CLRSS Board Meeting Minutes - Monday, July 5th, 2021

Rotating chair: Ken Traynor In attendance - Board Members: Jean Atkinson, Judy Brayden, Chantelle Carden, Rosemary Danaher, Jim Deck, Diana Gunderson, Rodger Hunter, Lyndon Keeping, Ken Traynor. Members: Lois Atchison, Karen Deck, Parker Jefferson, Mike Patrick, Carrol Patrick, Joe Saysell, and Maureen Quested Guests: Cowichan Watershed Board Executive Director, Tom Rutherford, Absent with regrets: Genevieve Singleton, Bee Greenway, Elodie Roger, Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu, CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison and Board
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E Director Jan Marrison and Roard
members, Rick Bryan and Dave
DePape.
We acknowledge that we are
meeting on the traditional territories of
the Ts'uubaa-asatx, Ditidaht and
Quw'utsun First Nations. We hope that
our work together here today will
make a positive contribution to our
shared future in this valley.
The Fourfold Way reviewed:
respect each other by having
just one speaker at a time
expect people to speak from
the heart with passion
expect people to show up to
solve problems and
expect people to speak
without blame.
FYI only Our Strategic Plan (See
Appendix 1 below)
Motion to accept the agenda as Moved and seconded by Diana Gunderson/Lyndon Keeping CARRIED
amended.
Motion to accept minutes of June 14th, Moved and seconded by Judy Brayden and Diana Gunderson.
2021. CARRIED
Treasurer's report: Lyndon Keeping Acceptance moved and seconded by Lyndon Keeping and Judy
(See Appendix 2 below) Brayden CARRIED
Summary from Town of Lake Major concerns were raised about the formation of a third tubing
Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu enterprise on the upper river and its offer of an extended river tube flo
(See Appendix 4 below) service of 5 km (taking 2 – 2.5 hrs.). This proposed route passes through

	the stretch known as the 'rock garden'. This can be a dangerous area and concern about public safety was expressed. Because the company plans to use a portion of the Cowichan River Provincial Park as the pullout point, Joe Saysell and Ken Traynor have agreed to contact the Provincial Parks department to ascertain if there has been a park use permit granted to this company. There are three major concerns: park use and liability, public safety and harm to the
	fish resource.
Guest remarks from CVRD Area F Director, Ian Morrison. (see Appendix 6 below)	
Correspondence: Included below in agenda items plus attached reports on herbicide use in Canada.	RMS Ken Traynor /Diana Gunderson that CLRSS submit a letter of support to Joe Saysell's letter to Minister Conroy. CARRIED
Joe Saysell's letter to Minster Conroy, FLNROD (Appendix 3 below).	Note: The Cowichan Watershed Board is seeking further information, in order to support this initiative. A representative of the Provincial Fisheries Ministry will be speaking at the next meeting of the Cowichan Watershed Board meeting.
Business Arising from the Minutes and Written Reports:	
1. Update on the BoD insurance	1. No update at this time.
2. RCU 2021 Summary remarks –	2. Lyndon Keeping reported that all of our requests of the Tube Shack regarding the September 12 th , Annual River Clean-up were agreed to with the exception of the request for the TS to pay for the printing of the event posters. Erika asked that they split that cost with us. The Board agreed.
	Lyndon will clarify if the TS had any intention of asking for cash donations to the event. He has also sent in a request for the use of Saywell Park. The Board agreed that a "Stewardship Zone" was worth investigating and Judy Brayden and Chantelle Carden will lead that effort. Chantelle suggested that our Strategic Plan goals should be part of this information.
3. Status of the Riparian information signs being replaced in Saywell Park –	3. Parker Jefferson reported that the signs are ready to be installed by the Town crew.
4. Update on Camp Imadene – Ken Traynor	4. NIL
5. CLRSS contribution to the annual River's Day event, September 25, 2021.	5. This item will be on the August meeting agenda.
6. Draft letter to the editor	 Ken Traynor provided a draft (see Appendix 5 below); he will send Draft 2 to the members asap.
Leads conversation and updates as needed:	

