

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE NOTES: www.cowichanstewardship.ca

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020: 9am to 12:00 pm Zoom meeting, invite will be sent out prior to mtg.

Questions? Write to co-chairs at cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

We will be meeting on the lands of Coast Salish peoples. Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave Zoom meeting whenever is necessary. **The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner at all times.**

Please note the Agenda timing is approximate only!

Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Please set up and be ready for meeting by 8:45 am to allow for glitches. ● Welcome and acknowledgement that we meet on Coast Salish peoples' land ● Appreciation to CWB for use of their Zoom account. Jill Thompson explained guidelines for using Zoom, Genevieve and Parker were co-hosts; as Jill was unable to stay for the entire meeting. ● Regrets: Tom Rutherford, Cheri Ayers, Dave Preikshot. ● Attendees: Genevieve Singleton: Co-chair CSRT ● Parker Jefferson: Co-chair CSRT, One Cowichan ● Joy Wade: Fundy Aqua Services ● Amy Clinton Baker: Coordinator, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre ● Cowichan Secondary School teachers, Joanna VeraFlores, John Lofto and students, of the Environmental Stewardship Programme ● Edmond Duggan: Paddlers ● Richard Lake: Sydney Anglers ● Brian Houle: Catalyst Environmental Manager ● Erik Marshall: CVN, Estuary Nature Centre ● Stephanie Cottrell: Cowichan Land Trust ● Alistair MacGregor: Member of Parliament, Cowichan Malahat Langford ● Jen Sibbald: Fish Technician FLRORD (Fish and Wildlife) ● Pam Jorgenson: Land Use Forester, Mosaic Forestry ● Ian Morrison: CVRD director Cowichan Lake, Skutz Falls ● Christine Rikley: BC Parks ● Bruce Coates: CVN ● Jane Kilthei: Board Chair, Cowichan Estuary Centre, One Cowichan ● Emerald White: student Cowichan Land Trust ● Karen Deck: Save Our Holmes Society ● Erik Piikkila: Forest and Watershed Ecologist ● Geoff Strong: atmospheric scientist ● Sierra Stacey: Restoration Programs at Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ahdia Hassan, Andrew Baylis, Aaron Gertzen, Vincent Harper, Greg Wilson H. Bettger <p>Carrie Kwok, Stephanie Major: Fisheries and Oceans Canada</p> <p>Note from Karen Deck: My apologies if I missed or misspelled names. A list of attendees is not part of Zoom 's format.</p>
<p>9:10-9:20 CSRT Business</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Karen Deck for taking June notes. Update re website: Emma Robson, has kept site up to date with minutes, etc. Thanks Emma. Terms of Reference held over. Future meeting plans: continue to meet on Zoom until further notice. It has been one year since Quw'utsun River Day; we plan to celebrate next Sept. Please reach out to Genevieve if you have thoughts about this. Also, ideas on where we can apply for grants to fund it.
<p>9:20-10:30</p>	<p>Round the Table:</p> <p>Alistair MacGregor: Parks Canada wants to proceed with the National Marine Conservation Area in the Salish Sea. They are consulting with 19 First Nations and are stepping up stakeholder and community input. Alistair wrote the Infrastructure and Rural Ministers regarding the necessity of a "just recovery" from the effects of COVID. He is holding a virtual town hall on this subject next week, from Ottawa. Meeting together in parliament may be a hybrid model, especially as some politicians are self-isolating due to COVID. He is introducing legislation to deal with local anchorages. There are 33 anchorages, which seem more permanent than interim.</p> <p>Brian Houle: River flows of 25cms were sustained, went to 15cms on the rule curve, then is 7cms from July 9 to February 5. It was a good water year, but are preparing for a dry year next year like we had in 2019.</p> <p>Parker Jefferson: Rainfall event in February eroded River Bottom road. In the rebuilding process, an oxbow will be reactivated, which is good habitat for spawning and refuge for Coho salmon.</p> <p>CLRSS has rescued salmon fry in the past as tributaries have dried early. This year, fry could get themselves out into the lake or stay in pools with the perfect conditions. Logging creates more sediment making its way to the tributaries, driving water under the gravel.</p> <p>Stephanie Cottell: The Cowichan Land Trust will be celebrating the life and works of John Scull, who was a founder of the CLT and recently passed away, during their AGM. Stephanie spoke about Heather Pritchard's project: "Seeing Forests Beyond Trees" researching how CCLT can help conserve privately owned forest land. The Steward is CLT's E-newsletter. Projects underway: covenant monitoring, Best Waterways resources for restoration 6 learning resources for teachers. This project is in the final stage.</p>

Ian Morrison: UBCM convention is virtual this year. He has been on conference calls with ministers. There are unauthorized docks and floats at a property east of Caycuse and a private campground without a permit.

