

Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable Meeting Notes¹

January 17, 2023, 9 – 12 on Zoom

Please address corrections/additions to

cowichanstewardshiproundtable@gmail.com

www.cowichanstewardship.com

Welcome and acknowledgement that our co-chairs today are hosting via zoom from the traditional territories of Cowichan Tribes, and Osoyoos Nation, since Parker is out of town.

Regrets: Thea Rodgers (BC Conservation Foundation), Cole Smith, and Chris Stei,ger (Wildlife Biologist).

Attendees:

Lisa Fox (Cowichan Watershed Board), Genevieve Singleton (Co-Chair Cowichan Stewardship Round Table (CSRT)), Carol Milo, Elodie Roger, Jim Deck (Cowichan Lake River Stewardship Society), Karen Deck (CVRD Director), Parker Jefferson (CSRT co-chair), Rose Williams, Barry Hetschko (Somenos Marsh Society), (Constituent's Assistant, Office of MLA Sonia Fursteneau), Byron Thompson, Freda Eckstein, Sarah von der Weid (Cowichan Tribes), Ellen Campbell (Lawyer/Artist and Researcher at the Indigenous Law Research Unit, UVic), Jennifer Shepherd (Xwulqw'selu Connections), Cheri Ayers (environmental consultant), Pamela Williams (CENCS), Rupert Coyote (Social Planning Cowichan), Bruce Coates (CVNS; BC Nature), (Xwulqw'selu Connections), Kate Miller (Cowichan Valley), Rose Williams, Joe Saysell, Heather Pritchard, Colleen Terlien, Dorothy Marshall, Stephanie Cottell, Paul Fletcher.

CSRT Business:

Finances: Zoom and Website Domain Renewal

- Thank you to Cowichan Watershed Board for looking after Zoom in the past. We now have our own account under Genevieve's name.
- We need \$312 between the Zoom and website domain costs. This is about \$20 from participants. Please email Genevieve at cowichanstewardship@gmail.com for how to etransfer to her. So far about \$100 has been forwarded. Donations can also be given at our in person meeting, so far unbooked.

¹ Please note that this record was created by volunteers at Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable (CSRT) Meetings. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements, and decisions recorded in them, there may be some inaccuracies, errors, omissions, or lack of completeness within the notes based on time and other constraints. Each CSRT participant is responsible for reviewing notes of their contributions and sending in edits should they be necessary. Individuals accessing these notes should not rely on them as a complete or accurate record, or as their only source of knowledge about key issues discussed. Individuals are urged to contact the group(s) or individual(s) associated with information provided in these notes if relying on them.

Terms of Reference

- Carry over to the next meeting.

Website

- Sarah is updating our website.

Report from Genevieve Singleton re Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul, Sept. 2023. Genevieve proposes that since we held one in 2022 that we should not hold one in 2023. In the past they have been held every year. Due to Genevieve's husband, Dave Polsters, Alzheimer's disease progress she is unable to coordinate it this year (only).

- Jennifer Shepherd stated that she has heard a lot of positive feedback in the community and that it would be great to do it every year. Parker offered to help this year if it was decided to go ahead. Ellen offered to assist with organizing.
- Genevieve reminded us that it is a great deal of work to do this. There is a lot of fatigue from members who worked hard on the 2022 event. Cowichan Tribes is likely not able to offer the black bridge site and Tim Kulchuyski is too busy to be the co-leader of the event at this time. Traditionally CSRT and CT co-sponsor it together. It is best if we do the event together. Genevieve recommended that it would be better to hold off till 2024.
- There was no group consensus, carry over.

Zoom Meetings versus in person

- Fish hatchery isn't available at present. Continuing on Zoom allows Parker and others to sign in this meeting. When the weather is better, let's hope to find our way forward to do some in person work.
- Bruce: The naturalists have been using the CAS room (Cowichan Agricultural Society Room) across from VIU. This might be an option for thinking about in-person meetings. Tim has also suggested the upstairs room in the building at Art Mann Park.

