

Minutes of the CLRSS Board of Directors and interested CLRSS members

Monday, February 5th, 2018

6:30 p.m. at Jake's at the Lake, Lake Cowichan

The secretary will edit as needed in the minute-taking process

In attendance: Board members: Leroy Van Wieren, Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Diana Gunderson, Mike Patrick, Maureen Quested and Ken Traynor. CLRSS members: Lois Atchison, Sandy Cumming, Ian Morrison, Lynden Keeping and Katherine Staiger.

Guests: Tom Rutherford Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB)

Absent with regrets: Rosemary Danaher, Parker Jefferson, Heather Pritchard, Kerry Davis, Bee Greenway, Rodger Hunter, Lyle Kuchmak, George DeLure, Genevieve Singleton.

The CLRSS Board welcomes the opportunity to meet and to involve the membership in the society's decision-making process. Therefore, all members and community are welcome to attend and to participate in the meeting discussion. While all opinions may influence decision-making, only Board members may move/second or vote on motions.

Time	Item	Actions (What, By Whom and When)
6:30	Adoption of the agenda: RMS Judy Brayden/ Ken Traynor that the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED	
	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: (attached with this agenda package) RMS Judy Brayden/Diana Gunderson that the minutes of January 8 th , 2017 CLRSS meeting be accepted as amended. CARRIED	
	<i>The agenda order has been altered for this meeting in the hope that important Old and New Business items may be given priority. Feedback on the changes welcome.</i>	
	Land Stewardship moved in order to respect time commitments CSSP - Jean Atkinson and Diana Gunderson reported that all of the landowners have been identified. There are 7 properties at this point. As we are 1000 square short in this year's restoration, additional work will be undertaken before March 31, 2018. Jean agreed to write a summary of the procedure that the CSSP Landowner Education Team followed this year. This will inform the annual report that Project Manager, Christine Brophy, will write. From the previous meeting: Diana Gunderson and Heather Pritchard have revised the Homeowner's Agreement to include the request that homeowners become members of CLRSS in the year in which the work is undertaken. (see Appendix 2 below).	Diana Gunderson will send the final PDF version to Craig Wightman.

	<p>Diana Gunderson will reproduce up to 25 copies of the final report for use at CLRSS functions and to give to prospective CSSP participants, etc.</p>	
	<p>Cowichan Watershed Board: (agenda order amended in order to respect time commitments) Tom Rutherford and Leroy Van Wieren reported on the progress of the Water Use Planning process (WUP). Tom reported that the sixty-three years of excellent climate and hydrological data that we have in the valley, will not be used in the WUP determinations because of the effects of climate change on the future of the watershed. A group called the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) has developed downscaled climate models specific to the Cowichan Watershed. The WUP process is using PCIC forecast data for 2050 to model the various options being explored. Because the prognosis is so dismal, the PAG is now considering options that stakeholders may not have considered previously. We were reminded that PAG members represent specific constituencies and that the advantage of this structured decision-making model is that it is fact-based and balances a wide range of interests and impacts.</p> <p>The CVRD PlaceSpeak platform is currently hosting a topic is about CVRD's involvement in water/watershed management. The vision for "creating a watershed service" was originally just to include the Cowichan watershed but is now recognized as a CVRD-wide issue. CVRD staff are working on how best to create a service that will allow staff to allocate time and resources to water and watershed issues (Alternative Approval Process or Referendum); Important to note that the Comox Valley and the Nanaimo Regional District already have watershed functions in their regional budgets.</p> <p>CVRD Director, Ian Morrison, announced that on Wednesday, February 6th the CVRD is hosting an information opportunity (3:00 -5:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.) at the Lake Cowichan Sports complex.</p> <p>Tom briefly alluded to the work being done by the CWB around rainwater storage (Save the Rain Campaign) and agreed to see if the campaign coordinator Nora Arajs would be available to speak to the CLRSS Board at their March meeting.</p> <p>On a lighter note: recent water quality results indicated that there has been some improvement in the water quality in the Koksilah; a full report will be forthcoming.</p>	<p><i>Judy will send the PlaceSpeak link to the Board and attendees. cowichanwup.ca</i></p> <p><i>Tom Rutherford will ask Nora Araasg to be a guest speaker at our next month's Board meeting. She will inform us about rainwater storage.</i></p>
	<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Old Business:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Issue of Insurance - Ken Traynor reported that CLRSS can purchase \$2 million general liability for an annual premium of \$660. He is optimistic that the Cowichan Land Trust may be able to be of some assistance in this regard. We will wait to hear back from CLT before proceeding with this purchase. The regular Board of Directors' liability insurance annual premium is \$400. Lois Atchison asked about the Good Samaritan Fund. 2. Lakeview Park update – Diana Gunderson reported that the logging has been done. No one knows if an inspection has occurred. 3. Shaw Creek update – NIL report 4. Submission to provincial government review of professional reliance. (See Appendix 3) <p>RMS: Ken Traynor/Diana Gunderson that we accept this and send it on. CARRIED</p>	<p><i>Leroy Van Wieren will contact Heather Pritchard to see if she is available on the evening of Feb. 11th.</i></p>