This is CVRD budget season and there are those who have a “slash” mentality. It is very important to have a harmonized regional OCP. The shoreline consultation is underway as part of the weir project. Ian thinks there’s complacency regarding climate change and forest fires.

Genevieve asked if the Park Acquisition Funds would be reinstated. Ian said that some members of the CVRD think the fund should be gutted.

Jen Sibbald: Re: steelhead and cutthroat trout in Cowichan Lake: Steelhead – in line with long term average Cutthroat – in year 2 of 5-year study which will inform management changes in fishing. Parker asked about counting cameras at Skutz Falls. Jen says they just count juveniles in the lake, but cameras add information.

Dave Preikshot: Report on blue/green algae in Quamichan Lake. They installed data loggers measuring temperature and oxygen levels hourly. There are nutrient traps installed in tributaries, trapping phosphorous which runs off from agricultural activities. Baskets are filled with zeolite limestone which filters out phosphorous. Please see longer report in your CSRT emails.

Cheri Ayers: - Eelgrass planted last year on the North side of the Cowichan estuary is doing well. An additional 6600 eelgrass shoots were planted in late August. We had volunteers and also hired 4 Cowichan Tribes members to come each day. We have also installed additional Depth of Disturbance rods within the newly planted beds and each is fitted with a buoy to deter boats from hitting them.

- Stoltz bluff has had some initial work in the settling ponds to help them dry out for excavation late Sept early Oct before the rains come

- Riparian planting continues along the Cowichan River.

Sierra Stacy: Cowichan Tribes, with support from the federal Coastal Restoration Fund, has teamed up with [SeaChange Marine Conservation Society](#) and the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre to transplant and restore eelgrass in the Cowichan Estuary. Eelgrass restoration will be overseen by SeaChange’s team of eelgrass experts, working with SCUBA divers and community volunteers to replant the north side of the estuary. You can be one of those volunteers! If all goes well, salmon will have another eelgrass meadow where they can find shelter and food as they leave the watershed or return home.

Genevieve Singleton: Thanks to Emerald White, Stephanie Cottell, and Open Door for work on invasive species at local BC Park. Genevieve has a few interpretative walks booked with homeschoolers but so far, the teachers in SD 79 are unsure of their plans with COVID. Also, no requests, as of yet, for spawning walks. Goldstream Prov Park is trying to figure out COVID protocol and managing public and school

	<p>programmes during their salmon run. Genevieve has been visiting and providing support to the Fairy Lake Stopping Old Growth Logging blockade.</p> <p>Bruce Coates: Native Plants are being planted at MacAdam Park. BC Nature is setting up a digital library. He mentioned that Gavin Hanke having given a talk through Zoom and that has been recorded. The shorebird count is beginning soon. The BC Dike Authority allows only grasses to be planted. Annuals and Biennials would be good for pollinators. “Wild Wings” is coming up in October. 6 events are planned.</p> <p>Joy Wade: is working with Morrison Creek Lamprey regarding critical habitat infringement. Grade 8 students are working with them. Rocky Mountain Ridge Mussels are of “special concern”. The removal of milfoil is conflicting with the survival of mussels. Joy has been snorkeling; doing an abundance survey at index sites and indicate higher numbers than ever seen. Milfoil will eventually choke them out, but rotating the sediment to remove the milfoil will kill the mussels.</p>
10:30	Take a break, step outside
10:45-11:05	<p>Jane Kilthei, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre, update on Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre and the Ecoaction Project.</p> <p>There is a COVID protocol in place in the programs. Eco-Action Grant is funding workshops and other programs, including home schooler and indigenous and settler youth programs as well as climate resilient future programs. Jane is grateful for the number of partners and sponsors that help them with restoration projects as well as other projects.</p>
11:05-11:50	<p>Erin Gertzen, Lead of Freshwater Species at Risk, Fisheries and Oceans speaking on “Cowichan Lake Lamprey and the Species at Risk Act.”</p> <p>The Species at Risk Act is designed to prevent species extinction, assist recovery and manage a species. The Cowichan Lake Lamprey (Vancouver Lamprey, Morrison Lamprey) was first listed in 2003. A progress report was published in 2016 and an Action Plan was published in 2019. The talk explained the Act, and the status, biology, habitat, permitting and stewardship. Please check your CSRT emails for the full copy of the talk.</p>
11:50-12:00	Finished at noon. Next meeting will be on Zoom Oct. 15.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August. Upcoming meetings: to be announced.