Next Meeting

- Judy Braden will present on the book project "Witnessing the Water" next time. Also Cheri, Lisa and Elodie will return to discuss further sharing of information.

In March

- Thea Rodgers of BCCF will present in March on the sunscreen project.

Round the Table:

Thea Rodgers emailed in her contribution from BC Conservation Foundation:

- BCCF have a request for meeting attendees to fill out and circulate an online survey to their peers in the Cowichan Valley

- The prize for completing the survey is an entry into a draw for either a free, 2-night campsite at Lakeview Park in May, or a \$25 gift certificate to Jake's at the Lake (winner's choice). Prize drawing will happen on April 21.
- This will be circulated to all CSRT members via email following the meeting.

Parker Jefferson, no report

Carol Milo (Somenos Marsh Board)

- Somenos Marsh Society, We have seen spawners in Avril creek, and we have pictures. We have a new board member Colleen Terlien, who will introduce herself. Also, one of our board members, Malcom McLeod, who was badly injured in a fall, is back on the island and will be continuing on our board. We all send our get well wishes.

Sarah Von der Weid (Cowichan Tribes)

- I started working two years ago on the Oil Spill Emergency Response Program (the CDCR programming) funded by the trans mountain pipeline. I am developing a response program for oil spills around the territory. That is anything from collecting resources and equipment and finding storage units for those training for our staff on the water. This week we have Incident Command Systems 200 training. We are working closely with the coast guard and WMRC, and working with neighboring nations doing training and exercises on the water together and getting more hands-on experience with that work. I am also doing some GIS work, which isolates areas sensitive, historical and biological harvesting, and traditional use, and isolating those areas for having a response if needed. They are called GRS, geographical response system. Working closely to WCMRC too to map those areas too and get the correct equipment. Boom is the equipment used to isolate those areas, so making sure we have enough equipment for those areas that are to be protected. That is the type of work I have been doing and working closely with the marine team to have the staff trained for that type of work.

Rupert Koyote

- Working with the Elders of Quw'utsun' Cultural Connections society (the nonprofit created by Elders last two years, which carries on the cultural works Elders do, leading up from the Indigenous games) as a sister organization to Social Planning Cowichan. We continue to be interested and remain peripherally involved in an observation, research, and information gathering phase. Upcoming for the organization, there is going to be, will be a invite only cedar gathering happening in Lake Cowichan from 20th of February to March 2nd. That is a gathering of community members, Elders, and knowledge gatherers, and other peoples to do some final community engagement work on behalf of the Elders and other knowledge keepers around cedar particularly and its status within,

meaning its vulnerability, and strategies to protect it. So we are presently still engaging when possible with other community members. We have had three different sharing circles with groups of Elders and are now in various stages of development at Cowichan Tribes. I am hoping to be able to finalize my research at that point and make recommendations around how the organization can move forward in terms of its land stewardship (protection and land access interests of the Elders themselves).

- The Elders have interests in gaining access to lands and the reason I am looking at this work, in particular, relates to scarcity of resources, access to lands for sacred and ceremonial cultural purposes. Also access to harvesting from cedar, whether bark for weaving or other medicinal plants and lands in the area. Part of that relates to the actual specific land trust research. So this is an idea of an Indigenous-led land trust. This is revolving around the idea of lands, interests in sharing access to those lands, and the other private landholders in the area, including major timberland private landowners. Everyone is somewhat implicated in the interruption of access to lands for traditional landowners/rightsholders in the area. So it is a wide open table, we are looking at all the options. In terms of the lands department at Cowichan Tribes. Cowichan Tribes represents the broader political community as well as the community themselves. They have their own interests in lands. So in being involved in this way is maintaining understanding of shared interests. So we are meeting with the lands department, treaty department, and having those conversations. It is all sensitive because the treaties are ongoing.
- At some point, we hope to be able to present to the Roundtable, but hope it will happen some point in the future. It would be good to get in a list, maybe late spring, early Summer.

