

## COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019: 9am to 12 pm** Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharnccliffe Rd, Duncan  
[www.cowichanstewardship.ca](http://www.cowichanstewardship.ca)

A reminder for new and returning members: Everyone is always welcome. Please feel free to arrive and leave whenever is necessary. Please allow enough room in parking lot for Fish Hatchery vehicles and emergency vehicles, **no parking in yellow painted areas**. Please bring a coffee cup.

**The Roundtable works together in a kind and respectful manner at all times.** The first half of the meeting consists of all attenders having a few minutes each of a report out time. Length of individual's speaking time is determined by how many people are in attendance. Longer presentations have to be booked in advance. Our agenda is usually prebooked for several months.

Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory.</li> <li>Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.</li> <li>Regrets. Attendance list to be circulated.</li> </ul>
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Christine Rikley of BC Parks for taking minutes.</li> <li>Update re GIS Story Map, Genevieve and Edmond</li> <li>Update re CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan</li> <li>Update re Quw'utsun River Day Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 10-3, Tim and Genevieve</li> </ul>
9:20am Round Table	<b>Round-table</b> , Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points it <b>must</b> be emailed to secretary or co-chairs
10.30	BREAK
10.40	Shaun Mason, Municipal Forester, North Cowichan. "North Cowichan Municipal Forest."
11:05	Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi, Alison Nicholson, Heather Pritchard: "Koksilah watershed - what do we know? - results of phase 1 of the Koksilah watershed ecosystem-based analysis"
11:50	Catch up on any items missed.
12	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly August

## COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE Minutes

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Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory. Genevieve reflected on the elders whose thousands of years of stewarding this place we continue today</li><li>• Appreciation was expressed to the Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.</li><li>• Regrets: Pam Jorgenson, Edmond Duggan, Alicia Taylor</li><li>• Attendance: Genevieve Singleton, CVRT; Parker Jefferson, One Cowichan; Bob Crandall, Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society Hatchery; Melissa Nottingham, DFO; Christine Rikley, BC Parks; Ian Morrison and Alison Nicholson, CVRD; Rodger Hunter; Christopher Justice, Shawn Mason and Don Stewart, Municipality of North Cowichan; Rick Bryan, paddlesport community; Ken Traynor and Jean Atkinson, CLRSS; Paulina Kee, Where do we Stand; Jennifer Hermary, MP Alistair MacGregor's office; Brian Houle, Catalyst Paper; Don Hare, Coastal Invasive Species Council; Barry Hetschko and Dave Preikshot, Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society; Eric Marshall, Cowichan Valley Naturalist Society; Ken Epps and Karen Bramett, Mosaic; Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi; Heather Pritchard; Miyo Stevens; Tom Rutherford, Cowichan Watershed Board; Dave Polster, plant ecologist; Rob James, Western Stevedoring; Jim and Karen Deck, Youbou; Cam Campbell, North Cowichan Forestry Advisory Committee; Murray Ball, UVic Student; Karen Jarvis, Maple Bay.</li></ul>

**9:10am  
CSRT  
Business**

- Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Melissa Nottingham for January. Thank you to Christine Rikley of BC Parks for taking minutes. Jennifer Hermary, community Outreach Coordinator of Alistair McGregor's office offered to do March.
- Update re GIS Story Map, Genevieve and Edmond: Federal government building online GIS story for heritage river status. Report from Edmond: updated prototype seen - project is looking quite good!
  - will be providing Cherry final video/pictures this week.
  - Project will be complete at end of month; public rollout TBA
- Update re CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan:
  - call for any group not listed on partner page to contact Edmond
  - partner of the month on home page; partner who does minutes will be featured.
  - posting combined agenda & minutes PDF to meetings page
  - always open to new ideas to make the site better
- Update re Quw'utsun River Day Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 10-3, Tim and Genevieve: Cohosted by Cowichan Tribes and CVRT. Last River Day was in 2017. Currently contacting previous participants. Planning meeting likely to occur in March. Actively looking for donations to cover cost. Thank you to Miyo who has already made a donation. Contact Genevieve if you can help.

**9:20am  
Round Table**

**Round-table**, Round the table, check-ins and updates. Please remember if your report out more than three simple points it **must** be emailed to secretary or co-chairs

Ian Morrison, CVRD Chair:

- Raised the following sensitive issue: People come to this group to work collaboratively for the best interests of this area, and Ian has always appreciated the safe learning environment the roundtable offers. CVRD Directors have a statutory responsibility to process applications and conduct governance, and to do that, must receive the same information at the same time to ensure that process is fair and transparent. As of late, the safe collaborative environment has changed externally – people wandering away from the facts and making personal attacks, and trying to lobby individual directors. As Chair, Ian is advocating for respect of directors; please stay away from personal attacks. Please do not organize individual meetings with individual directors, as it diminishes the CVRD's ability to hear information in a fair way. He encourages CSRT members who want to provide information to arrange to come as a delegation in front of the entire CVRD Board.

