

MINUTES OF February 05, 2024
Via Zoom thanks to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable

CHAIR: Jim Deck

SPEAKERS' ORDER: Beverley Nimmo

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Jim Deck, Judy Brayden, Maureen Quested, Beverley Nimmo, Don Prescott, Jean Atkinson, Diana Gunderson, Dave DePape

Members: Joe Saysell, Ian Morrison (CVRD Director - Area F), Genevieve Singleton

Guests: Tom Rutherford (CWB), Robert Martin (Cowichan Tribes), Kristine Sandhu (Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor)

Absent with Regrets: Rosemary Danaher, Jill Thompson

PREAMBLE

- a) Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that our virtual meeting takes place on the unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Pauquachin, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht and Pacheedaht Peoples who have stewarded this land since time immemorial. We hope our work here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in the Cowichan Valley.
- b) 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.
- c) Introduction of Robert Martin of Cowichan Tribes – We are pleased Robert reached out to join us and hope it will lead to greater involvement.
- d) Volunteer hours were recorded as people joined the meeting.

ITEMS

1. **MOTION:** that the agenda be accepted as circulated.
Moved by: Maureen Quested
2nd by: Dave DePape **CARRIED**
2. **MOTION:** that the minutes of January 08, 2024 be accepted as circulated.
Moved by: Maureen Quested
2nd by: Don Prescott **CARRIED**
3. Treasurer's Report
MOTION: that the treasurer's report be accepted as circulated
Moved by: Beverley Nimmo
2nd by: Maureen Quested **CARRIED**
4. President's Report
 - Connecting Through Water report was accepted by the Board at the January 25 meeting
 - Jim Deck, Maureen Quested and Carrol and Mike Patrick have started planning for the Celebrating Water Festival 2024
 - We are still looking for 2 or 3 people to serve on the organizing committee.
5. Guest Remarks
 - a. Ian Morrison – CVRD Director for Area F
 - The property on Lakefront Road is the subject of an enforcement investigation.
 - Development and building permits have been issued.
 - Owner is co-operating with CVRD officials and discussions are underway.

- Ian is looking into how CVRD website can show development permits once they have been issued.
 - David Slade is advocating for raising the contribution by taxpayers to the Regional Parkland Acquisition Fund.
 - Ian notes that grant funding for non-profits is dwindling.
 - b. Tom Rutherford – Cowichan Watershed Board
 - CWB and CT had a meeting with Ministers Cullen and Rankin and Deputy Ministers
 - Asked for \$14M to meet federal gov't conditions.
 - Work with Cowichan Tribes to have shared decision making.
 - The meeting was very positive.
 - Minister Cullen has submitted some projects to the finance minister and the Weir is at the top of the agenda.
 - Deputy Minister, Lori Halls, will work on liability issues; CT and CVRD have already sent a joint letter to the Deputy Minister.
 - Letters to the Ministers count.
 - There are advantages to Cowichan Tribes holding the water licence as long as liability and reparation are covered by the government.
 - There are tools under Section 7 of DRIP to do this.
 - Joe Saysell offered (through Tom) to take Chief Lydia Hwitum and Minister Cullen/Premier Eby on a river drift.
 - Pacific Salmon Foundation is deciding how to proceed on fish kill.
 - CWB is increasing monitoring and pushing to retain more water in the lake for late summer and fall use.
 - Look at report on PSF website pages 1 – 12 or just first 2 pages – an abstract
 - c. Kristine Sandhu – Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor
 - Kristine reiterated that Council is committed to fast tracking the work on the sewage lagoon as they understand that the river was in crisis this summer and want to do what they can to mitigate the causes.
 - d. Robert Martin – Cowichan Tribes
 - Robert will attend when he can
 - CLRSS will continue to send agendas & minutes to help keep him up to date on our activities
6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes
- a. KBA Canada Coalition Request –
 - Key Biodiversity Areas have no enforcement policies and only require one species to be designated as such. It was not felt of value to pursue.
 - Joy Wade is going to test for lamprey in the upper regions of Shaw Creek.
 - Rodger Hunter will give a presentation on Shaw Creek at the March 04 meeting.
 - A newspaper article on Cowichan being the #2 fishing river was very bad for the river. It means more drift boats and waders in key spawning grounds.
 - b. CLRSS Position on the Play Wave
 - Dave DePape gave an example of a weir replacement in Calgary that was supposed to represent balanced use with a play wave. Parking problems abounded and the nearby park was overwhelmed with kayakers. It is becoming a pre-Olympic training ground.
 - Those present were polled for their opinions which were negative for a play wave at the weir.
 - A motion advocating a neutral stance was withdrawn.
 - Jim will rework the motion to reflect the views offered at the meeting.
 - c. Accessibility to Membership List – revised membership form will be presented to the Board for approval on March 04.
7. New Business
- a. Chamber of Commerce Annual Renewal