- a. Gerald Thom Memorial Native Plant Garden
- a. All visitors to the garden felt that it is in good shape. It is unknown whether or not the ToLC is watering it regularly. Lois Atchison took pictures of high bush cranberry in order to ascertain if it is a native species. The ToLC has been trimming along the pathway.
- b. Social and Retail Sales
- b. Rosemary Danaher reported that no social cards were sent this month; CLRSS gifted 2 t-shirts (sum of \$24). Gifts for two months totaled \$55.
- c. Monthly Meetings rotating chair
- c. Chantelle Carden has agreed to take this role for August.

d. Membership

d. Maureen Quested reported that CLRSS has 52 members at this time.

e. Fundraising

e. Maureen Quested reported that she has Thrifty's cards in several denominations. She reminded us that they are cash only. She reminded us about the \$20.00 tickets to the July 25th bar-b-que and fundraising event.

f. Decibel Coalition

f. Diana Gunderson reported that the June 29th Zoom Conference included representatives from most member associations.

Members include 36 Lake Associations, 3 related resident associations and 8 municipalities.

The topic of boat motor "Noise Emissions" is on the agenda of the third CMAC official Transport Canada public meeting (TC is listening and willing to engage to update the regulations if they are convinced of the need).

Plan to present a loud and consistent message that the problem is Canada wide and that regulations need to be enhanced and include performance standards (include decibel limits) that are easily measured with efficient and effective enforcement procedures.

Plan includes: producing and promoting a petition (with comments) that will be launched in mid-July; a letter writing campaign (samples to come); a video production with passing boats and decibel readings; meeting with MP's.

Further: The CVRD is now a member of the Decibel Coalition; Transport Canada is listening to comments and has indicated that they are willing to update the regulations if that is warranted.

g. NIL report

g. Youth Engagement

- Our Watersheds Through the Lens of Art - Viewing Ecosystems Creatively
- h. Judy Brayden reported that the involvement to date has been low; Ken Traynor commented that he would try to encourage more participation in the photographic portion of the work (Watershed Art | Cowichan Lake & Rive (cowichan-lake-stewards.ca)

i.	Water	Monitoring
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i. Bee Greenway reported that in June her crew we did 4 outings and accumulated 14 hrs. of volunteer time: Sandy Cummings and Julie Tutte – 6 hrs. each, Hugh and Diann Sutherland – 3 hrs. each, Bee Greenway and Dave DePape – 3 hrs. each.

Plus. she did some teaching in the form of taking non-member out in boats. These were Sandy's grandson Aiden – 1.5 hrs., and Angela and Barry MacDonald – 3 hrs. each.

Further, she and her crew are looking forward to this Friday at noon, when Dean Peard of the Water Quality Section of BC Min. Environment is coming to her home, to review charts & techniques, and share with the crew some new tools for doing the lake monitoring. If anyone else is interested, they are most welcome to join us at 9814 Miracle Way, Youbou, BC

i. Newsletter

j. Chantelle Carden reported that the newsletter was coming on Friday. She awaits input.

j. CSSP

j. Jean Atkinson reported a first slate of properties identified for restoration; they will begin with the forestry research station; at some point the program will require volunteers; we agreed to gift the student workers with t-shirts. Rosemary Danaher will proceed as able.

k. Fry salvage

- k. Parker Jefferson reported that fry salvages has been success and Joe Saysell felt that 96% of the upper river is complete for this season. updated; written report needed, were given 3 extra days to reach less accessible areas. Upper river 96% completed. Get names of volunteers from Parker.
- I. Gerald Thom Environmental Studies Bursary
- I. NIL report.

New Business:

- 1. Weir design Online report meeting July 8th, 2021 6:00 p.m.
- 1. Invitation to the July 8 Project Update. Please join the project team for a live presentation on July 8, 2021.

