

## COWICHAN STEWARDSHIP ROUNDTABLE AGENDA

**DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019: 9am to 12 pm** Location: Fish Health building, Freshwater Fisheries Society, 1080 Wharncliffe Rd, Duncan  
[www.cowichanstewardship.ca](http://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 Round the Table portion 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>
9:10-9:30 CSRT Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thank you to Melissa Nottingham for doing September notes. <b>We need someone to take Meeting Notes for October!!! Please contact Parker or Genevieve if you can do this.</b></li> <li>Feedback on Quw'utsun River Field Day, September 28, Thanks to everyone who was part of this special day!</li> <li>Conversation about taking Meeting Notes. Find a different solution?</li> </ul>
9:45	<b>Round the Table</b> , 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 if you expect it to be recorded in full in the meeting notes.
10:30-10:40	Break
10:45 11:05	Finishing of Round the Table
11:05-11:50	. Catherine Jacobsen, BC Parks will be speaking on <a href="#">Cowichan River Provincial Park Management Planning Project</a> "
11:50	Catch up of missed items
12:00 noon	Meeting ALWAYS ends promptly, thank you. Please help with cleanup of room

Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except August. Please provide speaker suggestions for upcoming meetings. Dec. 19, lunch potluck following meeting.

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**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	Meeting notes
9:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Welcome and acknowledgement that our meeting is on Cowichan Tribes territory.</li><li>● Appreciation to Freshwater Fisheries Society for hosting our meetings.</li><li>● Regrets. Edmond Duggan, tom Rutherford,</li><li>● Attendance: Ian Morrison, Brian Houle, Pam Jorgenson, Ken Traynor, Bruce Coates, Barry Hetschko, Eric Marshall, Don Hare, Sierra Harvey, Dave Preikshot, Elodie Roger, Chris Steeger, Genevieve Singleton, Parker Jefferson, Bob Crandall, Melissa Nottingham, Sheila Paul, Jasmine Obereste, Catherine Jacobsen, Alicia Taylor, Karen and Jim Deck, Alison Nicholson, Rick Bryan, Susan Kaufman</li></ul>

<p><b>9:10am CSRT Business</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recording of meeting notes is done by members taking turns. Thanks to Melissa Nottingham of DFO for doing September and to Pam Jorgenson for October.</li> <li>• Minute taking duties are shared amongst members. Is there a better solution that would provide more consistent volunteers/content for minutes? Estimate 3 hours of meeting time, plus 2-3 hours of editing for co-chairs/month. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ian Morrison offered to seek a “grant-in-aid” that would support a non-profit to provide this service. YES – ACTION Genevieve to send Ian Morrison an email, and include Dave Preikshot to include North Cowichan in the potential funding. ~\$1000/year</li> <li>○ Could an iPhone translate the talk into text? Might result in more proofing for co-chairs.</li> <li>○ Is there an opportunity to provide a bit of context/training for members that might be willing to volunteer, but don’t feel comfortable.</li> <li>○ Can a few regular attendees support the minute taking for more consistency? Pam Jorgenson, Karen Deck, Alicia Taylor all offered to support.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Update re Quw’utsun River Celebration</b>, which was held very successfully in September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thanks to the many volunteers and supporters, and financial supporters!</li> <li>○ BC Parks was one of the financial supporters – dollars come from the license plate funding (which gets funneled to special projects)</li> <li>○ <i>Post event highlights/feedback</i>: some vendors weren’t sure where to go; request of CT whether all parking for public and vendors could be in same place (closer to the Cowichan Tribes gym); was the site safe (danger trees) during the wind? Genevieve/Tim K are contemplating discussing alternatives with the Cowichan Tribes Council</li> <li>○ Plan for another Rivers Day in 2 years</li> <li>○ People really enjoyed the traditional smoked salmon by Jared Williams</li> <li>○ Drop in attendance</li> <li>○ Unfortunate that the boating activities had to be cancelled</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Next month’s speaker</b>: Andres Anejo – DFO geneticist will present on hybrid salmon</li> <li>• <b>December celebration</b>: December 19 – includes post meeting potluck</li> <li>• Thanks for the baking today and early set-up volunteers!</li> <li>• Support for similar meeting timing next month (longer round table, fewer presentations)</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:20am Round Table</b></p>	<p><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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ian Morrison – Chair CVRD/Co-chair CWB</b> Enjoyed Rivers Day. UBCM – was seeking a subdivision approving authority in CVRD (from MoT), but not sounding positive; CVRD Board Chair election (Nov 13) – Ian will be running again.</li> </ul>

