

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019: 9am to 12 pm Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan
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">• Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes territory.• Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.• Regrets. Attendance list to be circulated.
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Christine Rikley of BC Parks for taking minutes for February.• Update re CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan• Update re Quw'utsun River Day Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 10-3, Tim and Genevieve
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
10.30	BREAK
10.40	Brian Houle, Paper Excellence, Catalyst speaking on Cowichan Lake and River Trends followed by Round the Table discussion
11:15	Don Hare, of Coastal Invasive Species Council speaking on "Coastal ISC Overview and 2018 Programme.
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.

Future meetings - April 18: Joy Wade, "Vancouver Lamprey" and Tom Rutherford "Update from Cowichan Watershed board"

May: TBA

June: Kenzie Cuthbert, fishing guide

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Time	Agenda Item
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Unceded Cowichan Tribes. Parking reminder: Please park in the parking spots and along the front of building, we must not block work trucks Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings. Regrets: Edmond Duggan, Christine Rikley & Rob James Attendance: Parker Jefferson, CSRT Co-Chair, and One Cowichan; Chris Steeger, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society; Seairra Courtemanche, Early Childhood Educator; Jennifer Hermary, MP Alistair MacGregor; Melissa Nottingham, DFO; Karen Jarvis; Rodger Hunter; Rick Bryan, Recreation, paddling community; Christopher Justice, North Cowichan Councilor; Alicia Taylor, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre; Michael Barr; Karen and Jim Deck; Dave Preikshot, SMWS; Elizabeth Aitken, SMWS; Ian Morrison, CVRD chair; Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers; Ken Traynor, CLRSS; Maeve Maguire, MLA's office; Pam Jorgenson, Mosaic; Don Hare, Coastal ISC; Berry Hetschko, SMWS; Jack MacNeil, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association; Eric Marshal, CVNS; Brian Houle, Paper Excellence Crofton; Tom Rutherford, CWB; Genevieve Singleton, CVRT; Tim Kulchyski, Biologist for Cowichan Tribes
9:10am CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Christine Rikley of BC Parks for taking meeting notes for February. Jennifer doing today's notes. For APRIL. Ken Clements will do them. No website updates Update re Quw'utsun River Day Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 10-3, Tim and Genevieve. They will call a meeting when they have time. Similar set up to last year. They need money to provide a meal that day. Ian Morrison asked Genevieve to write him about a grant in aid process for community events.

**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

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

- He has been doing a lot of media, including CBC, about Cowichan River and need for the weir to be raised.

Chris Steeger, Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society:

- Wildlife biologist.

Seaira Courtemanche, Early Childhood Educator:

- work regarding with wild spaces working with community to link with program to manage lands

Jennifer Hermary, MP Alistair MacGregor:

- Alistair tabled Bill C-431, An Act to amend the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board Act (investments) to make CPP investments ethical.
- The Clean energy town halls were a success
- Alistair plans to ask another question to the Minister on the Cowichan River

Melissa Nottingham, DFO:

- Life in the Salmonsphere May 31 – June 2 in Nanaimo

Martha Lescher. Volunteer:

- Volunteering for watershed protection and health of the river

Karen Jarvis:

- interested in Watershed protection

Rodger Hunter:

- does 3 things every day: Meditates, is grateful and keeps busy. He received an alarming email about lake level and river level which has motivated him.

Rick Bryan, Recreation, paddling community:

- Low flows have affected a number of events that go on.
- Puntledge event has been cancelled this year.
- Also access issues. Cowichan has put a whole new channel by Stoltz

Christopher Justice, North Cowichan Councilor:

- NC just passed a commitment to new plans regarding municipal forests.
- Forest advisory committee meetings are open to public and on NC website.
- Official community plan is under re-write.
- Also working on: Climate change and adaptation plan, Bio diversity protection strategy, Resources in the Quamichan Lake.

Alicia Taylor, Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre:

- This is her first CSRT meeting, Welcome Alicia.
- The Cowichan Estuary Nature center is celebrating its 7th anniversary on April 22 with a nature scavenger hunt and many other activities
- They offer spring camps and summer camps.
- They need more volunteers. Nature interpretation or watershed.

Michael Barr:

- Rivers need weir and funding opportunities.

Karen and Jim Deck:

- concerned about the watershed

Dave Preikshot, SMWS:

- Water quality testing results. Take home message: high levels of phosphorous in Lower Cowichan and Bings creeks. Distressing high level of metals and other pollutants.
- Water function that the CVRD has taken on they are working together with the CWB to make better decision for water and wild life health. He will be discussing the details at CWB.
- Somenos creek parrotfeather – CT, Somenos Marsh and engage – working to restore the creek to a more natural state.
- The Knotweed meetings gave him great ideas to help. The Roundtable is very valuable for sharing ideas and connecting. Ownership of bottom of the lake is still a jigsaw puzzle. We need restoration of our eco-systems.

Elizabeth Aitken, SMWS:

- She is leaving Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society to taking a new position with CVRD as volunteer coordinator. Genevieve thanked Elizabeth for her hard work on behalf of CSRT.
- Projects are ongoing. Clean water action projects in partnership with Cowichan Land trust in Quamichan and Somenos Lakes.
- Lots of outreach and doing assessments on people's properties around the lake.

Ian Morrison, CVRD chair:

- CVRD budget approved last Wednesday.
- Both functions 3.5% increase to core services. \$750,000 the requisition amount was 500,000 and there were moves to try and reduce that but the funds were sustained.
- Regional park land acquisition fund was reduced. Public hearing was held.
- Post closed public hearing could trigger another public meeting estuary meeting. Next step is for all submission to be put together April 11-14 Powel River
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities. Doubling of Gas tax funds – big impact. New corporate strategic plan. Hoping to create Finance and grant oversight committee. These will be public.