Presentation: 6 to 7 PM: Q&A: 7 to 8 PM

Online public link:

https://cowichanvalleyrd.webex.com/cowichanvalleyrd/onstage/g.php?MTID=e24e847574454c7a1c97257000a70e5b5https://cowichanvalleyrd/onstage/g.php?MTID=e24e847574454c7a1c97257000a70e5b5

Call-in number: 1-844-992-4726 Call-in access code: 187 684 4800

We will answer questions during the live presentation on July 8, 2021

2. Upcoming shoreline assessment discussion: compensation to landowners – Ken Traynor

2. Ken Traynor reported that the Shoreline Assessment work is underway and the final report will be published in in March of 2022. See Leroy's

	Corner on the Cowichan Weir website. If you have questions, you can log in now and record your questions. The next step: to identify what would be considered a significant (compensational) impact on individual properties with the increased water storage.
3. Mosaic Forest Company harvest on Youbou's Holmes Mountain	3. Jim and Karen Deck reported that Mosaic will be making four 'gentle cut blocks' on the North Shore Mountains in the very near future; they have videotaped where past logging left inadequate riparian setbacks. Of serious concern are the many watercourses in the area; likely water licence holders on Meade Creek end of mountains will be affected. The cut is designed in 5 - 6 hectare pieces for a total of 29 hectares. It was the consensus of the meeting that a new forestry policy needs to address this; road construction begins this summer. When asked if CLRSS could take some sort of action in support of 'Save our Holmes'. Nothing was proposed at this time.
4. Governance idea	4. Judy Brayden suggested that CLRSS may be best served by a different decision-making process, using a 'consensus model', Tom Rutherford has sent Judy the policy of consensus decision making that is used by the Cowichan Watershed Board (see Appendix 6 below). Referred to a future meeting for discussion.
Stewardship Community Reports:	
1. Cowichan Watershed Board	1. Further: the recent heat wave has left the river at 23 degrees already this early in the summer, the CWB is seeking resources in order to map water temperature in Cowichan River, in an attempt to identify cold water seepage locations along the river; they are looking for resources for thermal modelling which could be used to justify the addition of a cold water intake project through the weir in the future.
2. Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable	2. Jim Deck reported on the recent meeting. Items of note: The Bring Back the Bluebird group has reported no bluebirds have returned this year. They are investigating why. There are concerns for Mt Tzouhalem's ecosystem due to recent developments. The Municipality of North Cowichan is concerned about species and ecosystem collapse along with climate change. MLA Sonia Furstenau has raised concerns over riparian area infractions and old growth logging. The chinook and coho numbers were good in the Cowichan River in 2020. The BCCF has begun sunscreen sampling in the watershed.
Motion to Adjourn at 8:49 p.m.	Motion to adjourn by Rosemary Danaher
Important Upcoming Dates: July 8, 2021 – Cowichan Weir Project Update (6:00 – 7:00 w questions to follow). See info in New Business 1 above July 15, 2021 - CSRT Annual Field Day at Stoltz Pool Provincial Park (9:30 – 2:00 p.m.) July 25, 2021 – 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Bar-b-que and silent auction - August 9, 2021 - regular meeting of the Board	

August 27, 2021 - Opening of the
Watershed – Through the Lens of Art
show at the CVAC Gallery, 2687
James Street, Duncan
September 12, 2021 – Annual CLRSS
RCU
September 13, 2021 – regular Board
meeting
September 25, 2021 – Heritage Rivers'
Day

Appendix 1: Strategic Planning Outcomes 2020

1. Increase awareness of and support for building the new weir	2. Increase Youth Engagement
 Increase public support Increase community understanding of new weir benefits Increase public awareness of how climate change is driving the need for a new weir 	Goals Increase youth membership Re-establish Lake Studies program Collaborate with other valley youth programs Establish youth roundtable
3. Protect Lake Shore Lands	
 Goals Protect critical undeveloped shoreline and tributary habitat Promote protection for Shaw Creek watershed Expand shoreline riparian habitat restoration work to tributary creeks 	

