

## **Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable (CSRT) Feb. 17, 2026**

### **Attendance:**

Genevieve Singleton (CSRT)  
Barry Hetschko (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre)  
Katie Mosewich (Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD))  
Joe Saysell (Friends of the Cowichan)  
Francis Guyver (Mosaic)  
Colleen Terlein (Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society (SMWS))  
Todd Carnahan (Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC))  
Karen Deck (CVRD)  
Jim Deck (Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society (CLRSS))  
Cole Wiltsie (EMC)

### **Attending Online:**

Parker Jefferson (CSRT)  
Krista Gooderham (Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO))  
Henry James (Cowichan Tribes)

### **Regrets:**

Galen McMenamin (CVRD)  
Brian Houle (Domtar)  
Dave Munday (Shawnigan Basin Society (SBS))  
Tom Rutherford (Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB))

### **9:00-9:20 am**

1. We are hosted on Cowichan Tribes continuously occupied, unceded territory
2. Appreciation to Fish Health staff and Freshwater Fisheries Society for the use of their meeting room and for providing Zoom access.
3. Attendance list to be sent around. Regrets to be included.
4. Appreciation for help for the day.
5. Review of notes. Thanks to Katie for taking notes at the last meeting.
6. Website. Thanks to Sarah Mullock for keeping this updated. Shaw customers continue to bounce if there is an attachment. Go Daddy website, paid out on Sarah's CC. Genevieve has reimbursed her \$33.01. The Zoom bill renewed automatically on Genevieve's CC. \$240.69. Total of \$273.70 owed to Genevieve. DFO is looking into covering this as they have in the past. Cowichan Land Trust (CLT) will be taking on our website, under their host, this is wonderful news. A bonus is that this will be less work for Sarah. Huy tseep q'u (thank you to more than one person in Hul'q'umi'num') to Stephanie and the Board of the CLT for this collaboration.
7. Reminder to add to Cowichan Watershed Restoration spread sheet, this is a document that is not complete, is focused on the last 10 years (not further

back) to assist with grant applications, etc.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1AkhytJk6QzNgTP5GF778Ok3YfR0DB19JYRe7VT1030>.

8. Letter from BC Parks – Proposed Park additions bought directly adjacent to the Cowichan River. Helps by protecting riparian areas.  
Joe spoke regarding the proposed expansion of park from BC Parks, he said that any addition to the park is a good thing. It is suggested that there be no development by BC Parks on this land. A letter needs to be written back.
9. Additions to agenda?

### **9:20-10:40 Round the Table**

Please update us on your activities. Everyone introduces themselves with name and affiliation (it is not necessary to have one) and provides an update of watershed related activities, if they wish. Please remember to be kind and respectful, negativity about other Roundtable members will not be tolerated. We are here to share information.

**Everyone is welcome at our meetings.**

### **Genevieve Singleton (CSRT)**

- Big thanks to Krista and Sunny with DFO. Genevieve will be receiving funding to facilitate a lamprey program to all the students at Paulson Elementary on March 12 and 13.
- Bringing the ongoing concern of Shaw Creek forward, this is an incredibly important watershed.
- Posted today's meeting on the CSRT Facebook page, will try to continue to do this.
- Need speakers for May and June CSRT meetings.

### **Katie Mosewich (CVRD)**

- The CVRD has hired PCIC (Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium) to update the regional climate projections to incorporate the latest global climate models. PCIC will produce downscaled climate projections for Cowichan. These projections are intended to aid planning for future growth in the region by providing projections on future climate conditions, including anticipated changes to temperature and precipitation patterns across the region. The report includes projections for a wide range of climate parameters, looking at anticipated conditions in the 2050's and 2080's. The final section of the report includes a discussion of the impact of these projections. The information is relevant for staff involved in areas such as planning for future development (e.g., infrastructure requirements, water supply) and disaster mitigation (e.g., drought,

flooding, extreme heat). Once PCIC is done, we plan to do workshops across the region to spread the information. The report is anticipated to be completed early April.

- We are also in the process of developing a water conservation rebate and incentive program. To help inform the design of the program, we have created a survey on PlanYourCowichan for folks to share their feedback. The survey has been shared on social media, in the Citizen and Valley Voice as well as through some of our partners for broad engagement. It closes on March 6 at midnight. Link to survey: [www.planyourcowichan.ca/water-conservation-rebate-program](http://www.planyourcowichan.ca/water-conservation-rebate-program)

### **Joe Saysell (Friends of the Cowichan)**

- River is still high, but it is going down. The trout have started spawning.
- Fishing is occurring to catch and release these spawning fish; it is important to write about why we want this to be stopped.
- Worried about the trees at little beach that have orange paint on them. Will follow up.

