

Agenda CLRSS Board of Directors and interested CLRSS members

Monday, March 6th, 2017

6:30 p.m. at the Country Grocer Meeting Room, Lake Cowichan

In attendance: Board members: Briony Argue, Lois Atchison, Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Sandy Cumming, Rose Davidson, Diana Gunderson, Parker Jefferson, Mike Patrick, Maureen Quested and Leroy Van Wieren.

CLRSS members: Gord Davidson, Kerry Davis, Bee Greenway, Klaus Kuhn, Ian Morrison and Joe Tatham

Guests: Tom Rutherford CWB, Kate Miller CVRD

Absent with regrets:, Rosemary Danaher

Time	Item	Action (What, By Whom and When)
6:30	Adoption of the agenda: RMS _____/_____ that the agenda be adopted as printed.	
	Introductions of members with reminder about our meeting conduct guideline. Using the Fourfold Way we: <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. 	
	Adoption of the minutes: (sent via email earlier in the month) RMS Judy Brayden/ _____ that the minutes of the February 15 th , 2017 CLRSS meeting be accepted as distributed.	
	Business Arising from the Minutes: 1. Letter re: Forest Stewardship Plan that includes FTOA Licence A94261 drafted by Diana Gunderson and Mike Patrick. (see Appendix 1 below) 2. The purpose of the CLRSS: We are suggesting a new DRAFT purpose as: To educate and influence landowners and government about the environmentally sustainable use and protection of the Cowichan watershed with emphasis on the upper Cowichan watershed and all riparian zones. To work with schools, citizens and other like-minded groups for this purpose.	

	Correspondence: None	
7:00	Treasurer's Report – Rose Davidson (see distributed) RMS Rose Davidson/_____ that the treasurer's report be adopted as printed.	
	<p>Strategic Plan Committee Reports - Nil reports may be recorded.</p> <p>1. Community Involvement:</p> <p>a.) Executive Committee – Leroy Van Wieren b.) Education Committee – Leroy Van Wieren c.) Communication Director's Report – Parker Jefferson a.) Membership - Mike Patrick b.) Website – Mike Patrick</p> <p>2. Land Stewardship:</p> <p>a.) CSSP - Diana Gunderson and Jean Atkinson</p> <p>3. Water Stewardship:</p> <p>a.) Water monitoring – Gord Davidson b.) Stream signage – Gord Davidson</p> <p>4. Regional Meetings:</p> <p>a.) Stewardship Roundtable – Parker Jefferson b.) Cowichan Watershed Board - Tom Rutherford</p> <p>RMS _____/_____ that the above reports be adopted as presented.</p>	
8:00	<p>Old Business:</p> <p>1. Shaw Creek – Leroy Van Wieren. Leroy will have an executive summary of the current state of the application for development.</p>	
8:20	<p>New Business:</p> <p>1. CLRSS Annual River Clean-up confirm date. We are suggesting the upper river on August 20th and the lower river on August 27th.</p> <p>2. CLRSS Annual General Meeting – confirm date. Judy is suggesting Sunday the 14th of May, 2017. Discussion: the format and 2017/18 Board building.</p>	
	RMS _____ that the meeting be adjourned at _____	
	Next CLRSS Board Meeting: Monday, April 3, 2017 at Country Grocer Meeting Room. All members and visitors are welcome!	

Appendix 1: Letter re: Forest Stewardship Plan that includes FTOA Licence A94261

February 27, 2017

Mark Carter RPF
Teal Cedar Products Ltd.
P.O. Box 358
Mesachie Lake, BC, V0R 2N0

Dear Sir,

Re: Forest Stewardship Plan that includes FTOA Licence A94261

This plan that would include logging between Lakeview Park and the Cowichan Lake Education Centre (CLEC), raises serious concerns. The CLRSS encourages planning and initiatives that have no net negative impact on the Cowichan watershed. If the Forest Stewardship Plan to log this site moves forward, it will have a serious negative impact on the ecological services of the upland and riparian area of Lakeview. The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society cannot support a plan that would see logging in this area.

The site is a forest/wetland that contains at least one pond and twenty-two seepage streams that flow down the generally steep slopes through the riparian area on the south shore of Cowichan Lake. The natural filtration that occurs as these streams pass through the upland forest and into the riparian area helps to mitigate water turbidity in the lake, not far from the Lake Cowichan water intake. Water turbidity is becoming a problem for residential water systems. Lake Cowichan is under a "Boil Water Advisory" again today. Natural filtration should be encouraged and protected so that water supplies can be safe without the installation of expensive mechanical filtration systems.

Ted Burns, local fisheries biologist, calls this area "Crying Hill", and in his April 24, 2004, "Environmental Assessment of a proposed trail from Lakeview Park to the Cowichan Lake Education Centre", he said that foot traffic could cause the streams to carry increased sediment to Cowichan Lake. He recommended that the streams be crossed with small bridges. Logging would cause far greater turbidity.

Tree removal in this area would destroy wildlife habitat in the upland and along the shore (tree frogs, red-legged frogs, river otters, mergansers, mallards, Canada geese, deer, bears, cougars, mink, and more) and would cause irreparable damage to shoreline fish habitat (salmonid, trout and, very possibly, Cowichan lamprey).

The CLRSS has just completed the initial three-year phase of its Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project. The society applies for grants, employs students, and uses volunteer labour to complete restoration of shoreline that has been impacted by poor property development practices. In three years, the project has restored about the same number of

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linear meters of riparian shoreline as would be negatively impacted by this “Forest Stewardship Plan” at the Lakeview site.

CLRSS educates, models, and communicates environmental stewardship. The society is directly involved in the development of the Lake Studies Program for all grades in Lake Cowichan School. The Lakeview site is a natural classroom for groups to learn stewardship. Because its proximity to community schools, the area has become demonstration site for nature studies and nature walks.

Lakeview forest is one of a very few Cowichan Lake forested areas left that includes sixty to eighty-year-old second growth trees and extends to the shore of the lake. It is the only one on the south arm of Cowichan Lake. For international and other groups attending the CLEC, it is this natural beauty of Lakeview that attracts them and brings them back year after year to study or simply enjoy the pristine surroundings.

The Lakeview site not only needs to be protected for its incredible natural value, but also as an attraction for tourists and new residents. It is what the growing number of visiting boaters see when they leave the Lake Cowichan boat launches and head up the lake. They only need to look above this oasis of forest to see the clear-cut blocks that surround it and that are prominent around most of the lake.

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society is dedicated to the protection and health of the Cowichan Watershed. The Forest Stewardship Plan would negatively impact the ecological services of the forest upland site, the seepage streams and ponds, the sloping riparian area and shoreline, and the lake. It would affect the health of the whole watershed. **The CLRSS opposes the plan to log on the Lakeview site.**

Yours truly,

Diana Gunderson (CLRSS VP)
250-749-3335
PO Box 435, Lake Cowichan, BC, V0R 2G0

References:

- Ted Burns (Consulting Biologist) 2004. Environmental Assessment of a Proposed Trail from Lakeview Park to the Cowichan Lake Education Centre.
- Thurber Engineering Ltd 2000. Ecological Habitat Review Lakeview Development Lake Cowichan BC.