Paulina Kee, Where do we Stand:

- Reminder of Where do we Stand event: March 5<sup>th</sup>, Cowichan Arts Centre. Speakers on the North Cowichan Forest Reserve

Shawn Mason, North Cowichan

- No update, will be speaking later in the meeting on the North Cowichan Forest Reserve

Don Stewart, North Cowichan:

- Currently implementing the North Cowichan Parks and Trails Master Plan in partnership with groups such as the Cowichan Trail Stewardship Society.

Jennifer Hermary, MP Alistair MacGregor's Office

- *Create your Canada* contest announcement today: students who won the contest will be in Ottawa while bill is tabled
- MP MacGregor will host a series of town halls to talk about Clean Energy Plan: March 7 Shawnigan Lake, March 13 Langford, March 16 VIU Cowichan

Brian Houle, Catalyst Paper:

- Cowichan Lake is 2/3 full at this moment, relative to 1m. Brian is optimistic we still have remaining wet spring season to fill the lake.
- Snow pack measurements are distressing, showing snow is melting too quickly. However, Brian's unsure if this is a measurement station issue
- Not anticipating 7cms throughout the season

Daon Hare, CISC

- French Creek, 27 partners mechanically removed 32,000 Giant Hogweed plants. Goal: eradication
- Newcastle Island, Daphne and Holly removal
- Nanaimo Regional District and Comox Valley District: 406 knotweed control sites
- Caycuse: Working with Mosaic to remove knotweed infestation in Cowichan headwaters. Also planned: 10 days of knotweed mapping in that area
- CVRD: monitoring Giant Hogweed with elimination, good progress being made, and 40 knotweed control sites

Barry Hetschko, SMWS:

- Wildlands Planning committee: planning the 2019 WildWings festival and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society
- If you want to exhibit art, contact Barry

Eric Marshall, CVNS:

- Weather problems with recent bird counts. February 10<sup>th</sup> count, portion of estuary was frozen over, so counts were low
- Unusually high trumpeter swan count, may have been because of early morning timing of count
- Weekly swan, goose and raptor count have been down in the last 2 weeks due to poor visibility (snow) and lack of available food. Down to 120 from 500 swans. Geese down to 447 from 1000. 20 Snow geese have been hanging around in valley since Christmas
- Beer and Burger fundraiser February 24<sup>th</sup> at Cow Bay Pub, tickets \$25

Ken Epps, Mosaic

- Mosaic has been focused internally on the transition to new organization
- Environmental update: significant winds and rains in December, trying to assess impacts and develop plan moving forward with impacted lands. More extreme weather in this area than ever seen

Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi

- Resident, previously worked for CVRD, currently doing masters in forestry
- Working on Koksilah Ecosystem-Based Assessment. To speak later in meeting.

Heather Pritchard

- Professional forester

Miyo Stevens, resident of Cowichan Valley

- Disheartened by North Cowichan forestry practices

Tom Rutherford, CWB

- Working on 5 year strategic plan and work plan. Clear messaging from Board to narrow focus to be more effective.
- Key focus this year will be Water Supply Issue for Cowichan and Koksilah, water storage in the valley. Planned meeting with key decision makers (MPs, MLAs, etc.)
- Reminder: Speaker series, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month 7pm at VIU
- Meeting yesterday with FLNRO staff and community, working to try to manage agricultural and environmental need for water in Koksilah. Well attended, waiting to see what actions will come out of it. Province is piloting tools coming out of the Water Sustainability Act in Koksilah
- The CWB's Pathways and Partnerships Report, a consolidation of discussions and decisions emerging from a series of introspective workshops, is now available on the CWB's website.

Dave Preikshot, SMWS:

- Talk provided to North Cowichan about parrot's feather infestation now available online. Outlines monitoring and management plan, different approaches that will be available, and costs associated with each approach
- Distributing water quality results from last year. Key finding include: agricultural and transfer facility impacts on Bings Creek; and metal compounds in Menzies Creek. Latest results demonstrate the value of high precision sampling when water storage is declining
- Program with Cowichan Community Land Trust – water action plan in Somenos and Quamichan Lake. Outreach project that will outline to local landowners actions they can take on their lands to improve water quality. Upcoming community information session planned February 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm, at Cowichan Valley Inn

Genevieve Singleton, CSRT Co-Chair

- Had successful visit with Danica Rice, from the City of Duncan regard concerns with plans for the McAdam and Rotary Park and potential impacts on salmon habitat
- Upcoming fundraiser for the CVNS Bring Back the Bluebird: April 7<sup>th</sup>, Cow Bay Pub 5pm, Beer and Burger. Looking for silent auction donations
- CVNS is hosting this year's BC Nature AGM. Genevieve is looking for higher end donations for silent auction. This will be an incredible conference with key speakers
- Looking for donations to Roundtable coffee club

Parker Jefferson, CVRT Co-Chair, and One Cowichan:

- Shared his recent experience in the Okanagan highlands – changes in snowfall at different altitudes possibly due to climate change
- Received letter from Craig Sutherland, ADM FLNRO: While the ministry has decided to not hold a license for additional storage in Cowichan Lake, they are committed to project. Interested in collaborating with local and federal agencies to pursue adequate funding

