

Minutes of a CLRSS Board Meeting
June 3, 2024 at Country Grocer – 6:30 PM

Chair: President, Judy Brayden

Present: Board – Judy Brayden, Cam McCauley, Maureen Quested, Dave DePape, Diana Gunderson, Jean Atkinson, Christoph Steeger

Members - Jim Deck, Ian Morrison, Beverley Nimmo, Don Prescott, Joe Saysell

Absent: Dianne Flood, Rodger Hunter, Jacqueline Sherk, Jay White, Genevieve Singleton, Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson

May Volunteer Hours: 209.5

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

MOTION: that the agenda be accepted as circulated

Moved by: Maureen Quested

2nd by: Dave DePape

CARRIED

MOTION: that the minutes of the May 6th meeting be accepted as circulated

Moved by: Maureen Quested

2nd by: Christoph Steeger

CARRIED

GUEST REMARKS:

Ian Morrison, CVRD Area F Director: Ian is going to Calgary for the Confederation of Canadian Municipalities Conference where he hopes to talk with Federal Ministers and their staff. Some topics CLRSS would like him to bring up are riparian issues, particularly enforcement, habitat destruction, invasive species, tubing.

Stewardship Round Table: Jim Deck, Christoph Steeger, Cam McCauley reported that there had been a speaker on trees and tree planting. **It has been decided that Sequoias will not be used for replanting by forest companies at this time in BC.**

Business Arising:

1. Meeting Protocol:

- Reminder to membership of upcoming Board meeting and lead time needed for items on agenda
- For new members, we will try to capture highlights of topics considered and give them information on where to find facts for background
- Go to website to view past minutes

2. Fourfold Way Discussion

- People need to feel safe, that they won't be criticized when bringing forth ideas
- Discussion of passion or compassion
- Use "I" statements (speaking without blame)
- All people get a chance to have input
- Speaking without blame must extend past the meeting room, to face to face encounters, written material and particularly email. Use the 24 hour delay rule for sending an email or phoning another person to let the heat of the moment dissipate.

3. Access to member contact information

MOTION: that the matter of member contact dissemination be referred to the executive committee to make a recommendation.

Moved by: Maureen Quested

2nd by: Cam McCauley

CARRIED

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4. Many rivers are closed to anglers most of the year. Discussion of need for closure on the Upper Cowichan River from 70 mile trestle to the weir from Dec. 1 – April 1 and June 15 to Oct. 1.
 - Need for a creel census is particularly important – gov't data
 - River is down to almost unsustainable levels of rainbow trout
 - Mike McCullough is Fisheries Biologist in charge of the Cowichan
 - Joe Saysell requested letters to Minister of Forests (Ralston) to extend upper river fishing closures
 - Regulations are published in April so letters can be written and sent now or November
 - Letters to Ministers Nathan Cullen, Bruce Ralston with cc's to Matt Elroy, Nathan's ass't, CWB, your MLA and MP

MOTION: that, in concert with the Fish Rubbing and Book Sales, CLRSS circulate a petition, to close fishing

in the Upper Cowichan from Dec. 1 – April 1 and June 15 – Oct. 1 yearly.

Moved by: Judy Brayden

2nd by: Diana Gunderson

CARRIED

- Hand written letters by snail mail are most often looked at
- Addresses can be found on the Ministers' websites

5. CELEBRATING WATER FESTIVAL – *Weir All Connected*

- Will be held **Saturday, July 20 from 10 – 2 at Saywell Park**
- **Opening Ceremonies** with dignitaries and cake cutting at 10:00 a.m.
- There will be a CLRSS Welcome Tent with Information; Swag; Membership
- **Confirmed exhibitors:** CWB; Cowichan Tribes Lulumexun Marine Team; Catalyst/Paper Excellence; CVRD Environment; CLRSS – Riparian Zone, "W the W" book, 84,000 Project; Cowichan Search & Rescue; Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Group; Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society; Cowichan Lake Lamprey; BCCF
- **Invited dignitaries:** MP Alistair MacGregor, MLAs Doug Routley, Sonia Furstenau, the Premier,
 - Cullen, Ministers Cullen & Rankin, Mayors McGonigle, Staples, & Douglas, CVRD Chair Aaron Stone, Chief Cindy Daniels of Cowichan Tribes, Ts'uubaa-asatx Chief Councillor Georgina Livingstone
- A rough budget of \$6000 has been set
- There will be an article and an ad in the Valley Voice and Citizen/Gazette
- We have been distributing 'Save the Date' handouts
- Posters are in the works
- **Food** – weir cake, free hot dog, CUPE water cart – free fill ups
- **Photographers** – Barry Hetschko, Kathryn Swan
- **Activities** – Walk the Weir; Riparian tours; Fish rubbing; Lamprey booklets; Future Weir Videos; Mascot Mugshot Challenge, Bubble Zone, Crafts & Quizes
- **Volunteers Needed:** in the Welcome Tent, in the children's area with craft activities, set up and take down

New Business

1. **MOTION:** that the executive members, President, Judy Brayden, Vice-President, Cam McCauley, Secretary, Dianne Flood, and Treasurer, Maureen Quested be given signing authority for 2024-2025 and that Jim deck and Beverley Nimmo be removed from the signing authority.

Moved by: Christoph Steeger

2nd by: Dave DePape

CARRIED

2. **MOTION:** that the appointment of an auditor and a CA Firm to review the financial information be waived.

Moved by: Christoph Steeger

2nd by: Dave DePape

CARRIED

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3. **Board Building & Commitment (C):** review of who will be doing what and mention of their passion projects (P)

Diana Gunderson: (C)Decibel Coalition Rep.; GT Garden & Riparian, School Liaison, Bursary Committee
(P) health of the lake and river and surrounding watershed

Cam McCauley: (C)Vice-President duties; Water quality in & around lake; invasive species; stewardship council

(P) fishing and wildlife ecosystems; aquatics and supporting habitat of lake (fishery)

Dave DePape: (C)Improving health of Cowichan watershed with emphasis on 2024 Water Quality Attainment Project (There will be two testing sessions of 5 weeks each)

(P) preventing the spread of invasives such as milfoil and whirling disease; improving management of sports fishery

Jean Atkinson: (C) Will continue to be a Lead on riparian issues and be the riparian liaison with the Town of Lake

Cowichan and Lake Cowichan School

(P) riparian education – educating people to buy into the value and necessity for thriving riparian areas

Jim Deck: (C)will assist Genevieve with River's Day; Stewardship Roundtable; Zoom contact if needed
(P) Watershed

Beverley Nimmo: (C)spreading CLRSS word
(P) assistance where needed

Don Prescott: (C)GT Garden – blackberry pulling; "W the W" book sales; help treasurer as needed
(P) Greendale – drift fishing, tubing, fry salvage

Joe Saysell: (C)pass on knowledge on river/logging/regulations; fry rescue; newsletter articles
(P) trying to get new, young people into CLRSS; river and wildlife passion

Christoph Steeger: (C)Terrestrial interests/forest interface; conservation biologist; advancing education about forestry and First Nations
(P) Wildlife trees; consciousness

Maureen Quested: (C)Treasurer; encouraging riparian conservation; Education (Bursary) Committee; Membership Committee; Celebrating Water Festival
(P) Education; interaction with community on watershed issues

Judy Brayden: (C) President's duties; governance; working to be a good president & steward
(P) Stewardship through the Lens of Art

Dianne Flood: (C) Duties of Secretary; Celebrating Water Festival Organizing Committee; justice background – Collaboration and arbitration; reconciliation
(P) Lake and River

Adjournment – Diana Gunderson 8:50 p.m.

