

CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes – Draft until adopted

Date: Thursday, October 3, 2024

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Location: Country Grocer Meeting Room



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.

Meeting Chair: Cam McCauley, Vice President

Recording Secretary: Dianne Flood

Present: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Rodger Hunter, Maureen Quested, Jacqueline Sterk, Jay White, Jim Deck, Ian Morrison, Jill Thompson

Regrets: Diana Gunderson, Dave DePape, Tom Rutherford, Joe Saysell, Genevieve Singleton

Volunteer hours reported - 204. Members who have not reported volunteer hours for September, please forward them to Dianne Flood.

Agenda

- 1.) Adoption of the meeting agenda with three additions under new business: Youbou Lands, Saywell Park, Bursary recipient
 - Motion: To adopt the agenda as amended
 - Moved: Maureen Quested
 - Seconded: Judy Brayden
 - Carried
- 2.) Acceptance of the minutes of the previous meeting
 - Motion: To accept the minutes of the September 5, 2024 meeting
 - Moved: Dianne Flood
 - Seconded: Jay White

Carried

3.) Presentations from invited guests:

Ian Morrison: Ian recently attended UBCM, including attending a study session on Watersheds that he found very interesting. Looking province-wide shows how special we have it here with our collaborative efforts.

He also identified concerns about regulatory enforcement suffering a “death by a thousand cuts”. For example, due to the lack of sufficient resources the RAPP line enforcement is weak, with few reports are being responded to. Other regulatory matters, like development permits and forestry, are not being enforced and/or resolved by the responsible provincial ministries. Little can be done by the CVRD due to the lack of enforcement tools given to it by the Province. By-law officials can’t physically stop an infraction from happening. And the CVRD can’t challenge riparian reports that are signed off by a qualified professional. Appointment of new ministers and new mandate letters, expected after the upcoming election, may be of assistance. The focus should be on *protection* of riparian in the first place, not *repair*.

Jill Thompson: CWB reported:

- Weir: Tom Rutherford, Larry George, Danielle Myles-Wilson (CVRD) and Oliver Brandes met with WLRS DM Lori Halls and WLRS Executive Director Matt Leroy, on Sept 23. There was a positive response on dealing with the funding shortfall for capital construction, including a clear comment from the DM "This project can't fail." This is a good sign of commitment from the BC Government.
- Fish Kill Response:
 - December workshop planned to review this year's river monitoring and response program and plan for next year (CLRSS -Dave/Jay are invited)
 - Working closely with all levels of government, CT, ENGO's - great job of keeping on top of the situation and responding when things got tense.
 - CLRSS reps Dave & Jay were very helpful in planning this year's program.
 - TOLC wastewater plant operation team a big part of the success.
 - Now assisting SMWS in addressing their fish kill event this summer, including a November workshop with experts on shallow Eutrophic lakes
- Educational Tools
 - Phaedra produced "*Why Fish Need People*" video, part of a series on the CWB homepage. Spotlight is on a few examples of watershed stewardship but it was needed to keep it short. It will join "*Why Fish Need Water*" and "*Why Fish Need Trees*" on CWB website and currently on youtube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7zhLbiEfwD0So7bgYlhBhw>
- CWB membership changes

- Chair Aaron Stone has stepped down to pursue other work (huy ch q'u Aaron!); CVRD Vice Chair Kate Segall is our new CWB CoChair.
- Arlette Malcolm, WLRS West Coast Region, Director, Resource Stewardship Operations, was welcomed as the first real representative from the BC Government to hold a CWB seat. Previously BC seats were held by nominees who are local people with expertise in matters of provincial jurisdiction (David Slade-groundwater and David Froese-fish biology/human health). Those members have been re-assigned to Members at Large.
- Federal representative replaced due to staff changes there - Jenna Sutherst, Salmonid Enhancement Program West Coast Section Head.
- Ts'uubaa-asatx First Nation wrote to request a seat at the CWB. Chief Daniels requested this be referred back to Cowichan Tribes Council as a G2G consideration.
- MNC and other CVRD members (Area F, Area B, Area C) have previously requested seats as well.
- All appointments are made by the CoChairs with guidance from the [Governance Manual](#).

