

Minutes for the CLRSS Board Meeting

Monday, October 1st, 2018

6:30 p.m. at Country Grocer Meeting Room.

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

In attendance: Board members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Chantelle Carden, Rosemary Danaher, Diana Gunderson, Lyndon Keeping, Ken Traynor and Leroy Van Wieren. CLRSS members: Katharine Staiger, Peter Noble, Rick Bryan. Guests: Gail Dawson-Russell and Max Russell

Absent with regrets: Lois Atchison, Maureen Quested, Parker Jefferson, Mike Patrick, Tom Rutherford, Genevieve Singleton, Bee Greenway, Rodger Hunter, Ian Morrison, Klaus Kuhn and Joe Saysell

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.

Agenda: RMS Leroy Van Wieren/Rosemary Danaher that the agenda be adopted as amended. CARRIED	Action: What? By Whom? By When?
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. 	
Minutes of the previous meeting: RMS Judy Brayden/Lyndon Keeping that the minutes of September 10th, 2018 CLRSS meeting be accepted as printed. CARRIED	
Guest Speaker: Rick Bryan of the BC Canoeing Association, expressed his concern that it was time for canoeists and kayakers to get more involved with river stewardship. As a retiree, he would like to volunteer his time and feels that river safety is his highest priority as a canoeist. He referred to paddlers in the US and the UK as having fallen behind river politics. Some rivers are no longer as enjoyable due to changes such as dam building can change rivers. Even dammed rivers can be enjoyed if managed to accommodate flow rates and times. We questioned if there were concerns about the Cowichan River. Rick said that there were none and that storing more water in the lake wouldn't change that; we wondered if it would be possible to get paddlers involved in making an inventory of knotweed on the Cowichan River. Rick agreed that this could be done by beginner/intermediate paddlers; paddling clubs are taking some interest in river stewardship and projects. For example, the UVic Paddling Club must take garbage bags with them when they paddle. Rick was thanked for his contribution and encouraged to attend meetings and to become more involved in all that CLRSS undertakes.	
Cowichan Watershed Board: Tom Rutherford, CWB Executive Director – In Tom's absence, Ken Traynor reported. Tom was in preparations for the historic meeting with BC Minister of the Environment, Doug Donaldson, regarding the province taking on the water license and therefore the management of the Cowichan Lake weir. MP Alistair	