MOTION: that the membership in the Chamber of Commerce be renewed for 2024

Moved by: Jim Deck

2nd by: Judy Brayden

CARRIED

- b. Protocol for bringing forward suggestions for the consideration of the Executive committee:
All ideas are welcome for consideration. We need imagination and diversity in our efforts. A simple format would be to present a short summary containing the goal of the idea and any logistical background (i.e. cost, feasibility, person hours required, etc.) accompanying the idea when sent.
- c. Signature Event – a new monthly item under new business
- Currently 5 committee members Jim Deck, Maureen Quested, Jill Thompson, Carrol and Mike Patrick
 - Event will be held on Saturday, July 20 at Saywell Park.
 - We are looking for 1 – 3 more people for the committee
 - First meeting was held Friday, February 02.
 - Public meeting to gain volunteers to be held Saturday, Feb. 24 from 1:00 – 2:30 at Bell Tower School (behind the Museum)
 - Phoning blitz planned for 2 weeks before public meeting
 - Carrol Patrick and Beverley Nimmo will phone current members
 - Meeting will be advertised on the website and in the newsletter
- d. Salmon Action Dialogue Series – by Zoom -
Tom Rutherford made a presentation reflecting the efforts of Pacific Salmon Foundation, First Nations Fisheries Council of B. C., Ministry of Water Land and Resource Stewardship, and DFO to adapt the Washington State Model of 20 years to save salmon.
Report will be sent under separate cover as it is long. Pages 1 – 12 good summary.
- e. BCCF Workshop on UV Filter Project results to date: To attend, reply by Sunday, February 11. See Jim Deck's email of January 30. Further information **attached**.
- f. Joe Saysell reported that the Friends of the Cowichan have been trying to get the upper river closed (from the weir to 70 mile trestle) until April because this is when chinook and trout spawn and drift fishermen tear up the spawning beds with 30 pound dragging anchors or crush eggs if wading while fly fishing in shallow water.
He advocated for a letter writing campaign. Judy Brayden and Joe will come up with a sample letter for others to use as a guideline.
- g. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Genevieve Singleton
- i) Immersion Events
 - February - Western Red Cedar Project
 - March – speaker on Somenos Marsh
 - April – Dept. of Forestry – what is needed for climate change
 - ii) Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Day - September 22 – would like to hold it on CT land but it is their election time so they are very busy right now.
- h. **MOTION:** that CLRSS donate \$50 (fifty dollars) to the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable to help defray their expenses as they have no regular funding source.
Moved by: Jim Deck
2nd by: Maureen Quested
CARRIED
- i. Whirling Disease which attacks young salmon, trout and whitefish now found in B. C. in Emerald Lake in Yoho National Park.
- Parks Canada taking an aggressive approach but not yet addressed by the province.
 - Importance of “Clean, Drain, Dry” – a federal program stressed particularly any boats from Alberta or the Kootenays
 - Aggressive action is needed to minimize the spread.
 - Boat inspection stations need to be more numerous – Joe volunteered to work on this.
 - Lots of good public education resources out there as 20 states have Whirling Disease.
 - Felt soled waders easily contaminated by mud, slime etc. from river beds must be thoroughly washed and dried to prevent spread.
- j. Property Infractions

Minutes – 24/02/05

Complainant referred to RAPP line.

Joe and Chris will take a look at the property in question.

Adjournment - Dave DePape - at 8:34 p.m.