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

June 2021 Treasurer's Report				
	CASH in Bank	Cheques/Transfers	Available Cash	
CLRSS General Account	10,823.10	0.00	10,823.10	
to be deposited	0.00			
Salmon fry rescue funds			1,934.21	
Total Cash A	\$8,888.89			
Bursary Account Total			\$6,019.36	
Comments:				
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CLRSS	2021/202	2 Financ	ial Report Budget to Actual - 30/06/	2021	
Povon			Expenditures		
Revenue Category Budget Actual		Category	Budget	Actual	
Total Revenue	4500	994.20	Total Expenditures	4,500.00	358.18
Memberships	1400	780.00	Signs	0	0
Donations	2000	10.00	Accounting	100	0
Sales	300	0.00	BCLSS	50	50
Fundraising	800	204.20	Society Fees	250	0
Interest	0	0	Printing Costs	400	0
			Purchase for Sales	100	0
			Gifted Apparel	100	0
			Insurance	0	0
			Bank Charges	100	4
			Office Expenses	200	0
			Courses & Mtgs	0	0
			CSSP Activities	0	0
			River CU	0	0
			Fundraising Expenses	100	0
			Misc. other	500	34.45
			Transfers to Bursary Fund	500	58.05
			Fry Rescue	300	0
			Landowner Education	500	0
			GT Memorial Garden	400	0
			Website Update	100	0
			Watershed Art Project	800	211.68

Appendix 3: Letter to the Minister Conroy, FLNROD

Joe Saysell Friends of the Cowichan Box 169 Lake Cowichan, B.C. VOR 2G0

May 8, 2021

Hon. Katrine Conroy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development Room 248, Parliament Buildings Victoria, B.C. V8V I4X

Dear Minister:

Another year has come and gone since I last wrote to the ministry on the subject of the Cowichan River's fish stocks and the issue of the upper Cowichan River being open for angling during spawning time --- December, January, February and March. The amount of pressure, especially from guiding on the section of the river from Greendale trestle downstream to the 70.2-mile trestle during December, January, February and March is greater than I have ever seen in all the 72 years that I have lived on the upper river.

We all know that the upper river from the 70.2-mile trestle upstream to the weir is where the vast majority of the chinooks spawn. It is also where a large percent of the coho and steelhead spawn. And we also know that this area is where 95 percent of the rainbow trout spawn. This area is one continual spawning redd at this particular time, mainly because of the stability of the upper river and also because of the particular gravel sizes. In other words, it is ideal spawning habitat and is considered by many to be the "delivery room" and "nursery room" of the Cowichan River. Yet it is open for angling during the fall, winter and early spring, when fish are very vulnerable during spawning.

One has to ask: just how much damage to the redds are all the anglers doing by wading or anchoring on this fragile area, or how much harm is being done to fish that are in spawning mode (dark and laden with eggs)? We cannot say, because there have not been any studies done on this subject. They are physically impossible to do because of the higher winter flows. Plus, most of the rainbow trout migrate back to the lake in spring, when the water drops, thus making accurate counts impossible.

In the past, anglers were considered conservationists as they did everything possible to protect fish, especially spawners. But today, that term does not describe the anglers who are fishing this area during December, January, February and March, because real conservationists do not fish in spawning areas or over dark spawning fish. It is unethical to do so, yet this is exactly what is happening today in this section during those months.

One also has to question what fly fishing actually is, since they are using extremely heavy lines, sinking leaders and extremely heavily weighted flies, which actually makes this angling bottom bouncing. The regulation of fly fishing was actually first brought in, in 1975 to stop bottom bouncing of gear fishing to protect fish populations, as the stocks had basically collapsed. Please remember that it is the weight that is getting the line (fly) down to where the fish are, and this is causing the damage.

Technology has come so far today, with the new weighted lines and new weights for flies, that the method of fishing in the fall and winter in this area can no longer be described as fly fishing. The regulations and ministry are way behind the times and need to catch up.

The only way to justify having this area open is to have this critical spawning section under a floating-line, no-weightedfly regulation, plus a daily catch-and-release quota of one steelhead and four trout for the time from December through March. This would cause an enforcement problem as we do not ever have enough conservation officer presence now.