<p>McGregor and MLA Sonja Furstenu, were also scheduled to attend this meeting. A formal response will be forthcoming. Discussion ensued about any change to the CW Board and directorship when or if the makeup of CVRD Board changes. Ken reported that the CVRD Board has formally adopted the new governance manual that refines and documents decision-making, including the Cowichan People's ways. The importance of the involvement of the CWB in discussions about the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Establishment Bylaw, use referendum was reiterated. A review of the annual lower river cleanup was discussed in light of the amount of garbage (2 tons) and the amount of dangerous litter that was encountered; the family friendly approach to the clean-up is more complex in the lower river. A bus may be taking kids to the ocean instead of the river in the future. Brian Houle, Catalyst Paper, informed the group that lake levels are up from 4.5 to 7 cubic metres per second, higher than rule curve. Gravel deposits were removed from the North arm of lower Cowichan, so that fish could travel through. Tom and others are working to organize a comprehensive knotweed workshop this winter. The first phase of water quality assessment is now complete; second phase to come this fall.</p> <p>Jean Atkinson reported that the Cowichan Watershed Board had written a good letter that should be distributed to group. The letters written by community members in support of the water licence issue will be circulated to our group.</p>	
<p>Correspondence: The Opinion Editorial on Drinking Water and Watershed Management Function Vote (see Appendix 2 below) was reviewed. See below. It will be published in the local papers. Member, Rick Bryan, suggested that others also write similar opinion editorials. Thanks to those who worked so tirelessly to craft this.</p>	
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Old Business:</p> <p>1) Annual River Clean-up: Date confirmation referred to November meeting.</p> <p>2) CVRD Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service Establishment Bylaw and the State of the Lake report – Ken Traynor provided an update that the CLRSS State of the Lake document will be distributed to the region but is uncertain that it will be in 1852 homes before the date of the civic election. The issue of the non-resident property elector was clarified, and non-resident owners are able to cast a ballot in both this and their home riding, if their home riding is not also within the CVRD.</p> <p>RMS Rosemary Danaher/Judy Brayden that CLRSS write a letter to the editor(s), ensuring that this information reach the newspaper(s). CARRIED.</p> <p>Volunteers were reminded that One Cowichan is seeking volunteer help as well.</p> <p>3) Dedication of Lake Cowichan area to Gerald Thom's memory – Ken Traynor gave an update on the Monday, September 17 work party at Saywell Park in which nine people participates in the clean-up group. Member, Peter Noble, offered to collect leaf mulch and store it over winter until needed. The next steps were reviewed. The written plan is attached to these minutes (see Appendix 3 below).</p> <p>4) Committee restructuring:</p> <p>RMS Judy Brayden/Rosemary Danaher that the CLRSS Board ratify the Communications Committee members for 2018/19 as Mike Patrick, Parker Jefferson, Chantelle Carden and Ken Traynor. Additional interested members as needed will participate in various campaigns. CARRIED</p> <p>5) CLRSS Sub-committee meeting schedule: Judy Brayden proposed a guideline (see draft calendar Appendix 4, below) Judy agreed to contact each committee chair</p>	<p>2.) Ken Traynor will craft a letter and send to both local editors; Chantelle will post on facebook and the website as well. Ken will also send to the Discourse, a new online format.</p> <p>3.) Ken Traynor will contact Peter Noble about leaf mulch; Judy will revisit the GTM garden committee notes and distribute to the Board.</p> <p>5.) Judy Brayden agreed to contact each committee chair about setting goals and priorities for the next</p>

<p>about setting goals and priorities for the next 8 months. Chair call a first meeting and set a set a schedule between now and the 2019 AGM.</p> <p>NOTE: Judy Brayden will chair Landowner Education subcommittee and Katharine Staiger has joined the Water Monitoring subcommittee.</p> <p>6) Regular CLRSS Report from the Area Directors: Di Gunderson had previously suggested that we create a regular agenda item at which time the Area Directors would be given the opportunity to apprise us of upcoming development permit applications that could impact sensitive ecological areas.</p> <p>7) Mile 77 Park Plan: Jean Atkinson provided an update on the plans, the goal of which is to provide more access to the foreshore; while the Riparian Area Regulation (RAR) does not applicable to parks, the CVRD complies with RAR. We have concerns with accessing the foreshore through the native vegetation and will follow-up by attending the parks advisory meeting next month. Jean Atkinson and Lynden Keeping will report back as applicable.</p>	<p>8 months. Chair call a first meeting and set a set a schedule between now and the 2019 AGM.</p> <p>6.) Judy Brayden will contact area directors after the election</p> <p>7.) Jean Atkinson and Lynden Keeping will report back as applicable.</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: Leroy Van Wieren (see Appendix 1 below)</p> <p>The CRA payroll account is still operative; it was decided to leave it active for the time being. Leroy concluded that the bottles drive proceeds cover the costs of the clean-up, as donations cannot be relied upon. This year we earned \$1200.14 on the RCU because of a significant donation by a local business.</p> <p>RMS Leroy Van Wieren/Diana Gunderson that the treasurer's report be adopted as distributed. CARRIED</p>	
<p>Fundraising Report: NIL report</p>	
<p>Retail Sales Report: Rosemary Danaher reported that we had sold \$20 worth of product earning CLRSS \$7.40 in profit.</p>	
<p>Social Report: Rosemary Danaher reported that we sent 12 cards of thanks to River Clean-up supporters.</p>	
<p>Strategic Plan Committee Reports - Due to length of meeting agenda, NIL reports may be recorded.</p> <p>A. Regional Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) Stewardship Roundtable: Ken Traynor reported on the recent meeting. ii.) Education – NIL report iii.) Communications Committee: Chantelle Carden thanked the contributors to the recent State of the Lake report; she reiterated to send her any and all newsworthy items, so she can post on social media; The November Communications Committee meeting will address what can we take from away for the results of the civic election. iv.) Membership: NIL report <p>B. Land Stewardship:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i.) CSSP: Diana Gunderson reported that the scheduled site tour, that is a BCCF requirement for funders, will be finalized after a meeting this week; possible participants are the CLRSS Board members, local realtors, CVRD planners, CSSP property owners and new participants. CSSP has 40 completed sites. Di reminded the Landowner Education committee that the CSSP Shoreline visits and outreach initiatives are needed for the report to funders, no later than Nov. 2, 2018. Judy Brayden will call meeting of the committee this month. ii) Landowner Education: Judy Brayden 	<p>B. i.) Judy Brayden will call meeting of the committee this month.</p>