- **Brian Houle – Catalyst**

-no trends to share today. Lake level is shooting up (18cms today). Full fish pulse. Next week the weir will be put to bed for the winter.

- **Pam Jorgenson – Mosaic Forest Mgmt**

-Noted the article in the Cowichan Valley Citizen regarding three projects happening in the Cowichan Valley with Pacific Salmon Foundation dollars (supported through Mosaic). Will take request for someone to speak about goshawks at a future date.

- **Ken Traynor – CLRSS**

-Working on conversations with shoreline owners on Lake Cowichan related to raising weir. Bear Lake area – where Robertson River comes in (prime for lamprey spawning) was a spot where the residents had some very interesting ideas about impacts of raising the weir.

-CLRSS project to test for Oxybenzone in upper river from sunscreen residues: 2086 tubers counted over three days of long weekend in August! Sampled four places in the upper river and residues of oxybenzone found in all four places (most concentrated where tubers ‘put in’).

-10 years of CLRSS – having a discussion about what the future should look like. Please let Ken know if you have any suggestions!

- **Don Hare – Coastal Invasive Species Committee (CISC)**

-knotweed – attended a spring symposium. Building towards an initiative for knotweed control here. Will be doing active surveying in the next month, including Mosaic lands, BC Parks. Moving at a 10-12% invasion rate (increase).

-plans for future treatment will include mechanical and herbicide.

-Should note that if high water marks change (related to weir updates), could impact the ability to control knotweed. Challenge to treat close to water, so if water levels rise, it could compound the challenge of controlling lakeside knotweed. An aquatic herbicide registration is anticipated for March 2020 – no current plans to use it, but it may provide a good tool in extreme circumstances.

Genevieve Singleton commented that Cowichan Tribes and many of the public have indicated in past that they don’t support the use of herbicides in the Cowichan River riparian. Knock Back Knotweed is a pilot showing some success, recognizing that the mechanical options are very labour intensive and slow.

- **Bruce Coates – Cowichan Valley Naturalists**

-reinvigorated the Conservation Committee. Inviting anyone with conservation/nature concerns to bring their support to the group.

- **Barry Hetschko-Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society**

-partway through the Wildwings Festival. 10 events complete, 13 more to come!

-[see flyer/website for details [www.wildwingsfestival.com](http://www.wildwingsfestival.com)]

• **Eric Marshall – Naturalists**

- Bird count (part of Wildwings) – 80 gulls counted (more people than birds!)
- large number of ducks noted – difficult to identify species
- another count on November 10 at 3pm
- sealions have been in Cow Bay for past few weeks; congregating on the floating breakwater at western end... now spread along the entire breakwater (numbers continue to grow)
- seals – usually on logbooms, but due to strike few logbooms present. Usually 100 seals visible; they are probably holed up in other places around the bay.

• **Sierra Harvey – project assistant for the Cowichan Estuary Nature Center**

- working on a project with Cheri Ayers to bring school kids out to support restoration (native plants in the estuary). Grant funding continue for the next few years.

• **Dave Preikshot – Municipality of North Cowichan**

- Quamichan Lake remediation strategy – addressing phosphorous inputs to the lake. Testing the application of minerals to reduce phosphorous in tributaries to lake. But, some of the phosphorous is already existing in lake, so will be testing (using sediment core) the existing, historic phosphorous in the lake. [Hypothesis is that the lake may have higher levels of phosphorous – pre-existing – than other lakes in the area. Goal of no algal blooms might not be a reasonable target.]
- Revising a carbon management plan (and GHG emission targets). Some assumptions need revisions.