Kate Miller (CVRD)

- A couple of quick updates with regard to the Quw'utsun particularly. I submitted the application for the water license in December shortly before the break. So at this point the formal water license has gone to the province for adjudication and feedback. While it is a formal license, it is also a draft license because the partners need to understand the implications, and liability implications of submitting a license. So the province has allowed us to put in a license under the CVRD's name to allow the province to adjudicate the process and inform the partners, Cowichan Valley Regional District, and Cowichan Tribes, and Catalyst, to inform what the implications will be for the license-holder going forward. The province is reviewing the material closely. There are three parts:
 - o the engineering of the new weir structure to ensure it is up to the requirements. We have designed it to meet upcoming changes to the dam act. So it will meet future engineering criteria.
 - o They will also be looking at the science behind the natural boundary. This is an analysis that has never been done before, so they are looking into a

peer-review process. So, for the license to go forward, you have to analyze what the impact will be to the 900 plus properties around the lake. So you can look at what the natural boundary is now, but we are required to look at what this looks like in the future. The natural boundary is a legal line. There are challenges around how do you define a future line, legally, when there are uncertainties.

- o So we have finished three years of wind and wave energy work, ecosystem mapping around the shoreline, etc, and submitted that for the review of the province. All of this information is on the Quw'utsun weir website, which includes detailed mapping of each of the 900 plus properties around the lake, which provides an ortho photo, high definition lines, the draw down line, and others. This has implications for the Lake Cowichan Lamprey, which is a species at risk. So this is a phenomenal amount of information the province is going to adjudicate. Once they have made a decision about if they want to do a review and consultation phase, and how that will take shape. The other discussions with regard to how we are going to pay for this weir, particularly as we see costs of infrastructure exploding beyond what we have projected. We are now having discussions with the federal government with regard to the grant program, which they have come out and said they will push further with us. We cannot start any of the projects until we know the ramifications of the licensing process. This is a big deal when you are looking at tens of millions of dollars and the implications for local communities.
- o CVRD now in budget process and there are serious considerations about ensuring limited funding is spent as carefully as possible.
- o We will try to get the regions DWWP surface water quality program data collected but it is pending resourcing challenges and timing with incoming staff.

Karen Deck

- As Kate says, we are right in the beginning of the budget process. When I was going around door-to-door, water sustainability was one of the major concerns of folks in area I. In terms of budgeting, of course, how careful we have to be, I am advocating for as many problems to be solved with climate change at the focus so that more than one problem can be solved at once. For example, the three-stream waste management program which is going to be implemented at some point. It reduces costs of shipping our waste to Washington. When the organic component is taken out, it can be taken out so the greenhouse gases are reduced in our part of the world. I think that, in terms of personally, I have just learned a great deal in these past months about how deeply the staff and the board care about the big issues in front of us and I am learning a lot from staff and my fellow directors and I am very grateful for that. I will keep you posted as time goes on.

- Park Acquisition Fund came up once. I will be working as hard as I can to keep that fund going, but there are a couple of voices maybe that are going to advocate for doing away with it, but I think it is important for us to keep that going because there will be, hopefully, in the future, an opportunity to buy sensitive land, as greenspaces are disappearing due to development. So it is a priority for me.