<p>a. Realtor Event: Ken Traynor reported that he had contacted Remax owner, Sandy Stinson, about their Eco Broker designation; she was interested in CLRSS meeting/conversation about riparian care; he is investigating contact with Pemberton Homes and Patrick Miller of Country Wide Brokers; they are welcome to attend the October site visit tour. Judy reminded the group that the Landowner Education committee has prepared 5 charts for use addressing the key outcomes for in such meetings (see attached).</p> <p>b. Stewardship signs: Leroy Van Wieren reported that this work is ongoing.</p> <p>c. CSSP Maintenance manuals: Before we can print more manuals, we have to update the donor logos in the document. Judy, Diana and Jean will address this asap. The deadline for completion of this is January 15th, 2019</p> <p>C. Water Stewardship:</p> <p>i.) Water monitoring: Ken Traynor updated us on the summer work; once the fall freshening happens a further set of samples will be collected at 11 sites for five consecutive weeks. Members, Rick Bryan and possibly Peter Noble, volunteered to assist.</p> <p>ii.) Stream signage: NIL report – Leroy Van Wieren</p> <p>RMS Katharine Staiger/Judy Brayden that the above reports be adopted as presented. CARRIED</p>	<p><i>B. ii. c.) Judy, Diana and Jean will address this asap. The deadline for completion of this is January 15th, 2019</i></p>
<p>New Business:</p> <p>1) Genevieve Singleton of the Cowichan Naturalists and the Stewardship Roundtable had sent a request for a letter from CLRSS to the BC Minister of the Environment, requesting that he reconsider the decision to move the Duncan Conservation Officer from the Duncan location to the Nanaimo office.</p> <p>RMS Judy Brayden/Katharine Staiger that we send a letter using the template provided. CARRIED</p> <p>2) One Cowichan: Parker Jefferson was unable to provide an update on their work in this election cycle.</p> <p>3) The date and location of the 2018 CLRSS Christmas party: Judy Brayden and Leroy Van Wieren will consult and circulate a suggestion for the Board's consideration.</p> <p>4) Stream signage needed for Wardroper Creek:</p> <p>RMS Leroy Van Wiernen/Diana Gunderson that we spend up to \$200 for this sign. CARRIED</p>	<p>1.) NOIE: Ken Traynor has written this letter (see Appendix 5 below)</p> <p>3.) Judy Brayden and Leroy Van Wieren will consult and circulate a suggestion for the Board's consideration.</p>
<p>Adjournment: RMS Rosemary Danager that the meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m. CARRIED</p>	
<p>Important dates:</p> <p>Oct. 15 Civic Elections all candidates' meeting Town of Lake Cowichan</p> <p>Oct. 16 Civic Elections all candidates' meeting Area F</p> <p>Oct. 18 Civic Elections all candidates' meeting Area I</p> <p>October 20th, Regional and Municipal Elections in the Cowichan Valley</p> <p>November 5th, 6:30 CLRSS Board Meeting 6:30 Country Grocer, Lake Cowichan</p> <p>December 3rd, 6:30 CLRSS Board Meeting 6:30 Country Grocer, Lake Cowichan</p>	

