



## Minutes

DATE: October 20, 2016

### **9:00 Meeting called to order by Genevieve Singleton and Tim Kulchyski. Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory**

**Regrets:** Keith Lawrence, Dianna Gunderson, Ted Brookman, Steve Baillie

**Attendance:** Rosalie Sawrie (One Cowichan), Loren Duncan, Tom Rutherford (CWB), Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan), Genevieve Singleton (Nature Interpreter), Eric Marshall (CVNS), Barry Hetschko (SMWS), Dave Lindsay (Timberwest), Ian Morrison (CVRD Area F), Jennifer Hermary (MP Alistair MacGregor), Kai Rietzel (Cowichan Land Trust), Bob Crandall (Cowichan Lake Salmon Enhancement Society), Rob James (Western Stevedoring), Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes), Martha Lescher (One Cowichan/Somenos Marsh Society), Rick Brand (Sidney Anglers), Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers), Lori Iannardino (CVRD Area D), Brian Houle (Catalyst), Shaun Chadburn (North Cowichan), Leroy Van Wieren (CLRSS), Chantal Nessman (DFO).

#### **Changes in Agenda:**

1. Minutes
2. Roundtable Updates
3. BC Parks
4. Saskatoon Symposium

#### **Round the Table Introductions and Ancestry**

##### **1. Minutes**

Cowichan Land Trust (CLT) started taking minutes in 2008 or 2009 as a way for them to sit at the table. CLT has a long history of not advising government and at that time that was one of the functions of the CSRT. CLT was paid \$100 per meeting. Currently CLT has changed its staff structure, Meg has gone back to university to study midwifery, Todd Carnahan has been hired as the new manager of the Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre but only on a part time basis (3 days a week) and Kai does not have the capacity to continue taking the minutes. Timber west has kindly given \$1000 to CLT which brings the payments up to date as of September 2016. The table acknowledged the appreciation of the minute takers and all the work done in the past. It was decided that minutes would be done collaboratively with CSRT members volunteering and taking turns. It was agreed that the minutes should be shorter and a template will be created to make it easier and more consistent. Genevieve, Tim, Jennifer and Kai will meet to create a template.

Offers to take minutes: Jennifer Hermary will do November minutes, CVNS will do December, Jill (CWB) has offered to do two times a year, Tim may be able to offer some support through their IT person.

##### **2. Roundtable Updates:**

#### **Catalyst Paper: Brian Houle**

- Circulated graphs of river flow and lake levels. 2014 was bad, 2015 was worse and 2016 was even worse.
- Trials with pumps over the weir went well. The lake side worked very well, on the riverside there was some scouring. The pumps are now removed.

**Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society: Parker Jefferson, Leroy Van Wieren**

- Lake water temperatures were much cooler this summer, the peak was 22 at 3m depth and the water was also clearer, 22.5m secchi disk reading.
- CVRD completed drone surveys
- They have wrapped up year 3 of their 3 year restoration project. 27 properties were restored, 970m of lake shore, over 4000 plants, 8000m2 total.
- BCCF will now be executing the project, CLRSS will continue with outreach and Lake Cowichan Students.

**Cowichan Lake Salmon Enhancement Society: Bob Crandall**

- Summer salvage - over 72 chinook fin clips turned in to Steve Baillie and 2 lamprey.
- Sutton creek fish passage remediation completed with Timberwest.
- Who's responsibility is it to keep fish ways clear?
- Working on brood stock egg takes for classroom incubation.

**Cowichan Land Trust: Kai Rietzel**

- Have been receiving funds (\$8800) from groups to purchase the buoys for marking the Vessel Operation Restriction Zone (VORR) area in Cowichan Bay. Three buoys have been purchased and will be installed soon.
- Plans to complete the rain garden project at Mt. Prevost School.

**Cowichan Tribes: Tim Kulchyski**

- 8682 Chinook counted at the fence before it was washed out from high flows. 3100 Coho, 1 pink, 137 Chum, 1 Sockeye.
- Mid-river Didson taken out, Lower-river Didson is in but no accurate numbers yet.
- The North Arm had 15,000m3 of gravel removed over 12 days and an emergency channel dug.
- The flow monitoring is done now, many creeks were very low. Bernard Creek, Bear Creek and Holt creek were the best cool water inputs.

**Cowichan Valley Naturalists: Eric Marshall**

- The WildWings film night Migration was well attended.
- The swan and goose count starts next month, 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday in November. It is every Wednesday and you can come for 1/2 or full day.