Ken Clements, Sidney Anglers:

- \$150,000 fishing derby last year and money went to river protection. No money to donate to projects for this year due to no fishing.

Ken Traynor, CLRSS:

- If the lake goes low, we need to say that this is exactly what we've been talking about. There is not much water in the lake.
- This year will be the 75th anniversary of town of lake Cowichan.

Maeve Maguire, MLA's office:

- There is an upcoming meeting with the BC Ministers to talk about the river.
- This is a priority for Sonia

Pam Jorgenson, Mosaic:

- Fire season is coming.
- They are getting plans in place over and above last years plans.
- It is dry and we are in fire season.

Don Hare, Coastal Invasive Species Council;

- Presenting later

Berry Hetschko, SMWS:

- Working on the blue bird project and Somenos Marsh project with school kids

Jack MacNeill, Sahtlam Neighbourhood Association:

- Alison Nicolson hosted a town hall – they have had an unofficial clean up – they are getting more and more volunteers and they are going to have a push to clean up more in the Sahtlam area. Guess speaker Chris – eco trails.

Eric Marshal, CVNS:

- Swan and Goose counts – one more week to go. Over 4000 trumpeter swans and 1144 Canada Geese. Last week 300 swans and 670 geese.
- When the snow was around numbers dropped – difficult to count. Since Christmas we have been seeing on average between 500 and 600 swans and over 1000 geese. Noteworthy is that a flock of some 23 snow geese have been staying in the valley since Christmas, first seen late November. In Comox they have even more than us. It may be that the Swans are begging to move north.
- The March Coastal Water bird counts in Cowichan Bay did not show anything unusual – numbers of ducks are usually low in the winter. Buffleheads were the commonest duck – some 140 in total.

Brian Houle, Paper Excellence Crofton:

- He will be speaking later

Tom Rutherford, CWB:

- How lucky we are to have such dedicated people at the senior level. Alistair and Sonia thanks for support.
- CWB Next Thursday the 28th at VIU Mark Kissinger and Willie Jansen will be speaking.
- Tom will be speaking at a Fish panel at UVic Film tonight.
- Next Monday for the CWB reporting out on Dave Preikshot's Water Quality work from 9:30-11:45.
- Last Friday – joint federal/provincial funding. 150 million over 5 years. Focused on Salmon and restoration but also marketing. Marking process – steering committee and they are trying to be strategic around licensing issue. They have been pushing hard politically but also need to sit down with operations. Strong direction to double down and push hard. Funding moving ahead with some of the work that needs to be done before we get a license. There is survey work that needs to be done. Crafting a proposal. They have spoken to 3 engineering firms. Looking at a proposal for 7 figures. Look at geotechnical work design and structure. Feeling good about moving forward with support and hopefully 2019 we can make some progress. Climate change isn't something that is coming it is something that is here. The weir is not going to be the cure-all solution. As a community we have to put our heads together if we care about salmon and sustainability.

Genevieve Singleton, CSRT:

- Fundraiser: Bring Back the Bluebird Beer and Burger, April 7, she has tickets.
- May 2-5, CVNS is hosting BC Nature Conference at Ramada, \$150 gives you an incredible weekend with speakers and field trips with all the things that make the Cowichan valley special.
- Knotweed symposium in January and waiting working with Cowichan Tribes to see how to proceed

Tim Kulchyski, Biologist for Cowichan Tribes:

- It is silly season – year end reporting.
- Yesterday they got go ahead to work on funding proposals for their project. They need to coordinate there is a whole slew of funding proposals.
- He raised his hands to all of us.
- He proposed to Ottawa to say that we need to do things differently here in BC. His hair is getting grayer. Here in the Cowichan valley we have proven that there is another way and the collaboration and discussion that happens at a table like this we can do things differently. We are out of time. People are saying enough. Picking up one thing and dropping 3 others.
- We have made a difference in the watershed. Salmon are coming back.

Comment from Chris Steeger:

- He attended 3 meetings – Clean Energy, Saanich Inlet, and forestry meeting, few young people in attendance.

Climate strike last Friday. – hopeful 2000+ youth – reach out to youth

10.30	BREAK
10.40	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>Brian Houle, Paper Excellence, Catalyst speaking on Cowichan Lake and River Trends followed by Round the Table discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2019 lake level from flooding rain storm in January to dry spell and rapid loss of lake level. • Now weather continues with snow melt helping raise lake level. • Looking back one year – 2018 had similar beginning with a dry spell. Went on control early, went off control and went back on control. • 25 and 15 CMS are fisheries guidelines • Their licence is for 7 CMS and that applies 365 days but they don't use that much • 2019 snow pack level is much lower than 2018 or the previous years of data – this snow pillow installed in 2015 • Forecasting a fair amount of rainfall – enough that we could be ok. <p>We are sitting with a very low lake level flow is at 15-16 CMS – dry weather would have seen that diminish. We really don't know. The water use planning process need to move forward. We need spring rainfall. Working with CT, DFO and Forest Lands and resource development.</p>
11:15	<p>Don Hare, of Coastal Invasive Species Council speaking on “Coastal ISC Overview and 2018 Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of weed control formation for costal invasive species • Organization structure • Stakeholder • Purpose
11:50	Catch up on any items missed.
12	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room.

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May: Richard Lake of Sidney Anglers and other speaker(s) to be announced.

June: Kenzie Cuthbert, fishing guide

July 18, 9 to 2, Outdoor field meeting at Stoltz Pool, Cowichan River Provincial Park, potluck, please be in touch if you have activities to offer.