Bryan; Beverley Nimmo; Rosemary Danaher;**Members:** Joe Saysell;Mike Patrick; Judy Brayden; Ian Morrison (Area F CVRD Director) Jill Thompson, CWB; Karen Deck (Area I CVRD Director); Genevieve Singleton; Dave Polster; Jacqueline Sherk;**Guests:** Kristine Sandhu; Lisa Fox, CWB; |
| **Absent with regrets**: Dave De Pape, Bee Greenway |
| We acknowledge 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. |
| **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
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| **ITEMS:**  | **ACTION: What? By Whom? When?** |

1. **AGENDA**

**MOTION**: That the agenda be accepted as circulated/amended.

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2nd by:** Diana Gunderson

 **CARRIED**

1. **MINUTES**

**MOTION:** That the minutes of January 02, 2023 be accepted as revised.

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2nd by:** Diana Gunderson

 **CARRIED**

1. **TREASURER’S REPORT –** Jim Deck - **as attached**

 **MOTION:** That the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as circulated.

**Moved by:** Jim Deck

**2nd by:** Rosemary Danaher

 **CARRIED**

1. **GUESTS’ REMARKS (if they wish)**
2. Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu –

Thank you for the get well card. It was appreciated.

The Town Hall project should be completed in April.

LC has the highest number of bears put down because of human interaction, and more attention will be paid to safe storage and disposal of garbage so wildlife is not attracted. Town will amend ticket bylaw to increase fees and fines for those who don’t comply with the rules.

The Town is applying to the UBCM Emergency Fund for $150,000 for assembling equipment in place to be self-sufficient in case of a catastrophic emergency.

1. CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison – Budget process is underway and Areas F and I will benefit from the recent parks referendum.

Little Beach will soon be transferred to the CVRD. Port-a-potties, curb stops etc. are expected to be installed.

Snowpack is down considerably causing concern for summer/fall water supplies.

Air quality trends are improving, but still a cause for concern.

The courts have ruled the regional district can regulate, not prohibit, development in riparian areas.

1. CVRD Area I Director, Karen Deck – is concerned about increased development along the lake. Climate change and riparian issues are at the forefront of her mind and influence her decisions.
2. Cowichan Watershed Board representative, Jill Thompson – Jill introduced Lisa Fox, new to CWB since August, in charge of operations and administration.

CWB is doing water testing on lower Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers; there may be funding for the upper river.

CWB meetings 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. the last Monday of the month by Zoom. Anyone can attend, notify Jill to get on the list: Jill@cowichanwatershedboard.ca

Heather Pritchard is looking at targets – 5 – 10 year timeline; are they working? Are they measurable?

* Establishing new targets

Goals: aspirational and achievable. VIU class is helping come up with a new logo reflecting partnership

with First Nations

**Business Arising from previous Minutes**

1. Miracle Close riparian destruction – Jim Deck
* 8124 Miracle Close Riparian Review, Youbou Area
* Neighbours of this property reported that there appears to be a riparian area violation on the property. Jean, Di and Jim visited the property along with the neighbours to review the situation.
* The property is about 150 feet wide by 300 feet long (west to east). A stream flows right down the middle of the property from a wetland to the west to Miracle Creek in the east. Trees up to the stream on the south side have been cut down and on the north side an area has been cleared where a house will be built. It would appear that the house will be well within the 30 m riparian area. One has to assume that there will be a garage and the driveway on this property which will be just a few metres away from the stream.
* The neighbours reported that an original development application was denied. A QEEP was brought in to evaluate the property. A development permit was then issued and the property is now being developed. It should be noted that this property may originally have been park land, due to the stream and wetland, but has now been rezoned as residential.
* This would appear to be a riparian violation but seemingly the CVRD has chosen to do nothing about it. It should be pointed out that the property across the street and to the east is where the steam flows into Miracle Creek. This property could also be at risk of being developed which could cause environmental harm to the salmon and beavers located in the area.

Ian’s Comments: riparian regulations in regional districts are unworkable. There needs to be legislation to give regional districts the tools to fight riparian infractions. More powers are needed to fight the destruction occurring.

Nanaimo Regional District is going to take the lead on this issue with a multi-regional district force approaching multiple ministries to try to change current rules.

1. Joe Saysell and Chris Morley surveyed pruning at Saywell Park. Chris said the larger trees (alders) will probably not survive the pruning but everything else should continue to grow.

**MOTION:** That Rosemary Danaher form a committee composed of Rosemary, Di Gunderson, Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden and Chris Morley to set long-term pruning guidelines for Saywell Park plantings and then meet with the Public Works Superintendent, Jas Sandhu.

**Moved by:** Rosemary Danaher

**2nd by:** Jean Atkinson

 **CARRIED**

1. Mock up of post card by Judy was a misunderstanding. We have the thank you cards we currently need.
2. **Leads Updates**
3. Retail Sales – Rosemary – Inventory of logo clothing needs to be increased.

**MOTION:** that we purchase 10 ball caps, 5 Tshirts and hoodies for $650 plus tax.

**Moved by:** Rosemary Danaher

**2nd by:** Jim Deck

 **CARRIED**

1. Social – Rosemary
* Thank you cards have arrived and we are on budget - $100
* One get well card sent (Kristine Sandhu)
1. Membership - Mike - 62
2. 6PPDQ sampling – Mike Patrick – more funds have become available. Further sampling is expected.
3. **New Business:**
	1. Money Motions - Maureen Quested: as a matter of governance, all motions regarding the outlay of money should be brought to the board table rather than circulated by email. Outstanding at this time, is a request for a $25 donation to the Stewardship Roundtable by Jim Deck.

**MOTION:** that CLRSS give $25 to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable to help defray their costs.

**Moved by: Jim Deck**

**2nd: Maureen Quested**

 **CARRIED**

* 1. Request for meeting with Minister Cullen from Bernie Juurlink. - Rick Bryan – nothing has been done about this request. Rick will contact Rodger to discuss
	2. Comments on CWB Connections Working Group – Judy Brayden (attached)
	3. Minutes of the Marketing Group Meeting – any questions – Judy Brayden (attached)
	4. Update on *Witnessing the Water – an authentic relationship –* Judy Brayden (attached)
	5. Report on Newsletter – Judy Brayden – more regular columns; positive comments on format
	6. Graffiti on CLRSS fish sign at Saywell Park – Maureen
		1. Diana reported spray paint on the sign
		2. She notified the town and removed the sign
		3. Maureen cleaned up the spray paint and Diana will reinstall the sign
1. **STEWARDSHIP COMMUNITY REPORTS**
2. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Jim Deck – meetings are every third (3rd) Tuesday

Cowichan First Nations, in concert with other First Nation groups are working on oil spill cleanup eg. In case of a spill from Trans Mountain pipeline etc.

Barry Hetchko of Somenos Marsh Society has been doing bird counts and has found healthy numbers of hawks, eagles, and swans.

1. Walks with Genevieve Singleton and others – listing forwarded by Judy Brayden on February 03/23. They will also be listed in the next newsletter. **REGISTRATION IS A MUST**: cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

Karen and Jim Deck went on the first walk and found it very informative and rewarding.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN – Rosemary Danaher**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday, MARCH 03, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.**

 **For Zoom meeting connection: see message from Judy on**

 **Monday, February 06.**

 Save this connection. It will be the one we use until further notice.