Bob Crandall, CLSES Hatchery

- Another fry salmon crop recently hatched, and delivered to schools
- Grant application season in full swing
- Streams overburdened with gravel. Focus this year will be removing gravel from Beadnell Creek, the creek that approaches the hatchery. Try to tackle one each year. Also tackling Lens Creek with Mosaic in March

Melissa Nottingham, DFO:

- Salmon Enhancement Program Stewardship Workshop – in Nanaimo, VIU, May 31<sup>st</sup>-June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Save the date, more info will come

Christine Rikley, BC Parks:

- Moving forward with plan to move parking lot at Stoltz Groupsite. Impact Assessment in works
- Management planning in progress. Cowichan Tribes has formed a working group which will focus on their involvement in planning. Once we have a solid joint process in place that respects Cowichan Tribes interests and desired process, we'll be ready to move forward continuing the public consultation that was started last year. In meantime, Catherine has worked on a background/history document for the park
- Jessica Lines is back earlier than expected, but unfortunately not in the Cowichan Area. She's been assigned to backfill in the South Gulf Islands while we cope with an injured staff member. She may be assisting with some Cowichan projects here and there where she can.

Christopher Justice, North Cowichan Council

- In response to recent public input, Council has approved a complete review of its forestry practices. Scope of review to include biodiversity, environmental services, carbon storage and recreational values, and sustainable forest practices

Rick Bryan, Paddle Sport Community:

- Rivers currently low, with some snag hazards
- River rescue course this weekend. If anyone interested in courses, contact Rick

Ken Traynor, CLRSS

- Lots of snow
- In 6<sup>th</sup> year of riparian restoration project. Six shorefront properties have been identified for restoration this summer
- CLRSS recently underwent a program review by a Royal Roads University Masters in Leadership class. Received feedback and ideas from students on how to engage community more. Board is currently reviewing the feedback and will make it available on their website
- Upper River Cleanup scheduled for Sunday August 18<sup>th</sup>. The event will piggyback on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lake Cowichan (town).

	<p>Alison Nicholson, CVRD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Ian Morrison’s point earlier in the meeting, while Alison appreciates and respects the need for CVRD directors to be unbiased as a statutory decision maker, they also need to balance that with the need for good information to base decisions on. Alison relies on the community to provide that information and input, and views the CVRT as a technical body of expertise. She encourages everyone to come out to meetings to impart information to Board</li> </ul> <p>Roger Hunter, former CWB Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Returning CSRT member after a hiatus</li> <li>Roger’s goal: to gain information and inspiration</li> <li>As a citizen and estuary expert, has been focusing on the Cowichan Estuary rezoning proposal. Encourages everyone’s attention to the process</li> <li>Koksilah River Meeting yesterday: Water supply issue. Roger’s take away: people are better informed and a lot of good will come to make things better</li> </ul> <p>Rob James, Western Stevedoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing new to report. If interested in tour, give Rob a call</li> </ul>
<b>10.30</b>	BREAK

10.40	<p>IShaun Mason, Municipal Forester, North Cowichan. “North Cowichan Municipal Forest.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of municipal forest reserve; the forestry advisory committee that guides activities in the reserve; the forest reserve fund that receives forestry revenue and finances forestry activities; harvest selection process, forestry operations/practices including monitoring practices, rehabilitation, and silviculture; events in the reserve (e.g. fires and blow down); and 2019 conservation and management projects.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion/Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: What if this was owned by Timberwest? A: Municipal staff can’t speculate as to how the property would be managed by others</li> <li>• Q: Any research happening in reserve? A: In discussion with Cowichan Research Station</li> <li>• Q: Has the advisory committee considered changing practices in response to changing values? A: That is the point of this review</li> <li>• Q: How are we rebuilding our forests to be more resilient to climate change and unexpected events? A: Hoping this is a topic the advisory committee considers</li> <li>• Q: Decommissioning Grace Road west? A: No plans at this time</li> <li>• Q: For the health of the forest, which direction do you believe the allowable cut needs to go? A: Rely on the timber supply analysis, current review of other values that is underway, and advisory committee recommendations</li> </ul>
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11:05	<p>Emily Doyle-Yamaguchi, Alison Nicholson, Heather Pritchard: “Koksilah watershed - what do we know? - results of phase 1 of the Koksilah watershed ecosystem-based analysis”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the ecosystem-based assessment process (assessment of ecological integrity); the ecological and cultural values and significance of the Koksilah watershed; the environmental and social condition of the watershed now; historic and current level of disturbance in the watershed; water flow and quality</li> <li>• Report in draft form, not ready for sharing yet.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q: How will you quantify the forests’ ability to facilitate species movement? A: Will be better able to answer that in the next phase of the study</li> <li>• Q: Are you going to be able to help us figure out looking forward – how this land should be managed in the future? A: We will provide an opinion as to how this landscape could look in the future</li> <li>• Q: Given that Mosiac is the biggest landowner, how will we influence their management? A: That phase will depend on how the community decides to work together on this project</li> <li>• Comment: good foundation work for a watershed sustainability plan. Would like to see analysis of water licensing relative to forestry and land use changes over time. Need to tie in groundwater data.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
11:50	Catch up on any items missed.
12:00	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room.

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