Barry Hetschko

- Water Quality Monitoring at Somenos Creek
 - o Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society, we have been doing water quality monitoring extensively, focusing on Somenos Creek. With this last year's drought, this winter's drought, and change in weather patterns, the high temperature in Somenos Creek didn't allow fish to come up, it was anoxic up until about three weeks ago. As Carol said, there were fish spotted, but not as many as last year. So the marsh is busy with that. I advocate for what is going on around development, and lands around the hospital that will be future developed, and all of that rainwater runoff will be put into the water system.
- Goose Count
 - o I also do the swan and goose count. Last week we had 551 trumpeter swans. 500 is usually the big number we see each year. There is a big group of them on Richard's trail. A couple weeks ago, they were all at the eastern end of Pastula's Farm and Richard's Trail Flats. It was an incredible sight to see. The other large group is in Dinsdale's farm. We had 1000 Canada geese, down from 1300 last week. Canada Geese numbers are down quite a bit. Bald eagles, 32 total, 7 immatures, that is a high for this week's count. I remember this time last year counting over 300 bald eagles down in the lower Cowichan behind the farmer's market. We had two sharp-shinned hawk, two cooper's hawk, one kestrel, one peregrine falcon, and a northern shrike. They are few and far between, like stellar jays, there are no stellar jays around this year, I think it is the lack of Garry Oak acorns. I haven't seen any nuthatches. They are around, people saw them on the Christmas goose Count. When we had the big snow, there were a lot of thrush around. In the past years, if I saw one or two that would be a good count, but I saw about 10 there.
- Avian Flu Watch
 - o Birders have been feeding steadily, just making sure fresh feed and clean birdfeeders. Finches, like the house finch, are the ones affected. There are not many at the beginning of the season. They are just starting to show up. My impression is that we are not seeing it here.

Jim Deck (Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society)

- A primary concern at Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society is riparian violations. There are a couple of violations going on in our area that we are concerned about. One is a house or development going on in Miracle Close in Youbou. In the middle of the property is a stream and a wetland that is salmon bearing. This will be within meters of the stream that feeds the creek.
- Then, the town of Lake Cowichan went in Saywell park and clipped all bushes around the dock there that is on the lake. By clipping that all back, it will affect spawning of fish and the habitat of that area. Judy Brayden is coming up to speak about her Witnessing the Water book project at the next CSRT meeting. This is all based on her ribbon of the river art project presented to the Cowichan Arts Centre in 2020.

Ellen Campbell

Lawyer, Researcher, artist, and graphic designer. I work part time as a lawyer/researcher/artist/graphic designer in my own firm, where I focus on Indigenous, environmental, and human rights work, especially where law intersects with art and public legal education, and also work at the Indigenous Law Research Unit, where I am a researcher on a project on Quw'utsun water law that is ongoing.

Elodie Roger

Just wanted to provide a quick update about my update with the BC Conservation Foundation. We just applied recently in December for another year restoration project around Cowichan Lake in partnership with the Cowichan Lake River Stewardship society. The project looks to rehabilitation of fish habitats to support salmonids. It builds on the 7-year project that ended last year, the Cowichan Shoreline Stewardship Project. We hope to hear from the grant in a few months from now. If we succeed, we will be starting this summer with individuals from Cowichan Tribes and the Youth.

I am also in partnership with investment agricultural society which looks into restoring areas, expanding out to the Black Creek area. So we received another grant I can use until 2024 to increase the recovery of habitats.

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- So far, in the Koksilah watershed, we have five farms that received restoration last year. This year, I will be adding two more farms to the work.

Rose Williams, Sonia Furstenau asst.

- I have been working with Sonia Furstenau since August as a constituency assistant. Sonia has been working to take more meetings with the new premier, David Eby, and hopefully progress on some of the environmental values our office carries. We are looking forward to engaging with new ministers with environment-related portfolios, including the ministry of emergency management and climate readiness. As this goes on, we will keep you all apprised of relevant legislation as it comes up.

Lisa Fox (Cowichan Watershed Board)

- Nothing to add.

Jill (Cowichan Watershed Board)

- Couple of things, like a lot of organizations we are spending January looking internally. We have a workshop coming up called Setting the Course. This is about our two partners looking at the mandate and role of the watershed board. So much has changed in the last 10 years. Making sure we are all on the same page to see how we can best serve the watershed and those organizations. We have been working hard on that. A lot of you know we did a water quality attainment study this past summer. In the summer and fall, water quality testing was done in collaboration with Cowichan Tribes. We are now looking for somebody to, have a call out for expressions of interests to analyze the data and prepare a report. There is a posting about this on our website. The deadline for this is January 20th. We are looking forward, also to community engagement and communications coming out this year.

