

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

DATE: THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 2019: 9am to 12 pm Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan
www.cowichanstewardship.ca

We meet on the unceded lands of Cowichan Tribes. 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 Ken Clements for doing April notes. Cheri Ayers did May notes and Hannah Hall will do June note. Looking for a volunteer to take notes in July at Field Day. Update re CSRT website, etc. Edmond Duggan Update re Quw'utsun River Day Celebration, Saturday, September 28, 10-3, Tim and Genevieve Arrangements for Field Day meeting at Stoltz, Thursday, July 18
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	Kenzie Cuthbert, Cowichan River fishing guide will be speaking on " Destination Cowichan ", the importance of fishing to our local economy
11:15	Julie Desy of G3 Consulting and Clay Reitsma of North Cowichan will be speaking on " Stage 2 Environmental Impact Study for the JUB outfall relocation project "
11:50	Catch up of missed items.
12	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room.

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly August July 18, Roundtable annual field meeting, 9 -2, Stolz Pool, Cowichan River Provincial Park, potluck picnic barbecue, please be in touch if you have a presentation you wish to provide.

COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE notes from June 20, 2019 meeting

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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 territory.● Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.● Regrets. Attendance list to be circulated. <p>Attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● : Parker Jefferson (One Cowichan); Hannah Hall and Braden Judson (Bring Back the Bluebird Project, CVNS); Melissa Nottingham (DFO); Judith Cullington (JCA); Martha Lescher (One Cowichan); Sheila Paul (CERCA); Carsten Hunter (Lake Cowichan Hatchery); Rick Bryan (Paddlesport); Jim and Karen Deck – (Youbou Save our Holmes Society); Ken Clements (Sidney Anglers); Joe Saysell (Friends of the Cowichan); Ian Morrison (CVRD); Jennifer Hermary (MP Alistair MacGregor); Ken Traynor (CLRSS); Jack MacNeill (Sahtlam Neighbourhood. Association); Barry Hetschko (SMWS); Eric Marshall (CVNS); Dave Preikshot (SMWS); Tom Rutherford (CWB); Genevieve Singleton (nature interpreter); Clay Reitsma (NC); Julie Desy (consultant); Don Stewart (North Cowichan); Brian Houle (Paper Excellence); Jane Kilthei (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre); Christine Nile (Hemp Evolution Revolution); Lorraine Hepting; <p>Regrets: Pam Jorgenson of Mosaic, Bob Crandall of CLSES, Debra Toporowski, Edmund Duggan, Tim Kulchyski, Cheri Ayers, Rob James, Kenzie Cuthbert, Stephanie Cottell.</p>

**9:10am
CSRT
Business**

- Suggested change in agenda: Kenzie Cuthbert can't attend and present today as planned, Genevieve proposed moving second presentation up and talk about River Days celebration end of today's meeting Melissa Nottingham potentially can take notes for September (to be confirmed).
- Update re: website – no update at this time.
- Arrangements for a field day next month: July 18th at Stoltz Pool – group decided on a 9:30 am start time. Give yourself half an hour beforehand to drive there from town. A presentation for information on the dropping bird numbers on the Cowichan River will be presented by Hannah Hall and Braden Judson using information provided by Dave Alcroft. Shannon Waters will speak on an indigenous view on water. Paddling will likely happen (Rick), BCCF staff will present on the projects they are overseeing in the Park.
- Reminder that this is a potluck event (zero waste – bring your own dishes and cutlery and cups.) Borrowing the BBQ from Dave Slade again a possibility? Genevieve to ask

**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

Stephanie Cottell – Cowichan Community Land trust: (read aloud, not in attendance)

1) Somenos and Quamichan Clean Water Action Project partner project with Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, currently scheduling visits with property owners around Somenos and Quamichan lakes for riparian assessment. If you know of anyone who would be interested in a visit, please send them our way! Visits will occur through July and August/riparian restoration work at selected sites will commence in the fall. We are hosting a Lakekeepers workshop with the BC Lake Stewardship Society on July 25-26 at Duncan Community Lodge. Publicity and Registration will be happening soon. Hope you can participate and/or share it with your networks. (will circulate poster/registration details when ready)

2) Best Water Ways Watershed Literacy, Stewardship and Restoration Place-based Learning resources. The pilot draft of the resources is near completion and we will be piloting the projects with some SD79 grade 9 and grade 11 classes in the fall.

We have two eager summer staff and we would love to be informed of/involved in any emergency habitat protection (shading?) and or fish rescue in the area. We would be happy to circulate any need for volunteers within our networks. Feel free to email or call us anytime if you need boots on the ground (250) 746-0227. We will do our best to help in any way we can in this time of water crisis.