• **Elodie Roger – Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society**

- lake inverted three weeks ago
- spending lots of time on the Wildwing festival
- celebrated the viewing tower (at the open air classroom) in early October
- Clean Water Action Project (in cooperation with Cowichan Land Trust) – ‘feel good Friday/Saturday – welcome volunteers for helping with riparian restoration projects
- hiring – engagement and community outreach specialist (restoration work and community stewardship capacity building)

• **Chris Steeger – wildlife biologist/river steward/CLRSS**

- seeking to support a variety of local projects – willing to support some of the knotweed work
- built drum at Rivers Day – great opportunity!

• **Parker Jefferson – co-chair of CSRT**

- working on a committee for the drinking water protection function of the CVRD

• **Bob Crandall – Cowichan Lake Salmonid Enhancement Society**

- Hatchery getting ready for the brood stock. Hoping for a good year
- keeping an eye on the counting fence numbers (not a lot of chum to date)
- recent webinar: riparian areas protection regulation – some updates: not a lot of major changes, but notable is that if a riparian assessment is >5 years old, it cannot be used.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Genevieve Singleton – co-chair of CSRT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-grandparent! Two recent grandchildren 😊 [Congratulations!!]</li> <li>-Alan Martin – BC Wildlife Federation, sadly passed away recently. Previously highly supportive of CSRT. Premiere wildlife biologist in BC. Will be much missed.</li> <li>-Bring Back Bluebirds – BC Conservation Foundation is going to be the new lead for the Project, with Cowichan Valley Naturalists being an active partner. Jacquie Taylor, new coordinator, will be working on some grant-writing to support the project. Please send Genevieve any ideas on support dollars.</li> <li>-In the red on supporting Rivers Day – BC Parks is hoping to cover some of the outstanding costs</li> <li>-continuing the Knock Back the Knotweed Project</li> <li>-Berkey’s Corner – red listed Oregon Ash (remnant of GO Ecosystem) is being taken down for building of shopping complex</li> <li>-Oct 28 7pm – Genevieve is presented a bluebird talk at the Wildwings Festival</li> <li>-Roland Brown – local nature steward house has burned down. He continues to be a valley champion for nature.</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Melissa Nottingham – DFO</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-counting fence – last update Oct 15: 7501 adult chinook; 995 jacks; 698 adult coho; 54 pink; 79 chum. Two passageways for fish to go through. Workers counting the fish, recording species on a screen. Where identified as ‘unknown’, just means the species couldn’t be determined (not a clear image).</li> <li>-escapement goal was 6500, so it has been met. Good news!</li> <li>-fence will be pulled out later today</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Sheila Paul – Cowichan Estuary RCA</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-working with UVIC – second phase of Blue Carbon Project – focus on eel grass in sediment fields and salt marshes</li> <li>-workshop coming up – estimating estuary health</li> </ul> </li>   <li>• <b>Jasmine Oberste – Local Resident</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-working with school in Cowichan Station – how can the kids help remove the broom and replant native plants</li> <li>-Petrolis Creek with farm runoff – looking to help with native plantings with support of local students</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.30	BREAK

10.50

• **Catherine Jacobsen – BC Parks (South Island/Haida Gwaii)**

-speaking later on project in Cowichan River Park

• **Alicia Taylor – Cowichan Estuary Nature Center**

-launching into restoration work in the next few years; looking for partnerships in the Cowichan and Koksilah systems

-invasive removal sites – would like to establish partnerships with other groups/clubs for regular activities in specific areas

-public lecture: Nov 7, 7pm – sea lions and cull on pinnipeds

-working on ‘watershed connections’ – working on educational programs in the watershed. Would like to look more at bivalves, and think about how things like sunscreen might impact. Please get in touch with her if you have ideas.

