

CLRSS Board Draft Meeting Minutes - Monday, February 7th, 2022
 – via Zoom with thanks to the Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB)

Every month on the **First Mon**, until **Jun 6, 2022**,

Mar 7, 2022 06:30 PM

Apr 4, 2022 06:30 PM

May 2, 2022 06:30 PM

Jun 6, 2022 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83002307700?pwd=ZHFEdTMwME9Sc1ZZenBla2Qzam55dz09>

Meeting ID: 830 0230 7700

Passcode: 508326

| Items: Rotating chair: Chantelle Carden | Action: What? By Whom? When? |
|---|---|
| <p>In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rick Bryan, Chantelle Carden, Dave De Pape, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Lyndon Keeping and Ken Traynor. Members: Maureen Quested, Genevieve Singleton and Joe Saysell. Guests: Cowichan Watershed Board ED, Tom Rutherford, LC Councillor, Kristine Sandhu, CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison and Elodie Roger. Absent with regrets: Lois Atchison, Bee Greenway, Rodger Hunter and Mike Patrick</p> | |
| <p>We acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Ditidaht and Quw'utsun First Nations. We hope that our work together here today will make a positive contribution to our shared future in this valley.</p> | |
| <p>The Fourfold Way:</p> <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. | |
| FYI only Our Strategic Plan (See Appendix 1 below) | |
| Motion to accept the agenda as printed. | Moved and seconded by Lyndon Keeping and Ken Traynor. CARRIED |
| Motion to accept minutes of January 3 rd , 2022. | Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Ken Traynor. CARRIED |
| Treasurer's report: (See Appendix 2 below) – Jim Deck | Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report Moved and seconded by Jim Deck and Lyndon Keeping. CARRIED |
| Special Presentation: CSSP 2022 - Genevieve Singleton and Elodie Roger | <p>Elodie has forwarded the report to us this evening which she has amended to reflect the years of hard work of Christine Brophy and CLRSS members. The report will be posted on our website asap.</p> <p>BCCF is seeking funding from 4-5 different sources in order to continue the program. They are also looking for matching funds to</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>maintain watering of recent plantings.</p> <p>Research and development – the plan is to go around lake by road & by boat to identify possible sites for riparian improvement. They want to monitor work already done and being done over time. CSSP is still an entity and we can reach out to Elodie or Genevieve at any time.</p> <p>Genevieve pointed out that Christine Brophy's career success is a good example for students interested in environmental studies.</p> |
| <p>Guest remarks from the Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu</p> | <p>Kristine reported that the town hall renovation is currently underway. Lake Cowichan is looking to upgrade the sewer system (\$9 million) to enable more development.</p> <p>Joe Saysell asked about the status of the property bordering Stanley Creek where a road has been pushed in and is partially in the riparian area – a danger to the developing fish eggs in the creek. Kristine will report back.</p> <p>On February 17th there will be a Budget Zoom presentation involving the ToLC CEO, and Area F and I Directors.</p> |
| <p>Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison</p> | <p>Ian reported that property taxes for 2022 will see the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area F – 9.5% decrease Area I – 9% increase ToLC – 12% increase <p>Efforts to create an off-road trail from Honeymoon Bay to Lake Cowichan are being hampered by a Section 42 requirement that states that if public money is spent on private land, that land could be deemed “public” in the future. Private landowners are therefore reluctant to support the trail through their property.</p> <p>The 2022 CVRD Parkland Acquisition Fund is set at \$750,000. Ian thanked those who had written letters of support for the requisition. Members were reminded that the fund can be as high as 1.6 million dollars.</p> <p>MOTI has a new area manager. Mud (& dust in summer) from logging trucks continues to be a problem in Youbou and fear is that this polluted soil eventually makes its way into the lake.</p> <p>Greendale Road parcel still has not been transferred to the CVRD.</p> <p>The CVRD has budgeted \$300,000 dollars for trail maintenance. It was suggested that the recent damage to the CV trail is severe and will costs in excess of that figure.</p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>Ian commented on the volunteer nature of societies such as ours and expressed appreciation for the work that we do, saving taxpayers dollars.</p> |
