

CLRSS Minutes of a Board Meeting of September 05, 2024

With thanks to Country Grocer for the donated space

Chair: Judy Brayden

Present: Judy Brayden, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Jean Atkinson, Dave DePape, Cam McCauley, Christoph

Steeger, Maureen Quested

Absent with Regrets: Dianne Flood, Rosemary Danaher, Rodger Hunter, Jay White

Volunteer Hours collected for August: 195

Acknowledgement of First Nations: 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.

Four fold Way Meeting Protocol outlined

1. **MOTION:** that the agenda be accepted as amended  
Defer the following until the October Board meeting – topic & number on agenda
  - a. Acceptance of Treasurer's Report #4
  - b. Invasive Species Committee – Jay White #5d
  - c. Purchase of a Zoom subscription - Jay White #6e
  - d. Projector & screen demonstration – Jay White #6f
  - e. Exeter Creek update – Joe Saysell #6g
  - f. Decibel Limits Regulation – Diana Gunderson/Judy Brayden #7a
  - g. Presentation on VEC's – Jay White #7e

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Diana Gunderson

**CARRIED**

2. **MOTION:** that the minutes of the previous meeting (August 01, 2024) be accepted

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Cam McCauley

**CARRIED**

3. No guest remarks

4. **AUGUST 2024 Treasurer's Report (As at August 31, 2024) [Attached](#)**

	Cash in Bank	Cheques/Transfers Pending	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account (Aug. 01/24)	12,616.04		
CLRSS General Account (Aug. 31/24)	13,089.38		
Outstanding: Debits		1,297.00	
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,934.21
Total cash available for CLRSS general activities			9,924.83
Bursary Account Total (Aug. 01/24)	11,259.75		
(Aug. 31/24)	11,280.32		

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## 5. From Executive Committee

### a) Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden

- i. Jean Atkinson brought examples of colouring pages developed by Alex Work and Megan Bell  
As well as 2 invasive species handouts.  
Judy Brayden will be convening a meeting in October for all interested folks to consider the future maintenance of the Garden and the riparian area of Saywell Park, including any impacts of the weir construction.  
It was mentioned that the General Contractor can be made responsible for the rehabilitation of any damage done to the garden during construction
- ii. Maureen Quested has agreed to liaise with Elizabeth Aitken of CVRD Parks on initiatives in Honeymoon Bay. Jim Deck would be willing to lead on Bald Mountain broom removal. A caution about previous partnerships being poorly organized has been noted.

### b) Celebrating Water – Weir All Connected Festival Report – Attached

Further comments from Board

- i. The value of dignitaries speaking may be more for the organizing group than for attendees.
  - ii. The heat on the day of the event had a huge impact on many activities – eg. attendees didn't want to stand in the sun listening to speakers
  - iii. Recommendations on a future Signature Event should be dealt with through the Communications Committee
  - iv. Perhaps the Communications Committee can come up with a plan with regard to the signature event: timing; location; type (one main event or a number of stand-alone events) incorporating ideas generated at the strategic planning day
  - v. Statement of revenue and expenses was amended as honourariums were included twice  
[See attached.](#)
- c) Project 84,000 – the 7 sheets of rubbings will be unrolled at River's Day with volunteers every 5' along the length of the panels along the river shore. It should be very impressive.

## 6. Business Arising or referred

- a. Request for closure of fishing in the Upper Cowichan – a letter, which was attached to the agenda, and composed jointly by Joe Saysell, Diana Gunderson and Judy Brayden has been sent to Minister Ralston with 20 signatures advocating for the closure.
- b. Salmon Fry Rescue Funds - \$2000 was donated, but source is not clear. Treasurer's reports will be searched to determine where the funds came from and when, before any further action is taken. Funds have previously been used to make pole seines.
- c. Insurance Coverage - Maureen will request a written outline of who exactly is covered under our insurance through the Stream Keepers and will update the list of volunteers if required.
- d. Strategic Planning debrief not available at this time.

## 7. New Business

- a. Decibel Limits – deferred
- b. Proposal for CLRSS involvement in support of Developing Guidelines for Landowners to Conserve Riparian Forest Habitat for Bats in Coastal British Columbia. Time frame 4 years  
Project Goals:
  - to increase scientific understanding and public knowledge of bat populations and important riparian bat roosting habitats in the Cowichan Watershed
  - to promote the stewardship and securement of wildlife trees throughout the Cowichan watershedProject Objectives:
  - Species diversity – identifying confirmed list of local bat species

- Forest Habitat Use – determine wildlife tree use by roosting bats
- First Nations Partnership and Capacity building – incorporating traditional ecological and cultural knowledge
- Develop a bat habitat & public outreach/education program with focus on wildlife trees and bat roost trees

**MOTION:** that the Board support the Project: “Developing Guidelines for Landowners to Conserve Riparian Forest Habitat for Bats in Coastal British Columbia” by writing a letter of support and indicating an in-kind donation of 300 volunteer hours per year.

**Moved by:** Maureen Quested

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Cam McCauley

**CARRIED**

- c. Proposal for CLRSS volunteers to support testing for 6PPDQ to support testing for 6PPDQ Stanley, Exeter and Hatchery Creeks will be sampled with possible additional creeks  
Cam McCauley and Hugh Sutherland will co-ordinate up to 4 teams of 2 volunteers.

**MOTION:** that CLRSS participate in the 6PPDQ Sampling Program.

**Moved by:** Cam McCauley

**2<sup>nd</sup> by:** Dave DePape

**CARRIED**

- d. River’s Day event plan – Judy will unveil the 84,000 fish rubbing panels  
Rosemary Danaher will sell swag  
Jean Atkinson will collect invasive species materials for handouts  
Maureen Quested will supply tents, tables, chairs and help with sales; try to locate an “Oxford”
  - e. Valued Ecosystem Components – Jay White deferred
- 8. Announcements:**
- a. Rivers’ Day September 22 Cowichan Tribes Land on lower river
  - b. Project 84,000 Show at CVAC Art Gallery (2687 James Street, Duncan) Sept. 30 – Oct. 19, 2024
- 9. Adjournment – Christoph Steeger**