4.) Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report - (see revised version attached) (Maureen to supply)

Motion: To accept the Treasurer's Report as revised

Moved: Maureen Quested

Seconded: Dianne Flood

Carried

5.) Acceptance of Committee reports

a. Executive Committee – Judy Brayden

Includes:

- i. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden- For information only: 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. Impacts of the weir construction are expected to be minimal. Jean Atkinson advised that the riparian area of Saywell Park has been cut again by the Town, who when contacted advised that a contractor did the cutting. However, some of the garden signs are missing – Jean will follow up and try to locate them. (Done)
- ii. Volunteer partnership opportunity with the CVRD - Maureen Quested: Broom clearing and native planting in Honeymoon Bay on Sunday, October 27 at 10:00. Volunteers are requested to contact Maureen at mquested@shaw.ca Maureen has already reached out to the CLRSS membership and others. The work on Bald Mountain is being delayed to Spring, 2025.
- iii. Report on the Walk the Weir Tour for CLRSS members – Dianne Flood reported on the successful walk. Many attendees expressed that it was an excellent learning experience. She will see if a tour can be done in the Spring for school program, and possibly others – Judy suggested perhaps the Chamber of Commerce.

- iv. December Board meeting – The Executive proposed the December Board meeting be replaced with a social event on a date and location to be determined

Motion: That a social afternoon be held in lieu of the regular December Board meeting, at a date and location to be determined by Judy Brayden in consultation with others.

Moved: Judy Brayden

Seconded: Jaqueline Sterk

Carried

- b. Project 84,000 Update – Judy Brayden reported on the success of the project and the opening of the display of the rubbings at the Cowichan Valley Arts Centre on October 1, which is on display until October 19. The display has an interactive element that is very effective. Those Board members that have been able to attend reported how amazing the display is, from both an informative and aesthetic perspective, and all members are strongly encouraged to attend. Judy also reported that making a rubbing had a physically cathartic effect that added to the experience of honouring the fish.
- c. Invasive Species Committee – Jay White – The Committee will be meeting soon. Jean Atkinson and others attended River's Day Festival and distributed information about invasive species. Jay described a boat dipping station that is being explored by Alberta for use at the US border, to control the spread of invasive species.

6.) Business Arising or Referred from Previous Meetings

- a. Salmon Fry Rescue funds: Maureen Quested is undertaking a review of these funds and how they were spent, and what funds are still available and may need to be returned, with a view to making a draft report, outlining how the funds have been utilized to date and present the draft to the Board for its consideration. To be carried forward to a subsequent meeting.
- b. Insurance coverage: Maureen Quested to confirm that the insurance obtained from the Stream Keepers will cover all Society members when carrying out activities on behalf of the CLRSS. To be carried forward to the next meeting.
- c. Strategic Planning Session August 23, 2024 – Cam McCauley reported on the summary. There was discussion about how to move forward with next steps. A “whole Board” initiative might be needed, perhaps using communications with a focus on invasive species as a “pilot”. Members are asked to give it more consideration and it will be brought forward at the next Board meeting.
- d. Purchase of a Zoom subscription – Cam McCauley reported that Genevieve Singleton is willing to continue to let CLRSS use the Cowichan Stewardship Round Table's Zoom subscription. Cam will follow up with Genevieve on how it can be easily sharable and meetings scheduled to avoid conflicts.

Motion: That instead of purchasing our own Zoom account at a cost of \$240 annually, we continue our arrangement with the CSRT co-chair Genevieve Singleton to use the CSRT's Zoom account and to pay the CSRT \$120 for the use of the account.