Joe Saysell (Friends of the Cowichan)

- We are having meetings with the provincial government for closures for the Cowichan Upper River Closure for January, February, and March.
- Right now the river is pretty high. Chris Morley and I were at Tiny Creek, looking at the amount of coho in there. It is nice to see we have late run coho there. I have talked to others who have told me a few of the smaller creeks into the upper Cowichan have got coho in But we have a problem with this creek because Tiny Creek, the old lake Cowichan road, when it leaves the town of Lake Cowichan, it goes by a subdivision and goes up the hill. There is a development going on that is within the town's boundaries. They have cleared off quite a large area. In that rain there is mud running off the hill and it comes down to the creek. It was rolling down the ditch, about two feet wide of yellow silt. And here we have salmon finally coming back and we have this happening. So it is the development that is causing this. Without strong regulations, it is difficult to deal with. We are trying to monitor it by taking pictures, doing news media, etc, and do a big splash on this. Just down the road from this creek there is Stanley Creek, which is a major upper river tributary, this is around where we come into. I have talked about this last year. So, the ministry has finally approved a new RAR for them. They put on a new QEP that wrote up a new RAR, so this is going to go ahead now. But there is, it is too bad that this keeps going on and on, it seems to be one right after the other. Right across the weir, there is a big development there.
- A few of us, from our group, we will have a meeting on this on the next month. It might be too late for this years' regulations.
- There are problems where tires are leeching chemicals during big rain events. We are now analyzing some of the water run off from these roads to see how bad the impacts of these chemicals are in Stanley Creek. This project is also being

replicated in other salmon-bearing streams. They believe that this chemical effects coho badly, especially the fry.

- Jim talked about the village cutting the willows down, and that was brought up at the last stewardship. Chris and I went up there. The town has cut the willows down. They say they need it so the people sitting on the benches can see the weir, but the problem is that they don't just cut it, but they cut it way too much. So now the blackberries are really growing in. They went right up to Gerald Thom's garden, on the west side of where the float is. It is a nonsense thing to do because you have some big trees. But at least, most of this will grow back, but, somehow, it will get a new plan on how to do things properly, and to teach the people who are doing this, on how to do this. So we will have to write a couple of letters to them.
- I wanted to ask about the logging on hill 60 done by Mosaic in the fall. They took out 20 000 meters of timber, but left trees that they cut. Unless they are going back with the helicopter to re-log it later, we can't seem to get a hold of anyone who knows, so they might be coming back. But there is a big pile of wood on that hill.

Colleen Terlien (Somenos Marsh Society)

- Hi everyone, I am Colleen and I am really excited to join the board of Somenos Marsh Society. I am semi-retired. I have a huge amount to learn.

Jennifer Shepherd (Xwulqw'selu Connections)

- We are looking at connections between water in the Koksilah watershed, looking at where water is flowing in the entire watershed. We have connections with Mosaic and have partnered in a way that allows connections in the upper watershed and see how that connects in with data also available in the lower watershed. We also ask folks in the community to do monitoring in the watershed, also to learn more about science and develop skills and capacities. We are looking at policymaking, decision-makers, folks who are deep in planning with water or watershed sustainability planning process. How might we be able to support work being done at the g2g table. Our work is offered with the support of a number of partners, including Cowichan Tribes, provincial government, Koksilah working Group, POLIS, and others. So I am here in the capacity of a community researcher to connect with all the other goings-on here locally, to share our work and invite others in. The scientific work being done by our team of an academic professor, Tom Gleeson, a groundwater scientist, and three PhD students, Martin Dale, who is Quw'utsun Mustimuhw, who is doing a PhD in land based and place based learning, and others. And Christina Disney, many of you I think know of her work on the land and the last two summers. She is back now from her leave and will be starting to analyze her work. I would like to offer, when she is ready.
- Xwulqw'selu Connections update

