

## CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes

**Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025**

**Time: 6:30 p.m.**

**Held by Zoom**



**Land Acknowledgement:** We acknowledge that this meeting takes place on the unceded territories of the Quw'utsun, Pauquachin, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Malahat, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht, and Pacheedaht Peoples who have stewarded this land for time immemorial. We hope our work here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in the Cowichan Valley.

### **Meeting Protocol: 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.

**Note:** CLRSS Board Meetings are open to the membership and guests, who are encouraged to participate in the business of the meeting. However, only Board members may move, second or vote on motions. All formal business of the Board is to be authorized or reflected in a formal motion.

### **Introductions (none required)**

Volunteer hours reported:

**Meeting Chair:** Cam McCauley, Vice President

**Recording Secretary:** Dianne Flood

Present: Judy Brayden, Maureen Quested, Jean Atkinson, Jacqueline Sterk, Christoph Steeger, Jim Deck, Robert Martin, Jill Thompson

Regrets: Di Gunderson, Genevieve Singleton

## **Minutes**

1.) Adoption of the meeting agenda, with the addition of 7. d. Hiring of an Executive Director

Moved: Judy Brayden

Seconded: Christoph Steeger

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Carried

2.) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved: Dianne Flood

Seconded: Judy Brayden

Carried

3.) Presentations from invited guests: None

4.) Acceptance of the Treasurer's Reports (October, November and December)

Moved: Maureen Quested

Seconded: Judy Brayden

Carried

5.) Acceptance of Committee reports

- a. Executive Committee November 25 – Judy Brayden – deferred as inadvertently these minutes had not been circulated in advance
- b. Invasive Species Committee – Jay White - deferred
- c. Water Sampling - Cam McCauley - deferred

6.) Business Arising or Referred from Previous Meetings

- a. Follow up on Strategic Planning Session August 23, 2024 – Executive meeting of December 9 (see attached minutes) which include:
  - i. CWB's Weir construction communication plan – Jill Thompson: The Weir partners are working hard to re-submit the application for the water license, which will hopefully be in spring, 2025. At that point, the Province will give notice to all lakeshore (and possibly upper river) property owners. The Weir partners' communication goal will be to try to ensure those property owners are informed in advance and so will not be taken by surprise. After consideration of various options, door-to-door "conversations" look to be the preferred option. These will be conducted in early February (tentatively the weekend of Feb 1 and 2 and the evenings of 3, 4, 5 and 6). Jill is going to reach out to Jean Atkinson for some advice how to approach the door-to-door activities. In addition, a new website home page is being set up, with all the existing background information, and an email for folks to send any The Weir partners are also planning for Tom Rutherford and Brian Houle to give a weir tour for Cowichan Tribes members on World Water Day and they will also do some public tours that day. Dianne Flood agreed to provide support for those tours.
  - ii. CLRSS Communication plan - deferred
  - iii. Criteria for prioritization of Strategic Plan goals – Discussion about how these were very broad and how they might apply to specific projects.
  - iv. Proposed priority directions and goals - Discussion around language and what was included and if there was crossover/overlap in some items, and also whether

the cultural environment (Indigenous and non-Indigenous) ought to be included. Christoph will provide his suggestions for changes or revisions to all Board members and will attend the next Executive Committee meeting to discuss those. The development of the strategic plan is recognized as an on-going agenda item that will take time and effort.

- b. Climate Conference, December 9 and 10: Judy Brayden reported that she and Jim Deck attended this conference which was limited to climate activist organizations and it was of interest to hear from the various speakers. A number of WTW books were sold.
- c. Insurance coverage: Maureen Quested has written to our agent asking for their written confirmation that the insurance will cover all Society members when carrying out activities on behalf of the CLRSS.
- d. Projector and screen – Jay White to provide an update on the purchase of a projector and screen. Deferred
- e. Decibel Limits Regulation – Judy Brayden reported that the proposed regulation has not been passed and as Parliament has been prorogued it has not become law yet as was anticipated. She also reported on Di Gunderson’s concerns and conclusions that CLRSS does not have the means to complete all the lobbying/work for funding that has been passed on to us and that local governance can find a way to facilitate some funding to help enforcement of the legislation.
- f. Cloud storage of CLRSS documents – Dianne Flood and Maureen Quested will be meeting in the new year re file organization and document uploads to Dropbox.
- g. Volunteer Week: Maureen Quested. The Executive recommends the Board approve providing volunteer acknowledgment during Volunteer week. If approved, Maureen has volunteered to take the lead on this. Deferred
- h. Chamber of Commerce Dinner: Judy Brayden reported that she and Jim and Karen Deck had attended and there were some conversations about the possible economic development potential from the construction of a playwave. Jim also noted that an increase in tubing was also discussed favourably by some Chamber members.
- i. Update on the Bat Project – Christoph Steeger reported Adele McKay (the regional co-ordinator of the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, which is the funding agency for this program) thought the project funding would be approved this Spring and that prorogation of Parliament should not affect that happening. However, Christoph expressed concerns that if an election is called, funding could be affected if the government changes and this program does not fit in its priorities. Christoph also noted that the project is broader than just the bat habitat aspect, and the project has “snowballed”, with various other entities and persons contacting Christoph about other terrestrial habitat issues and matters.

## 7.) New Business

- a. Green Shores — Jean Atkinson referred to the very short Green Shores videos: [http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green\\_shores/videos/](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green_shores/videos/) and [http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green\\_shores/green-shores-for-homes/](http://stewardshipcentrebc.ca/Green_shores/green-shores-for-homes/)

Jean reported attending a Green Shores Workshop and noted the Green Shores program provides guidance and assistance to homeowners and developers on an approach to riparian preservation and restoration, including how to comply with the local, provincial, federal and First Nations government regulations. Jean wants to ensure all Board members are aware of the Green Shores program and so prepared the attached information about it and made some suggestions how the Board may consider incorporating Green Shores into the Board's on-going activities and its strategic planning as that proceeds.

- b. Technical Support to Olsen Manor on the removal of invasive shoreline plants - Jean Atkinson was contacted for CLRSS support to get rid of yellow flag iris in the shoreline in front of the Manor. Christoph Steeger reported he has taken a workshop on yellow flag iris removal, which requires it be smothered, which is very labour intensive in terms of time and effort. Jacqueline Sterk agreed and said it grows right in the water and its rhizomes and seeds are very prolific. Removal by students will be difficult. Cam undertook to call a meeting of the Invasive Species Committee so it can follow up on this and report back to the Board as soon as possible.
- c. Somenos Marsh activities – Jay White - deferred
- d. Hiring of an Executive Director: Christoph Steeger identified that there are a significant number of issues/programs/matters the Board has concerns with, and noted that a number of other similar organizations (eg. Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society and the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre) are hiring an executive director to help them move their strategic plans forward. He queried if the CLRSS could fundraise to pay for an executive director. Various opinions were expressed – most meeting attendees were either favourable to the concept or not opposed to it but some queried if we were there yet, with some thoughts being how hard it is to obtain funding for staffing only with most grant funding required to be tied to specific programs or projects, how hard it can be to raise funds without a specific physical location like the Marsh and the Estuary (although a physical space is not necessarily required), and how limited our fundraising opportunities are, and questions about where the other organizations got their funding. Christoph agreed to inquire as to where they get their funding. Jill offered that if this were to proceed, she would be willing to provide some assistance.

#### 8.) Announcements

- a. Newsletter deadline to Judy Brayden, Saturday, January 18, 2025. Please send Judy any articles you may wish to have included. A Season's Greeting email was sent to the membership in the week of December 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9.) Adjournment

Moved by Maureen Quested