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Also, while this regulation might prevent damage to spawning fish being hooked during this vulnerable time of their lives, this will still not address the damage caused to eggs in the gravel by wading and anchoring. These eggs of salmon, steelhead and trout are our future generations of fish, so we must protect them to the fullest. Thus, the only solution is to close this section for the vulnerable months of December, January, February and March from the 70.2-mile trestle to the weir, as it was pre-1988. If the regulation protected fish pre-1988, it will protect fish now.

Especially since we do not have the science to justify keeping this area open during these four critical months, we believe that the ministry should close it till it is scientifically proven that no harm is being done to the fish and redds during this time frame. In other words, err on the side of caution and conservation rather than angler opportunity.

Please remember that all rivers need a sanctuary section for spawning and an undisturbed area for incubation of eggs and alevins. After all, when one looks at the fishing regulations synopsis, most rivers in other regions of the province are closed after a certain date or have spawning areas closed to protect spawning fish. Why not the Cowichan? Is closing four out of 32 miles, leaving 88 percent of the river open for angling during the winter time, that much of an imposition on anglers? We do not think so and believe that most anglers and conservationists would agree with us.

We urge you to enact the right ethical and biological regulations which will protect our fish for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Saysell

cc. Sonia Furstenau, MLA
Alistair MacGregor, MP.
Cowichan Watershed Board
Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable
B.C. Federation of Fly Fishers

Appendix 4: Report from Town of Lake Cowichan Councillor, Kristine Sandhu

Hi everyone

Hope you having a fabulous in person barbecue (2) This is a brief report:

The Visitor Centre is open Thursday-Tuesday 10-6pm. The staff there along with management have been chatting with visitors who are tubing/other activities have been directed to where their is free parking if staying longer than 2 hours. Some visitors appreciate this while others don't care that they will receive a \$50 ticket on their windshield when they come back to their vehicle. Staff has given out a good number of violation tickets not just on the weekend, but weekdays also. This is just the second week that it's being implemented so we shall see.

The town didn't receive the grant that we applied for towards to the town office renovation, and since we couldn't start the project during the grant application process we now are getting going on it. Last week a couple more test holes that was required has been completed.

A lot of activity on the river this weekend. I was at a friends house on Saturday and was truly shocked by how much tubers. It gives you a different view when you are actually on the river shore. My concern is the garbage and drinks being dumped as I witnessed that and actually yelled at this person to pick up his garbage and please don't do that again.

I've read that a second tubing company is setting up at the Riverside 'Orka', and the Tube Shack is opening another location beside the Cow Cafe. The name is Cowabunga Tubes, they have stated on their Facebook page that their in-point for the river trip is the stairs at Central Park going down to the river, and the Duck Pond.

This has been brought to our staffs attention, but if the CLRSS has any concerns can you reach out or PWS (Jas 250-701-3858).

Have a great evening I wish I was there.

Kristine

Appendix 5: Draft letter the Editor from CLRSS Chair, Ken Traynor (July 2021)

A Cautionary Tale

Every year shoreline properties on Cowichan Lake change hands bringing new residents to the Lake. For example, 7 properties were sold in the Youbou area over the last year and xx in the Honeymoon Bay area according to MLS statistics. Many of these folks may not be aware that our foreshore areas are governed by a number of specific regulations focused on protecting vegetation from removal within 30 m of the high water mark. Along with the beautiful views and privileged access to cooling waters comes a responsibility to protect the shoreline areas of their new property as well.

The Problem

Shoreline habitat is seriously threatened by recreation, residential development, and upland land use practices across BC. Cowichan Lake is no different. Data clearly shows that we are continuously losing this critical habitat as it experiences serious degradation due to cumulative impacts.

Lake shores, stream shores and wetlands form transitional ecological boundaries between aquatic and terrestrial habitats. These transitional areas are important for fish and wildlife species, since they provide the benefits of ecologically diverse habitats in close proximity to each other. They are important for reproduction, feeding, resting and protection from the elements and predators. Vegetated foreshores also help to protect water quality and reduce erosion arising from heavy rainfall and wave action.