December TBA Christmas Party	
------------------------------	--

Appendix 1: Treasurer`s Report

September 2018 Treasurer's Report			
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account	13,355.95	0	13,355.95
to be deposited	0.00		
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,577.40
Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities			\$11,778.55
Bursary Account Total			\$4,352.46
Comments: RCU Net = +\$1200.14			

CLRSS 2018/19 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 30/09/2018							
Revenue				Expenditures			
CODE	Category	Budget	Actual	CODE	Category	Budget	Actual
Total	Revenue	7300	7,516.34	Total	Expenditures	7,700.00	3,805.35
4100	Memberships	1600	1,356.00	5270	Signs	500	0
4110	Donations	2600	2,068.30	5610	Accounting	100	0
4200	Sales	1000	450.00	5615	Public Information	500	179.55
4460	Fundraising	2100	3,637.07	5625	BCLSS	50	50
	Interest	0	4.97	5630	Society Fees	100	125
				5640	Printing Costs	1000	0
				5650	Purchase for Sales	800	218.23
				5685	Insurance	1300	268.47
				5690	Bank Charges	30	12
				5700	Office Expenses	520	272.47
				5730	Courses & Mtgs	300	0
				5735	CSSP Activities	500	727.79
				5736	River CU	700	920.51
				5737	Fundraising Expenses	300	25
				5740	Misc. other	100	149.52
				5900	Scholarship Fund	500	500.00
				6000	Fry Rescue	400	356.81

Appendix 2: The Opinion Editorial of the Drinking Water and Watershed Management Function VOTE

Op Ed on Drinking Water and Watershed Management Function Vote

The Cowichan region has a wonderful legacy of stewardship and volunteerism. Several water-focused stewardship groups from the north, central and south parts of our community have met and formed a coalition to share information and concerns. Collectively our groups give many thousands of volunteer hours each year supporting, protecting and enhancing our water resources and water-dependent ecosystems. Each group has unique and valuable knowledge of their specific watersheds and will continue to provide essential information and guidance to the CVRD about the needs and challenges faced daily in their home watershed. We are involved with habitat restoration, watershed protection, data collection, water sampling, monitoring wildlife inventories, salmon fry salvage operations, public education and many other activities. However, without a regional agency working across multiple jurisdictions (First Nations, Federal, Provincial, and Municipal) there is a danger that the continuity of connected water systems will be broken.

The municipal election ballot on October 20 will contain an important referendum question asking citizens to support the creation of a Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service at the CVRD. This service is designed to enhance the water security of our communities. It will enable the monitoring and protection of all of our critically important watersheds from Shawnigan to Yellow Point. This service will also provide resources for our various organizations to continue their work preserving and protecting our water for future generations to enjoy as we do today.

A highly respected group of research scientists at The University of Victoria has done some very detailed climate change projections specifically for our area. These projections show that we are facing serious challenges in the future around our water. Our summer rainfall and winter snow pack will continue to decrease while droughts and summer temperatures will increase significantly. Many aquifers in our region are declining, especially in the southern areas. We must take action quickly to monitor and protect our water and water-dependent ecosystems for the future.

One important feature of this water protection function is to enable the CVRD to receive funding from senior levels of government for the execution of water services for all our watersheds. Homeowners in the CVRD will be charged \$3.79 per \$100,000 of assessed value on their annual property taxes. That works out to \$18.95 per year for a \$500,000 home. We think this will return great value to all of our residents in the form of enhanced water security, protected ecosystems and informed development decisions in the future.

Moving forward in an organized, collaborative and integrated manner is essential to our unified goal of developing and implementing sustainable water use and land management decisions. Our unified message is simple. **Our groups support the Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Service.** We represent diverse groups from every corner of our region and we all agree it is vitally important to create this service. Please take the time to learn the facts and get out to vote on October 20th.

