

CLRSS Board Meeting Draft Minutes - Monday, August 8, 2022

IN PERSON MEETING – COLD, SUMMER POTLUCK DINNER at 5:00 at the home of Judy Brayden (5658 Riverbottom Road, W); meeting 6:15 – 8:15 p.m.

<p>Items: August rotating chair: Dave DePape</p>	<p>Action: What? By Whom? When?</p> <p>Roster for the next 6 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> September - Rick Bryan
<p>Adjust as Appropriate: In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Jim Deck, Dave DePape, Bee Greenway, Diana Gunderson, Rodger Hunter, and Maureen Quested. Members: Lois Atchison, Judy Brayden, Lyndon Keeping, Carrol Patrick, Mike Patrick, Joe Saysell and Katharine Staiger. Other: Leroy Van Wieren</p> <p>Absent with Regrets: Rick Bryan, Rosemary Danaher, Beverley Nimmo, Don Prescott, Genevieve Singleton, Elodie Roger</p>	
<p>We acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Ts'uibaa-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 and expect people to speak without blame. 	
<p>FYI only Our Strategic Plan (See Appendix 1 below)</p>	
<p>Motion to accept the agenda.</p>	<p>Moved by Di Gunderson Seconded by Jean Atkinson CARRIED</p>
<p>Motion to accept minutes of July 11th, 2022.</p>	<p>Moved by Maureen Quested Seconded by Dave DePape CARRIED</p>
<p>Business Arising from the Minutes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify Executive members of the Society: Further to Annual General Meeting of June 26, 2022, Judy Brayden and Ken Traynor have prepared a spreadsheet of the historic Board tasks, based on our experience over the last three years. (See Appendix 6 on the agenda) Change signing authority Annual CLRSS Signature Event lead to be named Newsletter lead to be named Youth engagement lead to be named River's Day Update: Jim Deck 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Di Gunderson Seconded by Dave DePape That Rodger Hunter be the President of record assisted by Rick Bryan as co-president and that Maureen Quested be Secretary. CARRIED Jim Deck was elected as Vice-President and Treasurer at the AGM. A letter is to be written to the Credit Union to change the signing authority to the following CLRSS

	<p>board members: Rodger Hunter, President; Jim Deck Vice-President; Maureen Quested, Secretary; Diana Gunderson, Member-at-Large.</p> <p>3) Jim Deck will be the lead on the CLRSS Signature Event with Dave DePape supporting him.</p> <p>4) Leroy Van Wieren will think about assuming the newsletter lead.</p> <p>5) Jean Atkinson volunteered to be the youth engagement lead.</p> <p>6) Jim reported that application has been made to the town of Lake Cowichan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Insurance is being looked into - S & R have been contacted - RCMP will be notified
<p>Leads conversation and updates ONLY as needed:</p> <p>a.) Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden Lois Atchison. Workshop for Board, September 19th; Time TBA but Genevieve prefers a daytime session; additional signs purchased.</p> <p>b.) Fundraising – Maureen Quested report from recent fundraiser.</p> <p>c.) Decibel Coalition – Diana Gunderson</p> <p>d.) Water Monitoring – Bee Greenway</p> <p>e.) Fry salvage – Dave DePape From AGM: Dave DePape has agreed to lead an analysis as to whether or not the current practice of rescuing fry in the dry season by CLRSS members and others does in fact make a positive impact on fish survival.</p> <p>f.) CSSP – Elodie Roger</p> <p>g.) Mitigating Ultraviolet Filter (UVF) contamination in the Cowichan watershed – Mike Patrick and Jean Atkinson</p>	<p>a) Lois reported that blackberry needs to be attacked on a large scale perhaps in the spring before rampant growth- maybe form a dedicated team for its removal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sept. 19: Daytime workshop for the board with Genevieve on native plants. Judy will come up with a prize to encourage attendance. <p>b) BBQ fundraiser \$635 plus \$1000 from Greendale with the request that it goes to help fund the coffee table book Judy is to produce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A further \$240 raised from Thrifty Smile Cards <p>c) Diana reported a meeting with local MP Alistair MacGregor and his support for decibel coalition.</p> <p>d) Water monitors are trying to get up to speed with new reporting system. Rain has hampered monitoring to an expected 12 Sundays.</p> <p>e) Fry salvage is later this year. Parker says fry good size.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a grant application to the DFO for an analysis of whether rescuing fry does in