### **Colleen Terlein (SMWS)**

- Time for staff to catch up with reports, ect.
- One of the biggest issues they have been facing has been vandalism. Most recently, there have been several nesting boxes that have been used for firewood. Looking for about \$200 in funding to replace nesting boxes.

### **Francis Guyver (Mosaic)**

- Koksilah government to government planning open house on March 11.
- Encouraging frank discussions, please reach out.
- Access refresh initiative looks to address issues that they are experiencing regarding access and recreation.
- Inviting folks to have a discussion about log exports.

### **Barry Hetschko (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre)**

- Introduced new Executive Director Moira.
- Two thirds of the way through the swan/goose count season. There are 6 counts left until the end of March.
- The percentage of juvenile birds is usually about 15% and this year they are pushing about 24%.

### **Moira Hauk (Cowichan Estuary Nature Centre)**

- New Executive Director while Sierra is off.
- Looking forward to welcome back the herons, keep an eye out for the heron cam.
- Partnering with CVRD Parks and Trails March 17 for park clean up.

- Salmon eggs have arrived, hosting roughly 100 coho.
- In partnership with sea change, they will be hosting 3 different school groups for tours and education opportunities.
- Launched a homeschool program on January 30, 10 homeschool children who will be attending on Fridays for a period of 6 weeks.
- Looking for 2 new board members. Hoping to have a couple people in place for May 21 5:30 pm AGM at the centre.
- Keep an eye out for an announcement coming up for Low Tide Day celebration in May.
- The centre has spaces for rent for a wide variety of uses.

### **Parker Jefferson (CSRT)**

- It is shaping up to be a pretty scary year for the watershed with very little snowpack. We could be in a serious drought condition. OneCowichan will be doing various outreach to keep residents informed about the conditions in the watershed. Going to be proposing solutions that can mitigate some of the effects of climate change, including issues regarding logging and forestry.

### **Henry James (Cowichan Tribes)**

- This winter, they are wrapping up the Pinniped monitoring program which will be concluded by the end of March. Once they have the assessment, which hopefully finds a simple and effective monitoring method, they will look to potentially pick this up again.
- They are working with Sea Change, who is in the process of doing some biodiversity, eelgrass and debris assessments at Kilpahlus, and Genoa Bay. They will also be doing debris removal.
- Starting in April, they will pick up Green Crab monitoring again. So far nothing has been detected.
- They recently received \$20,000 from the Isaak Olaam Foundation to help continue our root camps in the estuary later this year

### **Krista Gooderham (DFO)**

- Still waiting on further direction on budget, don't have a timeline at this point.
- Krista will reach out to get an update on fishing in the upper river in the winter that is dragging anchors over the redds.

### **Todd Carnahan (EMC)**

- Community outreach specialist for 30 years. Here to talk about the FireSmart program today with colleague Cole.

### **Cole Wiltsie**

- Working for EMC with the FireSmart program.

### **Karen Deck (Area I Director, CVRD)**

- Just came out of Budget time at the CVRD.
- Funding for the Parks Acquisition Fund was retained from the previous year. This fund is important to save help natural spaces.

### **Jim Deck (CLRSS)**

- Looking to get funding from CVRD for yellow flag iris project and milfoil project. Has a professional coming in to show how to eliminate these invasive species. Once they have the knowledge, they will go around the lake to eliminate those invasives as much as possible.
- Street to Stream litter pick up was successful last year. Getting together to plan this year's event for some time in early October. Will be held at Saywell Park where they will be able to have Weir tours at the same time. Will also have some booths and activities for children.

### **10:40 – 11 Break**

### **11-12: Todd Carnahan, Firesmart EMC, presented a most interesting talk on How our Community is Preparing for Wildfire**

Learn more at <https://cvrld.ca/services/fire-services/fire-smart/> Please note that this programme does not include NC. Phone NC office and ask to be added to a list for follow up visit.

**12 noon:** Meeting finishes

### **Next speakers:**

Tuesday, March 17 Kevin Pellett, DFO Chinook update

Tuesday, April 21 Francis Guyver and David Beleznyay, update from Mosaic

May and June TBA

Tuesday, July 21, Field day and picnic at Stoltz Pool, Cowichan River Prov Park

Aug no meeting

Sunday, Sept. 20 Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day)