	<p>5. Greenshores workshop – Ken Traynor reported that he and Christine Brophy will be attending this workshop on the 20th and 21st of February at BCIT. Both the CWB and CVRD contributed to the costs.</p> <p>6. Strategic Planning - the next steps - Heather Pritchard will be asked if she can lead us in the conclusion of this process. The tentative date was February 11th at 5:00 at the home of Judy Brayden</p> <p>7. Changes to the Navigation Protection Act - from the previous minutes: Diana Gunderson and Ian Morrison will investigate the possibility of inclusion of the Cowichan Lake in the nomination process. NIL report.</p>	
7:15	<p>Treasurer’s Report – Ken Traynor (see Appendix 1 below)</p> <p>RMS Ken Traynor/Diana Gunderson that the treasurer’s report be adopted as printed. CARRIED</p>	
	<p>Correspondence Received – We discussed a request from Craig Wightman to the CLRSS Board that we write a thank you letter the Sidney Anglers for their ongoing support of the CSSP work. We agreed and Leroy will write this asap.</p>	<p><i>Leroy Van Wieren will write this letter. Judy Brayden will send the email to him.</i></p>
	<p>8. Fundraising Report – Maureen Qusted reported that a CLRSS raffle will be organized for this spring (April 1st – July 31st). The prize will include a package of 2 nights accommodation at the Greendale Cabins, a food voucher at a local restaurant and perhaps a tubing or kayaking package. Diana Gunderson reminded us that we have a spinning reel and rod, a large dip-net and a pair of manual downriggers that have been donated to CLRSS by Caroline Thom.</p>	
	<p>9. Retail Sales Report – Lois Atchison – NIL report</p>	
	<p>10. Thank you cards - Lois Atchison - NIL report</p>	
	<p>11. Strategic Plan Committee Reports - Due to length of meeting agenda, Nil reports may be recorded.</p> <p>A. Regional Meetings:</p> <p>a.) Stewardship Roundtable – Ken Traynor reported on the recent meeting; Moviemaker, Harold Joe, had shared clips and anecdotes about past river experiences; Catalyst COE Brian Houle reported that turbidity has been high this winter. Tom Rutherford reported that high number of returning chinook is actually 10,000, not inflated numbers previously reported; the return has double-edged value – high numbers encourage increased fishing; the Stoltz bluffs are sloughing again; the long-term solution involves redirecting the water from Clearwater Creek away from the Cowichan River at that point.</p> <p>B. Community Involvement:</p> <p>a) Education and Communications Committee – Maureen Qusted will contact Lake Cowichan School about the scholarship, arranging a meeting in March to discuss potential scholarship recipients.</p> <p>b.) Membership - Mike Patrick reported that our membership sits at 92; by the March meeting Mike will report on the possibility of online membership renewal at our website.</p> <p>c.) Website – Mike Patrick – NIL report</p> <p>D. Water Stewardship:</p> <p>a.) Water monitoring – NIL report</p> <p>b.) Stream signage – NIL report</p>	<p><i>Maureen Qusted will contact Lake Cowichan School about the CLRSS scholarship, arranging a meeting in March to discuss potential scholarship recipients.</i></p>