- o More than 25 volunteers and our project team successfully monitored the whole watershed during the critical late summer season in 2023 as described in this blog post.
- o Through September we were busy with three events: partners field trip, a volunteer thank-you dinner, and Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul as described in this blog post. Thanks again to all of you who participated.
- o We hosted a small workshop on December 5 for building the relationship between Xwulqw'selu Connections and the Water Sustainability Planning process with the Authority holders (Cowichan Tribes and the Province). To give you a sense of the workshop, the agenda is attached and here is our presentation on YouTube.
 - Blog post link: <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/xwulqwselu/2022/10/20/w-hat-we-learned-about-the-xwulqwselu-stalo-in-the-2022-field-season/>
 - Blog post link: <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/xwulqwselu/2022/10/20/w-hat-we-learned-about-the-xwulqwselu-stalo-in-the-2022-field-season/>
 - Link to the YouTube video (it's about an hour long): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iRMjznMBgiM&feature=youtu.be>

Bruce Coates (CVNS; BC Nature)

- I had a chat with the ED of BC Nature. They are getting a lot of money to do things. They are teaming up with BC Parks to expand the use of iNaturalist, with training sessions etc. That is becoming a big citizen science help to all sorts of people. They have money to hire Liam Ragen full time instead of part time. He is working on IBAs as important biodiversity areas, and transition of them to key biodiversity areas. He also has money for other projects that come through a big change through nature Canada and may help us out with the Municipal forest reserve. That is something I am trying to promote with him. If you haven't taken the survey, please provide this input, this closes January 31st.
- It is not clear the timing of the upcoming biodiversity plan, so I am trying to gather people specifically to make a coordinated response. People have asked me how we involve ourselves in the biodiversity plan in north Cowichan. It is not clear from the website how to do that. You can email me if you want to contribute to this process or if you have questions cvns@naturecowichan.net.

Cheri Ayers, fisheries biologist

- I have been working on the BCSRIF project, the Twinned Watershed project between the Chemainus and Koksilah rivers. We are in our second year of funding under that federal funding. What we are focusing on is three main things.

One is stock assessment work. We have been documenting salmon abundance both adult and juvenile. We have used adult enumeration and a DIDSON sonar system, with video cameras. Both rivers had an ARIS unit in the fall and the spring, which has been an interesting set of exercises. We have tried to pair that with video footage for species ID. Last fall was difficult because of the flooding, so it was more difficult to get good data for that year. This past year, 2022, as Joe was talking about, we had very little water, which really slowed the migration of the salmon up both rivers. We also did streamwalks to look at spawner red counts and document where we saw spawners. The difference between the two years was remarkable in terms of seeing fish. There were big differences in run timing. This year, we had fish very very late and also sort of disparate spawning location. This year our gear was in the water until mid December. We had a good long season of documenting fish not coming up their river.

- We also implemented a juvenile stock assessment program where we have rotary food traps. We are interested not just smolt, but fry migrations down the river. We want to put together a productivity estimate for the species. Our gear will go back in late February, early March. Hopefully, the flows are in good shape. The stock assessment is one big piece of it, and we are hoping we will have three full years of stock assessment data, which I will add to in a minute.
- The second component is doing habitat inventory work, building on the work from Watershed Board proposal to document habitat. We also did a pool riffle glide habitat inventory. This year, we added a habitat inventory for Kelvin Creek, a tributary of the Koksilah. We also want to look at Bonsall Creek in the Chemainus system. The objective of this work is to identify what is happening on a habitat level, the Koksilah and Chemainus. What we found in 2021 work done under the watershed board is that we have very unhealthy systems, from a flow and habitat perspective, mostly due to the combined impact of high water in the winter and low waters in the summer.
- Because of what has been happening with the mainstems, we have been focusing on the tributaries. We have been putting together a low-tech restoration plan around Kelvin Creek, to identify reaches where we have geomorphic change where we can look for areas that we can slow the water down. Slowing the water down in the winter will help the mainstem and tributary. By interacting that water with its flood plain, we start to store more water in the hyporheic zone to supply water in the lower flow months.
- Adult and juvenile productivity and habitat inventories are the three main components that we are working on.
- We have also put on a funding application for additional money to add an additional two years of stock assessment, 24/25, and 25/26, as well as a PIT tag program that will support this fiscal year documenting on the Koksilah and the Chemainus River. And on the Chemainus including some of the hatchery influence that is currently not tagged. So looking at trying to look at funding for an array, and looking for funding for an array system on the Koksilah.