| <p>Guest Remarks from Cowichan Watershed Board – Tom Rutherford</p> | <p>Tom announced that the newly completed Water Sustainability Plan for the Koksilah watershed will be the 1st water sustainability plan in BC: it considers ecological values, has formal involvement with First Nations and is enforceable.</p> <p>NOTE: In 2017-18 a water use plan was developed for the Cowichan. Leroy Van Weiren represented CLRSS in that process. That's totally different from a water sustainability plan - which is a new(ish) tool defined by the new(ish) Water Sustainability Act (2016). There has never been a water sustainability plan developed (I believe they are working on it on the Nicola and in Langley) but the Koksilah will be the first.</p> <p>There is a real need for a watershed-wide data sharing hub.</p> <p>Tom asked that CLRSS make a submission in support of the proposed provincial Water Security Fund. Submissions are due by March 18 at the Engage BC website. Tom will forward information to Ken asap to be used in the submission. KT will complete and submit for CLRSS.</p> |
| <p>President's Report - Ken Traynor</p> | <p>Ken reported that he and Chantelle worked supporting Jane Kilthei of the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre developing a 3-year funding proposal to Environment Canada called "Partnering to Engage Youth in Restoring and Protecting Cowichan Fresh Water". Chantelle linked up the folks at Lake Cowichan Secondary with the project and Ken got buy-in from Andrew Coster to use the Mesachie Lake Forestry Centre as a site for students to work on if the project is successful. We should hear after March 31st on funding. If successful CLRSS would be contributing contacts with shoreline owners, helping facilitate tours to restored properties and participating in watershed tours as part of the students' education program. (See Appendix 3 below)</p> <p>CLRSS submitted a proposal to be included in the funding request sponsored by the CWB and the Sustainable Roundtable for Federal Gov't funding for a one-day Watershed wide 2022 Rivers' Day celebration. <i>We suggested a program at Saywell Park of interpretive tours, educational kiosks celebrating the watershed, stories and teachings from Cowichan elders, the key role a new weir can play in securing our water for the future and a commemorative event for community members lost to Covid. We</i></p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>are told that a decision on funding will not be made until June/July so stay tuned. (See Appendix 7 below)</p> <p>Note: BC Parks is very interested in Rivers Day Celebrations and to that end, Genevieve Singleton advised us that funding is not required in most cases host such an event.</p> <p>The on-line zoom webinar highlighting the successes of the CSSP program to be sponsored with BCCF has been postponed for the time being.</p> <p>Visits to our website are averaging 90+ a month recently with 82 of the visitors this past month being new visitors.</p> |
| <p>Business Arising from the Minutes and Other Written Reports:</p> <p>1. Special facilitated meeting – date of the in-person event?</p> <p>From Minutes of January 2022 Comments: given possible Covid complications, maybe we should 'hang back' this year and watch for opportunities to arise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must keep our 3 strategic goals of support for weir, youth engagement, & protecting lake shore lands front and center - Small activities rather than a signature event - Need to keep a high profile to accomplish our goals - Rick mentioned the value of RCU and how it brought in paddlers from Victoria to Comox this year. | <p>Dave & Judy will merge existing criteria for an in-person meeting in April in order to test the River Celebration idea against earlier criteria and discussion. They will be assisted by a Volunteer Committee: Dave, Judy, Jim, Maureen, Chantelle, Jean</p> |