-options do exist to support activities in upper parts of the Cowichan River

• **Rick Bryan – Paddlesport/Recreation**

-on schedule (Mid-October) for good fall paddling; two paddling clubs, and many people who paddle but don’t participate in clubs – Rick is happy to help get people out! Just reach out to him.

-BC Parks and Paddlesport are both interested in keeping the river a safe place to recreate. Signage participation going on with BC Parks.

-Presentation to CWB – looking forward to doing more fundraising

• **Karen, Jim Deck – Save Our Holmes Society**

-formed to find ways to protect the watershed on Mt Holmes/Good

-CVRD geohazard report identified some risks – as a result dam to be decommissioned, but once complete will no longer be deemed a community watershed as a result – how can the area continue to be similarly protected when/if the community watershed status is changed? Would fish habitat status be changed?

• **Alison Nicholson – Area Director E**

-Ecosystem Based Assessment of the Koksilah watershed is underway. Working with Cowichan Tribes as much as possible (CT has signed off on Phase 1). Phase 1 (info based) - will be made publicly available shortly. Phase 2 – strategy for a protected areas network is currently being worked on. Province has identified an over commitment of water licensing (related to mapping that has been done through Phase 1 of the project). Water Sustainability Plan is being discussed for the Koksilah.

-Takaya – Lone Wolf – Nature of Things on CBC great documentary - watch here -

<https://gem.cbc.ca/media/the-nature-of-things/season-59/episode-3/38e815a-011bbb402da>

• **Susan Kaufman – Volunteer for Electoral Area E**

-long history of family settlement in the area (pioneer history)

-interested to learn about CSRT news

11:25	<p><b>Cowichan River Provincial Park – Management Planning Project</b>  <b>Catherine Jacobsen – BC Parks</b>  <i>Slideshow Presentation</i></p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>-how was public feedback considered in this phase of planning? No way to gauge the background of the people who commented</p> <p>-is conservation or recreation the priority? They are both important, as are also cultural values. Recreation is not higher than conservation.</p> <p>-people are encouraged to provide stakeholder input into this phase of the project</p> <p>-Trans Canada Trail runs through the park, which is outside of BC Parks jurisdiction (and horseback riding/cycling is permitted on the Trail)</p> <p>-ACTION: Genevieve Singleton to circulate request for feedback to the CSRT email list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What values of Cowichan River Park are most important to your organization?</li> <li>• What issues and opportunities does the management plan need to address?</li> <li>• What ideas does your organization have about how to address these issues and opportunities?</li> </ul> <p>-new information, e.g. identified presence of SAR, would be considered throughout the planning process</p> <p>-is there an opportunity to do add habitat restoration to the plan? Say, for salmon?</p> <p>-can adjacent private property owners help increase awareness of key values/activities within the park?</p> <p>-is there an opportunity to acquire more property adjacent?</p> <p>-Is there an opportunity to collaborate with CVRD, and to speak directly with CVRD directors?</p> <p>-can BC Parks influence any activity within the river (building of bathing pools)? Unclear if the river bottom would be within BC Parks’ jurisdiction where within the Park.</p> <p>-is there a climate change adaptation part to the management plan? This is a possibility. Looking for thoughts and ideas around this.</p> <p>-Interested CSRT participant organizations should reach out to Catherine.  <a href="mailto:Catherine.Jacobsen@gov.bc.ca">Catherine.Jacobsen@gov.bc.ca</a> 250-337-2404</p> <p>Here are some links: <a href="#">Cowichan River Park Management Planning web page</a>.</p> <p><a href="#">Summary of Public Input: Cowichan River Park Management Planning Cowichan River Provincial Park Background Report</a></p>
12	Meeting ends promptly. Clean up help appreciated. Huy ch q’u!

**Meetings are the 3rd Thursday of the month, except possibly August. Dec. 19 meeting will be followed with finger food potluck, more info in November agenda.**