

**Meeting Minutes**

**Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee**

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Thursday, June 29, 2023

2 PM

Regional Parks Headquarters  
490 Atkins Avenue  
Victoria BC V9B 2Z8

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**Present:** Tracey Moss, Regional Parks (Chair); Kyle Wiens, Transport Canada, Pat George, Haig Brown Fly Fishers; Aalbert Van Schothorst, Victoria Rowing Society; Mick Collins, Golden Rods and Reels; Melanie Parrott, Swimming, Stuart Walsh, Regional Parks; Rachael Ince, Regional Parks; Jeanette Mollin, Regional Parks (Recorder)

**Regrets:** Will Bennink, Transport Canada; Eden Hardcastle, Member of the Public; Sergeant Brad Brajcich, Saanich Police; Jim Cambridge, Member of the Public;

The meeting was called to order at 2pm

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

Chair Moss provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

**2. Welcome and Introduction**

A round table of introductions took place for the benefit of the new members.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**MOVED by A Van Schothorst, SECONDED by P George**  
That the agenda for the June 29, 2023 Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee be approved.

**CARRIED**

**4. Approval of Minutes – November 22, 2022**

**MOVED by M Parrott, SECONDED by A Van Schothorst**  
That the minutes of the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee of November 22, 2022 be adopted as circulated.

**CARRIED**

**5. Elk/Beaver Lake Oxygenation System Update**

S. Walsh provided the Committee with an update on the oxygenation system. He pointed out that the building construction is underway and the system should be operational by end of August. He showed the system site plan and explained where the building would be constructed at Hamsterly Beach and Eagle Beach. S. Walsh stated that they are working with Rowing Society on a location for a buoy and will work with Transport Canada to install the buoy. He pointed out that it is going to take time to see improvement on the water quality. M. Collins mentioned the water quality monitoring report and offered to send it along to the members. He also pointed out that the other issue is still the nutrients coming into the lake and ways of reducing the nutrients need to be investigated.

Chair Moss mentioned that a budget for lake monitoring has been tentatively approved by Board for 2024.

P. George wanted to know if there is past data on this type of equipment from other agencies. Chair Moss mentioned that this equipment has been tailored to this lake, that this is the first deployment in Canada and has been used in the United States. The other equipment that has been used were aerators and this system puts oxygen into the lake where the others did not.

## **6. Boater Safety Measures/Safety Marker Buoys**

A. Van Schothorst pointed out that there have been some concerns over near misses from rowing crafts in the lake. Maybe through education it could help, or the installation of no launch buoys was suggested. The approved placement of the buoys needs to be reviewed. The issue is a jurisdictional piece and the responsibility for buoys is not clear.

K. Weins to bring information on clear guidelines for the installation of buoys, maintenance of buoys and reinstallation of buoys and the ongoing responsibility of them.

It was pointed out that once the lake clears up the visitation to the park may increase and the buoy problem could become more serious.

Chair Moss will investigate the history and jurisdiction of the buoys.

The Rangers will continue to work with Transport Canada on boating safety.

## **7. New Business**

- a) **Fishing Pier** – M. Collins wanted to bring to the attention of the group the cost of the pier and who the contributors were. He stated that the installation of the pier was in September and that he recently received a report on the review of the dock, which he will forward to S. Walsh. He pointed out that the original person who got the ball rolling on the replacement of the pier was Dirk. He pointed out that in the original proposal there was money for signage and a suggestion for a first nations component. He mentioned that there should be some recognition at the site posted and was hoping a ceremony would also take place.

## **8. Adjournment**

**MOVED** by A Van Schothorst, **SECONDED** by M Collins

That the June 29, 2023 Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:05pm.

**CARRIED**