A Cautionary Example

A beautiful property in Youbou changed hands this winter. The foreshore had recently been restored with a mix of local upland native plants and submergent species that thrive despite annual high water events. It also included a well designed dock which spanned the foreshore and was anchored above the high water mark. The restoration was doing well and had been included as part of a tour in 2019 focused on educating local real estate agents about the importance of riparian areas and the responsibilities of shoreline property owners.

Then early this spring a neighbour noticed a bobcat working on the beach below the high water line clearing the shoreline of plants and adding sand to the beach right down to the watersedge, something not allowed under the Riparian Regulations. The authorities were notified using the Provincial R.A.P.P. line and the CVRD Bylaw enforcement office and the Department of Fisheries investigated the situation. In the end the homeowner ended up paying twice. Once when they paid to clear the beach and add the sand and then again when they were required to restore the shoreline vegetation under the supervision of a registered environmental consultant.

It is important that everyone takes responsibility to protect our shared lake environment.

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[possible place to split into two articles]

The Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society has been working for years to engage our community and change attitudes regarding the value of riparian areas. We are aiming to promote a cultural shift from cutting and clearing to protection and restoration of shoreline riparian areas. The aim is not to discourage recreation usage but to demonstrate how natural ecological functions and human activities can co-exist.

A few Facts

- 92% of the Cowichan Lake shoreline (including forest land) is privately owned. Owners of ecologically important habitats are responsible to preserve publicly owned resources -- the fish and the water -- now and for future generations.
- 70% of the shoreline of Cowichan Lake is still in an undisturbed state and needs protection. This land and vegetation adjacent to watercourses the riparian zone) is essential for water quality, fish stocks and wildlife, as well as flood and erosion control.
- The shoreline of Cowichan Lake is a nursery for up to 300,000 wild coho salmon annually. It also contains self-sustaining populations of cutthroat, rainbow, dolly varden & kokanee.

What Can We Do?

- 1. Leave our riparian areas intact. -- Prevention is easier than restoration.
- 2. Minimize impact when accessing the water. -- Use only one point of access, build fish-friendly docks, frame views and use gravel pathways.
- 3. Restore damaged riparian areas. -- Let natural re-vegetation take its course or re-establish native plants.
- 4. Respect riparian area regulations (RAR) and avoid fines. -- Leave riparian areas intact for erosion control, water quality, habitat protection, coho production and flood prevention.

Check out our website at clrss.ca for more ideas and information. Send us an email at clrss.information@gmail.com and we will be happy to get in touch. We can offer access to useful resources, referrals to local shoreline residents who have restored their waterfronts and will work with you like we have with owners from around the lake over the years.

Appendix 6: Decision-making Protocol for the Cowichan Watershed Board

CWB Policy 3.3.3 Decision-making:

The Board will use "general consensus" decision making to move forward efficiently in meetings. In consensus, the whole group examines the problem, discusses possible solutions and then works together to develop a solution which everyone can support. A motion, a second, and, as required, discussion, will take place before calls for a response on the motion. In keeping with the Principle of Nutsamat (Section 2.3) and the Ground Rules for Members (Attachment 1) the Co-chairs and members will make their best effort to achieve full consensus at all times, with guidance drawn from the purpose, mandate and principles of the organization (Section 2).11

If full consensus is not reached, the co-Chairs will defer the matter for further discussion: a) at the following meeting; b) if a timely decision is required, to later in that same meeting or; c) the next available opportunity. Efforts will be made in the interim to discuss, review and revise the motion as appropriate to reach a solution that all members can support.

If members disagree with a motion, but wish to support the group to move forward, they may "stand aside" and allow consensus to proceed. In this case, the minutes will record the number of people who stood aside but mark the motion as "carried" by consensus.

If any member disagrees with a motion and does not stand aside, then consensus is not reached. At this point, the co-Chair may close the consensus process and put the motion to a vote. In a vote, the motion passes if it has the support of all those present minus up to two members.