| <p>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden b. Social and Retail Sales c. Monthly Meetings rotating chair for March 2022 d. Membership e. Fundraising f. Decibel Coalition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rosemary Danaher reported that there was a dead cedar in the garden that will need to be removed. b. Nil report c. Rick Bryan will chair March meeting, with thanks. d. 1 member signed up for 2022/23 e. Maureen reported that \$1200 has been raised from Smile Cards so far, \$300 of which was allocated to Bursary fund f. Transport Canada is looking for submissions. More next month on this. See decibel@safequiet.ca |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>g. Youth Engagement – Chantelle Carden</p> <p>h. Water Monitoring</p> <p>i. Newsletter</p> <p>j. Paddlesport report</p> <p>k. Fry salvage – Dave DePape</p> <p>l. Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary</p> <p>m. Cowichan Climate Hub</p> <p>n . CSSP – Genevieve Singleton (see special presentation above)</p> <p>o. Lamprey - Genevieve Singleton</p> | <p>g. Chantelle reported that Noni Baanstra at LCS is currently very busy, but Chantelle will try to meet with her further about the possibility of “Partnering to Engage Youth in Restoring and Protecting Cowichan Fresh Water Project”.</p> <p>h. Water monitoring instruments have been sent off for calibration. BC Lakes has a report on 2005 – 2020 Cowichan Lake monitoring. We have been asked if we are interested in increasing the monitoring from Level 2; this would require more volunteers and more time on the water with increased number of sites.</p> <p>i. Please send any news items or pictures to Chantelle for the newsletter.</p> <p>j. Rick’s group had a program last year to engage youth who volunteer for various organizations such as CLRSS to learn to paddle. They will try to repeat this opportunity this year.</p> <p>k. Dave reported that he was having difficulty gathering data on the number and success of fish who have been “rescued” since the inception of this work. There is a real need to evaluate this program to see if salvage is making a difference & to make sure it is doing more good than harm. It behooves us to try to get some answers.</p> <p>l. Nil report</p> <p>m. Nil report</p> <p>n. Genevieve expressed that we need to get information about our activities out. CSSP should be acknowledged when grant applications are made to indicate an history of successful work.</p> <p>o. Nil report</p> |
| <p>New Business:</p> <p>1. Sunscreen Project – Mitigating Ultraviolet Filter (UVF) contamination in the Cowichan watershed through monitoring, education & outreach.</p> <p>2. Dragon Boat Festival in Lake Cowichan (See Appendix 5 below)</p> <p>3. Membership in the Lake Cowichan and District Chamber of Commerce</p> | <p>1. Mike Patrick has been taking the lead on this project but is waiting to see if it will be ongoing for a 3rd year.</p> <p>2. Rosemary agreed to will make contact with Lisa Fox and ask some further questions about the idea. Rosemary will report back to the March CLRSS meeting.</p> <p>3. There was no interest in CLRSS purchasing a Chamber membership.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Stewardship Community Reports:</p> <p>1. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable</p> | <p>Jim Deck reported that a number of groups updated the Round Table of their activities. Notable updates are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Genevieve Singleton reports that an application has been made to fund a "River Celebration Day" on September 25, 2022. This day would be a celebration of the "reopening and coming together event" post Covid. It would celebrate the Cowichan River from the estuary to the lake. This would occur at a number of locations. A number of groups, including the CLRSS, would be leaders at these locations with room for other groups to participate at each point. This should be exciting and help us determine our Signature Project. 2) Ian Morrison reports that MOTI rules the roost in Regional Districts. No revised developments and new developments can be approved without their say so since they are responsible for all roads. Ian points out that the ditches on either side of most roads are to collect run off from the roads and the roads only. Property owners should not rely on these ditches to collect runoff from their properties. Cole Smith, from Sonia Furstenau's office added that she is looking at some of the serious flooding that occurred because of this. Ian also mentioned that BC Assessments assesses the value of all properties in the province. Over the last few years the value of Private Forest Land has gone from 50% of the total in Area F to 33% this year. This means a higher share of the CVRD property taxes will be on the shoulders of residential and commercial property owners. 3) Neil Anderson from Somenos Marsh reports that there is a compound in rubber tires that stabilizes the rubber which is being found in rivers and lakes. This compound reacts with ozone in the atmosphere which creates a substance that is harmful to aquatic life such as fish. |
| <p>Motion to Adjourn</p> | <p>Moved by Rosemary Danaher</p> |
| <p>Important Upcoming Dates: Mar 7, 2022 06:30 AM Apr 4, 2022 06:30 AM May 2, 2022 06:30 AM Jun 6, 2022 06:30 AM</p> | |

Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

| | |
|---|--|
| 1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir | 2. Increase Youth Engagement |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase public support ● Increase community understanding of new weir benefits ● Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir | <p style="text-align: center;">Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase youth membership ● Re-establish Lake Studies program ● Collaborate with other valley youth programs ● Establish youth roundtable |
| 3. Protect Lake Shore Lands | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protect critical undeveloped shoreline and tributary habitat ● Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed ● Expand shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks | |

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

| January 2022 Treasurer's Report | | | |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| | CASH in Bank | Cheques/Transfers | Available Cash |
| CLRSS General Account | 10,956.19 | - | 10,956.19 |
| to be deposited | - | | |
| Salmon fry rescue funds | | | 1,934.21 |
| Total Cash Available for CLRSS General Activities | | | 9,021.98 |
| Bursary Account Total | | | 6,697.94 |
| Comments: | | | |

| CLRSS 2021/2022 Financial Report Budget to Actual - 31/01/2022 | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Revenue | | | Expenditures | | | |
| Category | Budget | Actual | Category | Budget | Actual | |
| Total Revenue | 4500 | 4,225.95 | Total Expenditures | 4,500.00 | 3,502.10 | |
| Memberships | 1400 | 1,200.00 | Signs | 0 | 257.00 | |
| Donations | 2000 | 1,041.75 | Accounting | 100 | - | |
| Sales | 300 | 80.00 | BCLSS | 50 | 50.00 | |
| Fundraising | 800 | 1,904.20 | Society Fees | 250 | - | |
| Interest | 0 | 0 | Printing Costs | 400 | - | |
| | | | Purchase for Sales | 100 | 218.40 | |
| | | | Gifted Apparel | 100 | - | |
| | | | Insurance | 0 | 876.00 | |
| | | | Bank Charges | 100 | 11.00 | |
| | | | Office Expenses | 200 | 97.92 | |
| | | | Courses & Mtgs | 0 | - | |
| | | | CSSP Activities | 0 | - | |
| | | | River CU | 0 | 166.65 | |
| | | | Fundraising Expenses | 100 | - | |
| | | | Misc. other | 500 | 34.45 | |
| | | | Transfers to Bursary Fund | 500 | 754.74 | |
| | | | Fry Rescue | 300 | - | |
| | | | Landowner Education | 500 | - | |
| | | | GT Memorial Garden | 400 | - | |
| | | | Website Update | 100 | 24.26 | |
| | | | Watershed Art Project | 800 | 1,011.68 | |

Appendix 3 – Submission to Support Grant Application - *Partnering to Engage Youth in Restoring and Protecting Cowichan Fresh Water Project.*



January 17, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter in support of the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre's ***"Partnering to Engage Youth in Restoring and Protecting Cowichan Fresh Water Project"***.

This project will effectively engage youth in our community to address local freshwater challenges through educational workshops, hands-on action days and conservation and restoration projects, and to also learn more about the impacts of climate change on our watersheds.

The impacts of climate change, including both increased flooding and droughts, will be felt most strongly by the next generation. This project will empower youth to get actively engaged in creating local solutions that protect our watershed, salmon and human communities, help us adapt to a changing climate, and build capacity by providing opportunities for youth to take meaningful action with lasting impact.

The work of the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre Society (CENCS) aligns with our mandate as well and we are pleased to partner with them on this project. The goals of engaging youth in watershed restoration and in education and action on water conservation, will enhance our region's resiliency in the face of climate impacts and are important to Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS).

CLRSS fully supports the efforts of the CENCS as they seek funding to support engaging our community, and youth in particular, to restore and protect our watersheds. The Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre has an excellent track record engaging children and youth in watershed education, and volunteers of all ages in hands-on watershed restoration work.