Signed:

Shawnigan Basin Society
 Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
 One Cowichan
 Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable
 Cowichan Valley Naturalists
 Cowichan Watershed Board
 Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
 Yellow Point Ecological Society
 Green Blue
 Quamichan Watershed Stewardship Society

Appendix 3: Review of the Plan for the Gerald Thom, Memorial Native Garden

Gerald Thom Native Garden

Phase 1: Summer 2018:

- a) CLRSS Volunteer work parties to tidy up the existing garden:
 - i) water the area morning and evening for a few days for ease of working;
 - ii) remove all weeds and invasive species, trim any deadwood;
 - iii) under direction of Dave Polster and Christine Brophy, environmental consultants, reposition several of the plants so they will prosper or require less maintenance;
- b) We would ask the Town to remove the dead tree on the lakeside of the path by the native garden as it is a hazard;

Phase 2: Autumn 2018:

- a) CLRSS and volunteers to:
 - i) under direction of Christine Brophy, pay for and add more plants, to complement the existing ones and fill in blank areas;
 - ii) collect and then spread alder or maple leaf mulch (which is nature's complement to native plants) to add nutrients to the soil, control weeds, and to maintain moisture near the plants;
 - iii) continue maintenance (weeding, removing deadwood) of the garden;
 - iv) pay for and install individual signs in the garden near the various plants, for the enjoyment and learning experience of visitors, and to encourage them to plant similar plants in their own gardens.
- b) We would ask the Town to pay for signage near the parking area, and directional signage to the Gerald Thom Memorial Plant Garden;
- c) We would ask the Town to incorporate occasional watering of this garden in its regular maintenance of Saywell Park.

Phase 3: potentially, at some time in the future, if the Committee is comfortable with the work done to that point,

- a) CLRSS Volunteers, under the direction of an environmental consultant, expand the garden by approximately one-third, eastward. There is no date in view for this third and final phase, and it would be dependent upon availability and enthusiasm of volunteers in a future year.

Appendix 4: CLRSS Monthly Meeting Schedule Guide

CLRSS 2018 COMMITTEES – MEMBERS – SUGGESTED MEETING SCHEDULE

Draft preliminary monthly schedule

Sunday	Monday (1 st)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Regular Board Meeting and Fundraising if needed before regular Board Mtg. Education Committee in this week					
Sunday	Monday (2 nd)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Communications Committee in this week					
Sunday	Monday (3 rd)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Landowner Education in this week					
Sunday	Monday (4 th)	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Executive Committee meeting in this week			Thursday CLRSS Board Meeting agenda to members		

Appendix 5: CLRSS Letter in Support of the Cowichan Valley Naturalist's Request of the BC Minister of the Environment



P.O. Box 907, Lake Cowichan, BC V0R 2G0

October 3, 2018

Honourable Minister Heyman,
Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy,
Parliament Buildings, Victoria, BC

Honourable Minister Heyman,

Re: Concern re two Natural Resource Officers being moved from Duncan office to Nanaimo.

The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) acts to ensure the health and protection of the Cowichan watershed; to inform and educate landowners, other citizens and governments about the environmentally sustainable use of the upper Cowichan watershed and its riparian zone; and to work with schools, citizens and other like-minded groups for this purpose. Being effective stewards of this watershed is becoming increasingly complex with climate change impacts.

I am writing on behalf of our society, to express our concerns about the erosion of effective enforcement oversight in the Cowichan Valley to back our volunteer conservation efforts. Our community at the upper end of the valley has an ongoing problem in that the Natural Resource Officers, Conservation Officers, and Fisheries Officers are highly over extended and are often not able to attend to complaints or follow up in a timely manner.

Therefore, the CLRSS wishes to express its extreme concern about the proposed move of two Natural Resource Officers to Nanaimo, from where they will continue to cover the Cowichan Valley area. We understand that this will occur within three months. It is a 45-minute drive from Nanaimo to Duncan, and a further 30 minutes up to our area of Lake Cowichan. And of course in addition there are more long distances on difficult roads to get to locations of concern further up our valley. Often complaints laid are very time sensitive. Natural Resource Officers work to ensure compliance with legislation and take enforcement actions as necessary. They provide enforcement in many areas, including the Water Sustainability Act. Prompt response to our community's concerns regarding damage to streams and fish habitat, forests, and sensitive ecosystems is critical. In addition, it is the mandate of Natural Resource