	RMS MQ/MP that the above reports be adopted as presented.	
	<p>New Business:</p> <p>A. River clean-up (RCU) leads will be (with thanks) Sandy Cumming, Leroy Van Wieren and Lyndon Keeping; the insurance will be finalized before the annual RCU.</p> <p>B. 2018/19 Board Building – Unfortunately current Vice President Heather Pritchard, is unable to assume the job of president in the next year; she is able however to sit on the Board as Member-at- Large and thankfully her expertise and experience will not be lost to the Board. Others were encouraged to contact friends and neighbours who think that they might make good Board members.</p> <p>C. Annual General Meeting date 2018 – Judy Brayden is suggesting Sunday, June 24th, 2018 at the Lake Cowichan Arena Curling Lounge</p> <p>D. Carly's Cove – Ian Morrison reported that there is a rezoning application being considered for the Carly Cove property; concerns are considerable some of which are: extreme wildfire hazards, RCMP coverage and fire coverage. He reported that three letters from Cowichan Tribes have been received. We were reminded that any development passed Cottonwood Creek requires a precedent setting amendment to the Area I Official Community Plan (OCP). If there should be a public hearing, the CLRSS will write a letter outlining our concerns.</p>	
8:50	RMS Maureen Requested that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.	
	<p>Important dates:</p> <p>February 11, 2018 Strategic planning completion</p> <p>March 5 Board Meeting</p> <p>Spring Break SD 79 March 19 – 23</p> <p>March 31 CLRSS Year end</p>	

Appendix 1: Treasurer`s Report as of January 30, 2018 from CLRSS Treasurer, Ken Traynor

	CASH in Bank	Cheques	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account	8,047.80		8,047.80
to be deposited			
Earmarked funds - for salmon fry rescue			1,934.21
			\$6,113.59
CSSP Account			\$2,679.96
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities from both Accounts			\$8,793.55
Bursary Account Total			\$3,850.99

Comments:							
CLRSS 2017/18 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 1/30/2018							
Current	Cash Position	\$10,727.76					
Revenue				Expenditures			
CODE	Category	Budget	Actual	CODE	Category	Budget	Actual
Total	Revenue	6500	12,345.82	Total	Expenditures	5465	6,339.45
4100	Memberships	1000	1,302.00	5270	Signs	500	0
4110	Donations	2500	3,237.30	5300	Supplies	200	42.71
4200	Sales	1000	570.00	5610	Accounting	100	100
4460	Fundraising	2000	7,236.52	5625	BCLSS	50	0
				5630	Society Fees	35	30
				5640	Printing Costs	700	357.81
				5650	Purchase for Sales	800	639.69
				5685	Insurance	600	816.93
				5690	Bank Charges	30	19
				5700	Office Expenses	550	255.57
				5710	Legal		0
				5730	Courses & Mtgs	300	141.02
				5735	CSSP Activities	1000	192.37
				5740	Misc. other	100	2060.85
					Scholarship Fund	500	1,683.50

Appendix 2: The CSSP Finalized 2018 Homeowner’s Agreement



**Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project (CSSP)
Property Riparian Area Restoration Agreement:**

*The riparian zone refers to the terrestrial area along bodies of fresh water that has a significant influence on processes occurring within the fresh water ecosystem.
The riparian area is the interface between land and a lake, river or stream.*

This agreement is to ensure that both the CLRSS & the land owner(s) are aware of the details of the planned riparian restoration, the financial contributions, and the post restoration maintenance and monitoring procedure.

The Land Owner agrees:

- To the restoration as discussed:
Timing: _____ Approximate number of plants: _____
- To allow CLRSS to access their property to perform the work;
- To consider becoming CLRSS members in good standing for the year in which the work is undertaken;
- That the restoration plan is based on a set budget and that additional planting will require an owner contribution;
- That the CLRSS is responsible and liable for their staff and directors while they are on the owner’s property;
- That the CLRSS will take photos of the restoration work (before, during and after) at agreed times and with prior permission;
- To allow the CLRSS to visit the site, at agreed times and with prior permission, to demonstrate the work and to monitor progress, and for research purposes;
- That the restoration is a one-time effort, and that the CLRSS is not required to continually monitor, repair or replace initial plantings;
- That the CLRSS will provide the owner with instructions for follow-up care and maintenance of the riparian restoration site.

Additional comments:

Signature(owner): _____
 Address: _____
 Signature (CLRSS): _____
 Date: _____

Appendix 3 Submission to Provincial Government Review of Professional Reliance

Re: Professional Reliance Model in BC

Thank-you for providing the opportunity to comment on implementation of the Professional Reliance Model in BC. The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) is dedicated to the protection and health of the Cowichan watershed. It is important to us that regulatory tools and qualified environmental professionals operating under provincial legislation strive to provide the best riparian protection possible. The CLRSS was established in 2011 in response to concerns in the community about the declining health of the lake and river system. We are a diverse group knowledgeable about and actively engaged in projects that improve riparian function. Three major CLRSS projects are:

- i) Public Education Program;
- ii) Cowichan River clean-up; and
- iii) Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project.