Parker Jefferson: Sutton Creek about to shut down flow. Robertson river still has some flow, still above the lake, but doesn't reach the lake. Still monitoring until there is a size, they can work in. Keeping an eye on Shaw Creek too. Lots of media attention. Globe and Mail at the Chemainus River Watershed. Will do a story about Nanaimo River situation. Genevieve thanked Joe, Parker, Bob, Carsten and all the other volunteers moving fry.

Hannah Hall & Braden Judson – Bring Back the Bluebird Project: We are actively looking for a new stewardship group to act as a home for the project. Hannah and Braden finish their contracts at the end of April and so the project will be hiring a new part-time project coordinator to start in August. Population update: 9 adult Western Bluebirds, 3 nesting pairs. Two nests have fledged, one clutch of eggs never hatched, but the pair has re-nested and is incubating 6 eggs. Volunteer Appreciation event will happen August 12th in the evening.

Martha Lescher for One Cowichan: speaking about public input on how North Cowichan land is managed, especially regarding forestry practices – many residents seeking to have management policies shifted.

April 17th – NC Council meeting: Peter Arcese professor – looking to explore a collaboration between UBC, Coastal Douglas Fir Conservation Partnership group and others. Council accepted changes. Reasons for and the value of community engagement were discussed as well as new models for public engagement.

June 17th – UBC Conservation Group came to the Forest Advisory meeting, Dr. Brad Seely, Dr. Grice, Peter Arcese met and presented on different ways to manage the forest and how to utilize other resources from the forest with different management practices. Dr. Brad Seely brought the Carbon Emissions trade off as a resource to use in forestry management – might be of interest to use carbon trading as a source of revenue to fund alternative mgmt. practices. Forest Advisory group needs to now make a recommendation to the Council. Conversation from the public was mostly around the carbon trading, as opposed to the other ideas presented and perception seemed to downplay the benefits offered from this strategy.

In two weeks, the decision of council to collaborate with UBC or not will be decided. Action such as writing letters and conducting outreach to council needs to happen ASAP.

Sheila Paul – CERCA, Cooperation agreement with Western Forest Product has been made. Some volunteers did broom removal after a survey of potential ground nesting birds so as not to disturb them. The spit is now totally clear of broom & hopefully this prevents spread to Marina Island. Concrete pads have been laid for signs there. Open air classroom is growing in with blackberries, needs a cleanup. No footbridge installed by the slough. CERCA is inquiring but needs permission from Western Stevedore to complete this work and maintain. Eric Marshall heard from Cheri Ayers that the bridge for this will be installed within the next week. Mobile art exhibition by CERCA – it is now at Shawinigan Lake School.

Cheri Ayers –biologist, sent her regrets, sent out an invitation for volunteers to help with eelgrass preparation for planting.

Jane Kilthei - Cowichan Nature Estuary Centre has additional offers of bursaries to provide for youth education if you know any one 14 – 18 years old that would like to participate in Youth Leadership Program in July. Alisha the coordinator, is keeping track of the shifts to make sure there are enough volunteers to help tie washers onto the eelgrass (two shifts per day) Dates?? alisha@cowichanestuary.ca

One Cowichan is going to be presenting a joint letter from organizations (a variety of non-profits and businesses) to the 4 municipalities and the Regional District board by the end of the month. Letter is to ask all local govts to declare a climate emergency and increase the pace and focus of climate action. Local govt may be where we have the most ability to make change right now.

Melissa Nottingham – Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans: Last weekend of May and early June streamkeepers came for workshops and sessions – not up on website yet but at www.workshop.pskf.ca they will post the slides from the presentations at that event. Topics of presentations included: Egg to fry rearing, microplastics, killer whales etc.

Christine Nighbaum, Hemp group, “Evolution, Revolution Hemp” Hemp farming act passed in US last year, in September and lots happening, she is checking up on all of the progress being made in USA utilizing hemp.

Don Stewart –NC Parks and Recreation he plans to be coming on behalf of Parks and Recreation

Loraine Hepting– meeting visitor

Carsten Hunter, Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society. Carsten and Bob have been busy with salmon fry rescue. Christy Wilson of DFO, Carsten, Bob, Genevieve and Parker presented a variety of activities to Cowichan Lake Secondary School students on a hot day on the river last week. Genevieve proposed that Parker, Genevieve & Carsten go talk to the School principal and find ways to support that school’s involvement outdoors continuing even with Karen Neuffer’s retirement. Karen was instrumental in creating LCHS outdoor days.