CLRSS commits to providing support to this project in the form of providing access to already restored sites around Cowichan Lake and River to serve as an outdoor classroom for restoration work education which includes sites that have been going on for 6 years or shorter which show all stages of success and progress over time as well as some failures where the harsh conditions of the upper river under high floods have swept away our efforts.

We will provide 590 volunteer hours over the three years of the project, including facilitating access to these sites, to host students, explain our work and lessons learned, and actively engage teachers from Lake Cowichan Secondary School to bring their students to participate in riparian restoration work for the project at the Cowichan Lake Forest Research Centre site.

Sincerely,

President

Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society 250-228-2279

cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

Appendix 4 – Lake Cowichan Dragon Boat Festival Idea

Ken and Judy, Lisa Fox has recently moved back to the valley, is a new member of CSRT and has a wide background in watersheds. We are delighted to welcome Lisa to our community. I am hoping you can assist her with some thoughts. In Stewardship, Genevieve

On [Wed.](#), Feb. 2, 2022, 11:15 a.m. Lisa Maria Fox, <lisafox@telus.net> wrote:
Good morning Genevieve,

I have a friend that has a keen interest in taking the lead to organize a "dragon boat festival" for Lake Cowichan this coming late summer/fall. He has already connected with some businesses, and other folks and has lots of ideas. Would you happen to know who to put him in touch with? I am thinking perhaps he could coordinate with the local watershed group there, and potentially apply for some funding for indigenous engagement and reconciliation activities, involving local elders and celebrating the history and culture of dragon boats.

Please let me know your thoughts - I am very new to the watershed :)

Warmest thanks,
Lisa Maria Fox
403-975-2973
lisafox@telus.net

Appendix 5 – Mitigating Ultraviolet Filter (UVF) contamination in the Cowichan watershed through monitoring, education & outreach



PO Box 907

Lake Cowichan, B.C.
VOR 2G0

January 17, 2022

Attn: Thea Rodgers

British Columbia Conservation Foundation #105-1885 Boxwood
Road
Nanaimo BC, V9S 5X9

I am writing on behalf of The Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS), to provide this letter of support to the British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) for their project "Mitigating Ultraviolet Filter (UVF) contamination in the Cowichan watershed through monitoring, education & outreach". A multi-year, multi-stakeholder project to reduce inputs of specific UV filters in the Cowichan River.

Cowichan Lake & River Stewards have contributed 2,000 volunteer hours every year for the last 10 years protecting and preserving the Cowichan watershed through our core activities:

- shoreline riparian area restoration and landowner education;
- rescuing stranded salmon fry;
- cleaning up the upper Cowichan river;

- monitoring water quality;
- working with students and providing public education;
- erecting signs on fish bearing streams.

We have collaborated directly with BCCF on our Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship project for a number of years and carried out the preliminary investigative water sampling in 2019, for the historical sampling of oxybenzone residues in the Cowichan River.

The Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society supports this project. We will contribute to its success through continued volunteer sampling support where needed and on-the-ground contacts and introductions to residents and officials along the upper Cowichan River and the Town of Lake Cowichan. We look forward to collaborating on the public education components in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

Ken Traynor CLRSS President
250.228.2279
ken.traynor@gmail.com

Appendix 7 – CLRSS Agreement to Support the 2022 Rivers' Day Event

This note is to confirm that Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society (CLRSS) intends to contribute to the 2022 Quw'utsun Sta'lo Skweyul event on [September 25 2022](#): Meet You at the Water! A Community Celebration of the Healing Power of Water.

We commit to organise and host one of the outdoor activity stations, located near the water's edge at Saywell Park in Town of Lake Cowichan within the Cowichan watershed.

The estimated value of our in-kind contribution is \$4800 donated by 12 volunteers.

Sincerely,

Ken Traynor
CLRSS President
ken.traynor@gmail.com
250-228-2279