	<p>fact make a positive impact on overall fish survival.</p> <p>Motion by Jim Deck Seconded by Di Gunderson That Ken Traynor be asked, with possible input from Leroy Van Wieren, to write a letter to the Ministry of Environment and cc local governments on the need for riparian laws with teeth.</p> <p>CARRIED</p> <p>f) CSSP report Appendix 2</p> <p>g) Jean has been volunteering with Jessie from BCCF at sunscreen information booths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Survey on use of sunscreen - Cards with what ingredients to be aware of when buying sunscreen. - 900 tubers counted between 2:30 and 5:00 on Sunday <p>Mike P., Joe S. and Chris Morley will sample the river 5 times after heavy rain in the fall at specific locations for fire residue detrimental to fish.</p>
<p>New Business:</p> <p>1.) At the recent AGM, member, John Quested, reiterated the importance of solid membership to a NFP society, suggesting that as little money was generated from the membership fee, CLRSS might consider reducing the annual fee to encourage increased membership – John Quested</p>	<p>Background – Membership has dropped by 50% over the last 3 years and a broad membership is an advantage when approaching government bodies on issues. With a dedicated fundraising committee, CLRSS is no longer dependent on membership fees to finance its activities.</p> <p>Moved by Maureen Quested Seconded by Di Gunderson That membership fees be reduced to \$10.00 (ten dollars) effective April 01, 2023.</p>

<p>Stewardship Community Reports:</p> <p>1.) Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable – Jim Deck</p>	<p>The CSRT met at Stoltz Pool on July 21. Of interest was that blue birds are nesting in garry oak cavities.</p> <p>The group campsite has been moved away from the eroding riverbank.</p>
<p>Motion to Adjourn</p>	<p>Moved by Di Gunderson</p>
<p>Important Upcoming Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reg. Meeting Monday, Sept. 12, 2022, 6:30 p.m. ● Monday, September 19th GTMNPG species workshop for the entire Board ● Day River's Day Event, Sept. 25, 2022, 10:00 – 3:00 Saywell Park 	<p>Meeting location to be announced.</p>

Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

<p>1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir</p>	<p>2. Increase Youth Engagement</p>
<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
<p>3. Protect Lake Shore Lands</p>	
<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 CSSP REPORT – Elodie Roger

CSSP Site monitoring and New Sites Identification

Between July 20 and July 21st, Danny Swainson and I monitored the planting sites we restored in 2021 on foot. As everyone knows, the lake water level was significantly higher than at the same time last year. The vast majority of plants that were planted above the current waterline and between 1-30 in of water (of current water level) were thriving and we saw FISH !! Lots of fry swimming around the sedges, rushes and shrubs that were planted! That was CLRSS Draft Minutes of Board Meeting of August 8th, 2022 – MQ, DDP, RH

a very exciting news - we took videos of the fish swimming. IF anyone wanted to dive at night, you would see more fry by the shoreline.

Unfortunately, plants found planted under more than a foot of water had struggled or died - which makes sense! The plants ended up submerged during their peak growth period, which affected survivability.

Successful survival was observed at the Forestry Research Station, Gordon Bay, Jean's place (upper bank planting), Spring beach. Lakeview Beach Park and CLEC sites had suffered the most from high water level, leading to lower plant survival rate.

Herbivory fences installed last summer had resisted winter storms and high-water level. A few had been damaged by log or do not serve any purpose because plants have died (plants that were submerged). Danny and I have planned to send Wayne Paige Junior of Cowichan Tribes to water the plants wherever necessary, and remove the fences that do not serve a purpose anymore.

Overall, we were very happy with plant survival across the board - Increasing lake water level shows the need for habitat connectivity along the shoreline more than "from shoreline to waterline" down the bank. Moving forward, restoration efforts should be adapted to unpredictable water level fluctuations due to climate change and the weir being raise.

Our site monitoring was followed by two days of site identification by boat around Cowichan Lake. The goal was to overlap maps created in 2012 of damaged and exposed shoreline around Cowichan Lake with current shoreline conditions - the result of our monitoring highlighted a number of sites (or areas around the lake) that were the most vulnerable and degraded. We identified priority level 1 (highest priority with most eroded or bare banks in residential areas) and priority level 2 (residential areas with semi naturalized shoreline) areas for restoration and education.

Sites identified around Lake Cowichan will be added to the list of properties already identified in my report, which included properties in the upper Cowichan River.

This year, BCCF and I have funding for research and development. This site identification will allow us to draft a new proposal for a multi-year project for CSSP in collaboration with CLRSS. Danny and I would like to discuss more the future of CSSP and the proposals in place once we have a presentation together with site identifications etc. I was dearly looking forward to showing maps [tonight](#), but it might be for the next board.

Upcoming Presentation

Another Update: I was approached by Shawnigan Lake Community to tell the story of CSSP around Lake Cowichan and how the community of Lake Cowichan came together through CLRSS to protect, preserve and restore the shoreline and fish habitat. I will be presenting on [August 30th](#) in Shawnigan Lake, using the presentation delivered by Danny and Myself at the AVICC conference on [April 1st](#). If any member of CLRSS is available and interested, I would be delighted to have a representative of CLRSS join me in telling your story. I can be reached at 250-818-1661 anytime to discuss this opportunity in greater details.

I do hope this updates will bring more questions and excitement towards more restoration opportunities around the lake for the upcoming years.

I greatly apologize for not being fit to drive from Victoria and look forward to seeing you all in person at Rivers day or sooner if I get a chance.

Enjoy the sunshine, heat and good company, I wish you all the best,

Sincerely, Elodie