Rick Bryan, from Paddlesport Community – not much to mention. Yes, it is possible to float the Cowichan Canyon at 4 cubic meters per second and still have fun.

Karen Deck – Save our Holmes society – we know that forests prevent slides and store water. Reports so far indicate that slope stability would be negatively impacted by logging there.

Jim Deck, Save our Holmes, – Concerned about Mt. Good and Mt. homes. Back when mill was in Youbou they thought it would be nice to have residents/ employees close by so allowed home development. But people have since been building up the slope since then and the risk of slope instability has escalated. Citizens on the slope fear their homes and lives are in danger. Mosaic seems to be acknowledging that the instability is a serious issue. Further studies are under way.

Ken Clements – Sidney Angler’s Society. \$20,000 spent in the last 2 months for D.F.O. flights which has freed up money for D.F.O. to do genetic studies in the fin clippings they have been collecting.

Joe Saysell – Friends of the Cowichan: river stayed up high enough to salvage fry, but now that it is as 4.5 cubic meters it made some new areas that he is keeping an eye on. Overall, he thinks they've saved the most delicate areas. Regarding signage discussed at the last meeting: Paul George from Victoria was looking up a price on signs but he is sick so that is on hold. Friends of the Cowichan is still writing a letter to keep Upper River closed from November 15th to April 15th (During spawning season to protect the chinook, coho, steelhead and trout).

Joe wants to take Mark Kissinger for a drift down the river before it gets too low. Joe has tried to take several people to float when river is high enough, so that they can learn the issues, especially people who live on the river. Wants to teach about the issues with taking big trees down that help with slope stability and protects flows for the river. Landowners don't understand that they are losing their land and wrecking the river. Home owners are also moving rocks by hand and wrecking spawning beds for steelhead, because they are trying to make their own swimming holes when the river is low.

Parker Jefferson adds: Next door to Island Outfitters someone has cut a bank, made a ramp into the river to create a little beach etc. Parker asked someone to report this to the R.A.P. line. Possibly it was created to have an access for boats and create a personal beach. Education is key.

A conversation was held about concerns re tubing on the River.

Ian Morrison –CVRD chairperson, expressed appreciation for all that is being done. A great deal of concern is being expressed by constituents.

Jennifer Hermary – for MP Alister Macgregor – The Liberals approved TMX Pipeline the day after they declare a Climate Emergency. A videoclip of Alistair speaking up for the River was circulated on our email list a few days ago.

Ken Traynor – CLRSS – AGM coming up this Sunday 10 – 1pm at the arena. Heather Pritchard the forester working in the Koksilah is going to speak about what she knows and thinks would be useful for forest management near the Cowichan River. Looking at relationship between forests and river flows. He hopes they're making progress on the Weir; he thinks this year people are really starting to pay attention but it will still take a couple of years to get the lake level changes. He says each person has a different reason for believing the lake river is low. Can we come up with a dialogue or discussion with people on the river who don't have as much historic knowledge of the river. A lot of people do support raising the weir. There will be a video about the restoration there BCCF has money to work with VIU and establish more of a baseline on elements from sunscreen in the river and do water monitoring.

Jack McNeill – Sahtlam Neighborhood Association- update on the racetrack – nothing would be happening with phase expansion of the track until phase issues have been fixed. Nothing has been fixed except that they moved their noise monitors to the least noisy parts of the track. Cowichan Tribes, School District 79, CVRD and others will be meeting to gather more information and hear why it is a bad idea (noise pollution, risks to creeks like Menzies which would see 7 tracks paved over that creek.) Cowichan Tribes has a sacred piece of property just over the ridge near the proposed new track. How much weight North Cowichan will put on this input is unknown. The track is initiating full press on this. It is a big investment for them and they are promising that this will happen to appease customers. Land density study being used to demonstrate how much land is used for such few jobs. Referral process is minimum 60 days. Built an off-road track without permission and kept using it and continue to.

Barry Hetschko – responding to joe’s comment about fly fisherman going out and standing on the gravel beds / redds to fish during spawning season. That stuck with him. Barry thinks that education can do a lot because he has invested a lot of time learning and he had never realized that until Joe’s comment. Heron rookery work in Cowichan Bay – nestlings looked almost full size. Counted 110 nests with 104 of them in use.