**Cowichan Valley Regional District: Keith Lawrence, check with Genevieve\*\*\*\*\***

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**Cowichan Valley Regional District Area D: Lori Ianndinardo**

- They are still working on the slope repairs across from Hecate Park. There have been other run-off issues with land clearing on slopes for view corridors.
- A new derelict vessel has washed up at Chery Point.
- She has given tour of Cowichan Bay for the new Marine bylaw.
- VORR is being implemented; glad to hear that groups are contributing money for the buoys, huge thanks for all who have contributed.
- She has just sent in her papers to be a candidate for Cowichan Valley NDP

**Department of Fisheries and Oceans: Tom Rutherford and Chantal Nessman**

- Chantal Nessman is the new full-time indeterminate Community Advisor.
- The Vessel Operating Restriction Regulation was started at the CSRT, led by Lori the group worked together (RCMP, CVRD, DFO, Fisherman's Wharf). It then had to go to be supported by cabinet in Ottawa and it can now be implemented.
- Fish ways are probably DFO's responsibility but there is no one to do it. Senior engineers will be sitting with Cowichan Tribes to create an MOU for Tribes to look after the fish ways.
- Thanks to Brian Houle for all his work during the summer looking fter water levels and doing public outreach.
- As this is Tom's last meeting representing DFO Genevieve thanked him for all his hard work at DFO over the years.
- Chantal is working on meeting groups and CSRT meetings will be apriority for her.

**Member of Parliaments Office: Alistair MacGregor, Jennifer Hermary**

- Can provide printed copies of the ONE Cowichan petition for people.
- The Climate Change Report website is now on his website.
- He spoke two times in the House this week, regarding Shawnigan Lake dumping.

**Municipality of North Cowichan: Shaun Chadburn**

- Climate change infrastructure adaptations – solar hot water system installed at the pool.
- Is there a way to engage north Cowichan Counselors in the CSRT?

**Nature Interpreter: Genevieve Singleton**

- Thanks to Barry and Bob for setting up.
- There will be a Ground water licensing workshop in November.
- Genevieve's ValleyVoice articles are a good way to get information out.
- Bluebird project is transitioning from GOERT to CVNS.
- Blue-green Algae issues in Quamichan Lake, dogs have died.

**One Cowichan: Rosalie Sawrie**

- Collecting signatures for their petition to get Federal infrastructure money for climate change to raise the weir.
- 1500 signatures so far, they need to be on paper (no on-line), for every 25 signatures Alistair MacGregor can speak for 1 minute.
- They will be a ONE Cowichan Social at the Brew Pub.

**Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society: Barry Hetschko**

- WildWings is on now until November 14th, there are 14 events in total now (5 were cancelled), 13 events left. Nov 16 -18 is the AGM and conference of the Trumpeter Swan Society including a waterfowl and agriculture tour.

**Sidney Anglers: Ken Clements**

- They have been helping with the Shawnigan Creek Coho run and are working on the 2017 tide book.

**Timberwest: Dave Lindsay,**

- They helped out with the Sutton Creek log jam and gravel removal.
- An Administrative block has recently been removed so that they can try to sell/donate the Koksilah Riparian Corridor.

**Western Stevending: Rob James**

- They will give a presentation regarding zoning change application at a later date. They are open to talking to anyone about the plans.

**Citizen Champions:**

- Loren Duncan – Only a 1/4 to 1/3 of the tubers that there used to be on the river a decade ago. How can we put a dollar value on this loss of tourism? 7cms is best for tubing 4 cms is not enough.

**Business****1. Heritage River Program - Don Closson , BC Parks**

There is a funding opportunity through the 150th Heritage River Program to celebrate Heritage River's this year; \$6500 per river from the St. John River Heritage Society. A letter of intent must be sent by end of October, 90% will be paid up front and the rest will be paid out after reporting.

ACTION: Send a letter of intent to request funding for a river celebration.

**2. Gerald Thom Award of Merit – Genevieve Singleton**

Gerald Thom received an Award of Merit at the 8<sup>th</sup> Canadian River Heritage Conference. Genevieve went to Saskatoon to receive the award on Gerald's behalf. Genevieve showed a slideshow to honour Gerald and showcase the conference. There are plans to have a more formal presentation of the award in the community at a later date.

**Future Meetings:**

**November 17<sup>th</sup> – Nicollete Watson, Cowichan Stock Assessment and the Didson Counter**

**December 15<sup>th</sup> – Brad from Western Stevending and Christmas Social Potluck**

**January 19<sup>th</sup> – Cheri Ayers and Wilf Leduek, Cowichan Chinook Plan**

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 17, 2016**