As part of the Public Education Program, for four years now, volunteers have been conducting a door-to-door campaign speaking with over 300 of the roughly 600 lake and river front property owners about riparian values and how they can be protected. We have conducted nine annual river clean-ups, each involving over 100 community members removing several tons of garbage from the river. The Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project has completed restoration projects on 34 public and private properties along more than 1100 linear meters and over 10,000 square meters.

How the Professional Reliance Model Affects Our Work

As mandated by our membership, our goal is to encourage riparian protection and foster good riparian values. The Professional Reliance Model affects the work we do in two important areas:

Forest and Range Practices Act

One year ago, CLRSS reviewed and provided comments on a proposed Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) for several forest tenure holders in the Cowichan Valley. Our comments described concerns with respect to possible harvesting in a development unit adjacent to Cowichan Lake. We were concerned that inadequate riparian protection may have an adverse impact on a sensitive ecosystem. We received a response consisting only of a form letter identical to response letters received by several other local organizations. There was no content that indicated any of our input would be used to adjust harvesting plans. Subsequently, CLRSS became aware that harvesting was planned in or near the riparian area of concern and was interested in obtaining harvesting plans in order to provide input; however, there is no mechanism in place to acquire the information. Requests for meetings with the tenure holder and copies of the prescription were not addressed and harvesting occurred without CLRSS having an opportunity to be aware of plans ahead of time and unable to provide meaningful input. As an organization that works hard and is dedicated to riparian protection, it was frustrating to not be able to apply our knowledge where it could make a difference. With respect to the FSP review process, for non-forestry workers, the content of an FSP is challenging to understand. For example, maps and other content include only high-level strategic planning information (e.g., old growth management) versus operational information (i.e., cutblocks and new roads). This makes it extremely difficult for the general public to understand what may occur in the future, effectively excluding them from a meaningful review process.

Riparian Areas Regulation

The Shoreline Restoration Projects we work on have provided the opportunity to observe application of the Riparian Areas Regulation. Most often, we see good on-the-ground results from high quality assessments; however, in some cases we are disappointed to observe the results from poor implementation of this regulation:

- When we have reported blatant destruction of riparian habitat to authorities, we have found that compliance and enforcement staffing levels are inadequate and the consequences to the landowner for the violation are negligible or absent; and
- We have also observed damage to fish spawning habitat resulting from a well-intended riparian assessment that was deficient in its restoration prescription. We believe that government review and

approval of the plan could have resulted in a more positive outcome, as it is often better to have the input of other experienced professionals. Although the Professional Reliance Model was to be supported by effective government monitoring and enforcement programs, we feel that it suffers from the lack of staffing needed to provide the appropriate and necessary review, supervision and enforcement.

Recommendations for Changes to the Professional Reliance Model

As the BC government looks forward to making positive changes to how our natural resources are managed, the CLRSS believes changes to the professional reliance model are required. Managing natural environments is complex, especially with climate change impacts. Therefore, ensuring regulatory tools are in place that permit meaningful opportunities for community participation in decision-making and that enable the government to effectively monitor and enforce regulations are required in order to benefit our natural environment. We offer the following recommendations:

- i) Provide meaningful opportunities for public consultation (versus review and comment) with respect to forest development planning. This would provide the opportunity for dialogue between tenure holders and stakeholders.
- ii) Ensure documents released for public consultation provide meaningful information easily understood by non-forestry people and at a minimum, include on maps past, proposed and approved cutblocks and roads. Information needs to be made available on a regular (e.g., annual) basis versus once every 5 to 10 years.
- iii) Increase monitoring and enforcement capacity in government.
- iv) Provide a process that improves quality of riparian area assessments. For example, replace the qualified professional's ability to "self assess" and require local government approval of an individual's qualifications. And/or require government review and approval of riparian area assessments.

The CLRSS appreciates this opportunity to provide input into the review of the professional reliance model. We look forward to hearing about the necessary changes that will support CLRSS in our efforts to ensure protection and restoration of the riparian areas around the Cowichan Lake and River.

Sincerely,
 Heather Pritchard
 Vice President
 Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
 Cc: Sonia Furstenu, MLA for Cowichan Valley