Eric Marshall – Currently 20-30 herons are on the beach at low tide at any time. Osprey are back and a female has been incubating eggs for at least 2 weeks. A new log boom is tied up to estuary near where the birds are most active and for the next few days will be very disruptive. Purple Martins are back nesting in the boxes in the Estuary. Estuary Nature Centre had low tide day at the centre and in the morning had a beach cleanup with a remarkably small pile of trash collected. Had a beach seine with a good catch and then families dug quadrats to count clams on the beach. This year a much lower number of clams than in past years.

Joe Saysell asks if the Osprey only fishes in one area – Eric says he most often sees male fishing nearby within a few 100 metres.

Dave Preikshot Somenos Marsh Society– working on a report for NC on Parrotfeather. Will be presented next week for approval. North Cowichan and SMWS will be available soon and they will work together. North Cowichan staff will receive a presentation on blue green algae report for the SMWS. SMWS has been intensively monitoring the lakes water quality as it is important fish habitat. Somenos Lake is 0.5 meters lower than last year, this started about a month ago and is indicative of situation everywhere.

	<p>Tom Rutherford, CWB – BC Salmon Restoration Fund that was submitted (tribes, catalyst, CWB) proposal for \$4 million to do work on the lake. ADM of both provincial and federal governments, indication that proponents would learn the fate of their proposals by end of this week or early next week. This would allow them to start implementing design work on the weir.</p> <p>Working closely with CLRSS with community outreach, there will be a zero-storage year. Telling everyone how many days of storage we have left, really keeping awareness acute. A bi weekly new article from people that have an interest in the lake. Ian and chief Seymour spoke to provincial government about our weir and more storage</p> <p>Meeting with Scott Fraser and Chief Seymour at the lake and telling him about the storage issue. Scott Fraser understand s the power of community and used to be mayor of Tofino and worked on biosphere.</p> <p>Larry Barr MGR of FLNRO. They seem pretty serious about creating a management plan for water storage in the Koksilah river. This would be the first in the province and it is a yet unimplented tool from the Water Sustainability Act, so it would be a big deal to have this.</p> <p>Brian Houle, Paper Excellence, Update re Cowichan River flows: Weather – typically dry weather expected. Pumps will be installed by mid-July. Begin Aug. 7th with the pumping. The mill is pulling 1.7 cubic meters per second out of the river.</p>
10.50-11:00	BREAK
11:00	Presentation from Julie Desy of G3 Consulting and Clay Reitsma of North Cowichan spoke on “ Stage 2 Environmental Impact Study for the JUB outfall relocation project ” Information that Julie and Clay covered can be found at: https://www.northcowichan.ca/EN/main/departments/engineering/jub-outfall-project.html Clay says they are in the process of increasing their environmental group and will try to increase attendance at the CSRT meetings.

<p>11:50</p>	<p>Catch up of missed items.</p> <p>Genevieve Singleton is concerned about the CVRD dropping the Parks Acquisition Fund which sets aside money to help with grants for land acquisition. It has only been dropped for 1 year only, but Genevieve is concerned that this may become permanent. The support of CVRD was critical in saving Eagle Heights and many other precious ecosystems in our Valley.</p> <p>Next CSRT meeting – July 18th. Meet at the Stoltz Pool picnic site, Cowichan River Provincial Park. 9:30 am. Barbecue and potluck, CSRT will provide drinks (a cooler of water and juice). No potable water available in the park so it needs to be brought in. This is a waste free event so bring your own cups and dishes etc. No waste. Also bring a chair. If anyone has a shade tent that would be helpful to bring</p> <p>Quw’utsun River Day: Saturday September 28th, 10 am – 3pm, co-hosted by Cowichan Tribes and Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable Needed: tables (each table needs a chair & a tent.) and tents Jared Williams is a chef and he cooks in the Valley for the elders using indigenous cooking methods. He will be cooking a meal for the day. 3 focuses: celebrating the river, good stewardship and reconciliation with Cowichan Tribes. If you know anyone with a good skill to share let Parker and Genevieve know Barry says it is a few days before Orange Shirt Day and we will want to promote this important issue.</p> <hr/> <p>Genevieve & Parker propose that maybe CSRT could have some Possible changes to future Roundtable meetings: i.e. next fall to extend the roundtable portion of the meeting and only do 1 presentation. Maybe we won’t have a speaker in September so there is time to prep for the big Sept. River day. It was agreed to try this.</p> <p>No meeting in August. Back here on September 19 for the next meeting.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room.</p>

**Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly August
 July 18, Roundtable annual field meeting, 9 -2, Stolz Pool, Cowichan River Provincial Park, potluck picnic barbecue, please be in touch if you have a presentation you wish to provide.**