Moved: Maureen Quested

Seconded: Judy Brayden

Carried

- e. Projector and screen – Jay White was not satisfied with the quality of the projector, but because the date for return has passed, he will re-sell it and look for a better option for the CLRSS – Agreed.
- f. Exeter Creek update – Joe Saysell was not in attendance so this is referred to the next Board meeting.
- g. Decibel Limits Regulation – Jean Atkinson noted this is a country-wide step that has been taken, so that in itself is important as that is how things change. Concerns were expressed about the resources available for enforcement. Judy Brayden noted the recommendation to locally fundraise for costs of enforcement is untenable and proposed she would meet with local government officials to discuss this. Agreed
- h. Presentation on VEC's (Valued Ecosystem Components)
 Jay White noted that in making planning decisions local governments identify and think about all parts of the ecosystem that are important to the issue and consider cumulative effects and the need for mitigation and monitoring. Factors include climate change and others. A full review is very costly to undertake - \$50,000 or more. A scoping report on the VEC's of the Cowichan watershed – the lake and river and/or the upper watershed - a "State of the Watershed Report", identifying our VEC's –plant, fish and animals would be very helpful. Jean Atkinson suggested this sounds like what Roger Hunter had suggested on the Shaw Creek estuary. Discussion included that it is important to think about the health of the lake and the identified scientific indicators as a rationale basis for decision-making. Jean noted that a lot of data is collected and queried who is analyzing it.
 Jill Thompson reported that the CWB has some reports and some limited information but access to full information can be difficult due to the private ownership of many of the lands within the watershed. She also noted that decadal reports have been done on the Cowichan River as a heritage river and a current Parks Canada decadal report is now undergoing peer review.
- i. Cloud storage of CLRSS documents – Dianne Flood proposed that the CLRSS documents be stored on the Cloud, instead of on members' personal computers, which could make access problematic over time. Dropbox is one option, at a cost of \$25 per month. Jill Thompson advised a Canadian company - Tech Soup - may be free for non-profits with an unlimited Google drive. Dianne will investigate further and report back at the next Board meeting.

7.) New Business

- a. Youbou lands – Jim Deck and Jean Atkinson reported for information: The Town of Youbou was built around a mill site on Cottonwood Creek, which shut down 2001 and was cleaned up. Part of the mill land was sold and subsequently re-sold. The original plan has approval to build residences and small commercial in phases, but the developer needs a water license and sewage system to proceed, which is not in place. However, the current owner has cut down numerous trees, built roads, built a ramp into the water, all contrary to

the development approval and not in accordance with the phases of the plan. Residents have complained and by-law officials have issued a stop work order.

b. Saywell Park – as noted earlier the Town has cut down the riparian area again.

c. Bursary recipient – Diana Gundersun got a note from the bursary recipient thanking us for the bursary, which will help with her studies.

8.) Announcements

a. Newsletter deadline to Judy Brayden, October 5, 2024. Please send Judy any articles you may wish to have included. Judy's proposal to reproducing some info from the UVIC First Nations Law Unit was accepted.

b. Genevieve Singleton send an heart warming thank you for the CLRSS support at Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day).

9.) Adjournment - Moved by Maureen Qusted.

SEPTEMBER 2024 TREASURER'S REPORT (as at October 2, 2024)

	Cash in Bank	Pending+/-	Available Cash
CLRSS General Account (Sept. 01/24)	\$13,089.38		
	(Sept. 30/24)	12,043.21	
Salmon Fry Rescue Funds			\$1,934.21
Total cash available for General CLRSS activities			10,109.00
CLRSS Bursary Account (Sept.01/24)	11,280.32		
	(Sept.30/24)	11,423.69	

GENERAL ACCOUNT

Opening Balance for September **13,089.38**

	Credits	Debits
Rivers Day	91.73	
Repayment to Float	40.00	
Revenue		
Expenditures		
CSRT – Rivers Day		500.00
Double payment Recompense (Christoph)		87.00
CSARS (Water Festival First Aid Honorarium)		250.00
Costs of Square Use		2.50
Strategic Planning Lunch		183.44
Balance of Swag Bill repaid to Rosemary		19.96
Transfer to Bursary (re applicable Aug. deposits)		<u>135.00</u>
Sub Total	<u>131.73</u>	<u>1,177.90</u>

12,043.21
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BURSARY ACCOUNT

Opening balance for September
 Transfer from General
 Interest

Credits
11,280.32
 135.00
 8.37
11,423.69
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Debits

- 0 -