- Halalt FN has also put in an application for funding, in partnership with the other nations, under the aquatic habitat restoration fund, which is a trans mountain accommodation agreement, to look at starting a recovery process on the Chemainus watershed.

Genevieve Singleton, co-chair and nature interpreter, reminded us of CSRT walks, funded from the Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul 2022 grant.

- Email her at CowichanStewardshiproundtable@gmail.com if you would like to attend any of these walks:
 - o February 6, Fred Roland, Learn about Historical River Movement
 - o March 8, Jared Quwustenuxun Williams, near estuary walk,
 - o March 18, Della Sylvester-Rice, medicine walk,
 - o March 25 Tim Kulchyski, mid river walk , THIS IS FULL
- Funding has been secured from BC Parks to have river nature programmes focused on the Quw'utsun Sta'lo', salmon and native plants. This is in partnership with Cowichan Tribes hatchery, DFO staff. Ken Elliott and myself. We will be doing programmes with school groups at the hatchery, river and native plant nursery.
- Reminder of January 30th event that Shalu Metha of The Discourse on watershed issues.

Speakers:

Byron Thompson and Freda Eckstein provided a presentation on their work, specifically their "Listening to Dinosaurs" video that takes you on a "virtual" birding tour of Somenos Marsh. Thank you, Byron and Freda, for bringing the Somenos marsh front of mind for everyone and for producing such a beautiful video! Please note the video will be available for public viewing after their presentation to the Naturalists in March. Genevieve can let people know when it is public. However, there is a private link for if you'd like to share it to your friends up until it is public, reach out to Genevieve on this. .

Cheri Ayers, Elodie Roger and Lisa Fox presented on the "Project Tracking Tool and 100 Year Vision Appetizer"

- Suggestion of a Two-Pronged Approach for the Stewardship Roundtable
 - 1) Spreadsheet or digital tool to track our projects collectively
 - a. Group Ideas:
 - i. Add different sheets for watersheds
 - ii. Add different sheets for completed projects
 - iii. Coding by topic (water quality, area, completed, underway, etc.) so that we can sort by that area and use the filter function
 - iv. Suggest adding columns or tabs to capture offers and requests

- v. May bring up issues around who is ultimately accountable for the sheet and data ownership (there may be a governance piece outside of accountability/responsibility for the currency question)
- vi. Perhaps we have a conversation around what the needs we have are , and what digital resources will support us. Whether it is basecamp or excel. It might be something more robust that can handle all of our needs.
- vii. A column for the Cowichan Watershed Board targets or working groups would sure be helpful for coordinating among those groups, but I know not all projects would align with those.
- viii. Some folks brought up other technologies outside of Google Sheets:
 - 1. Mighty Networks
 - 2. Basecamp
- ix. How can we support database management, and access to data, across the various tools that are out there. This might include really looking at what other folks are doing, so having speakers talk about what their tools are, what they do, a survey across the region. What are the gaps, what is missing, what are the barriers, what do the solutions look like? Is it a new hub? Is it tweaking the existing tools we have? Province, CVRD, Cowichan Tribes, etc. We'd love to have any folks on this call to reach out if we are interested to fine-tune this and then coming in in February have a discussion on what those needs are:
lisa@cowichanwatershedboard.ca

2) Revisiting the 100-year vision

Meeting finished at 12 noon.