



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2020

MS Teams virtual call

Present: Katie Turner, Angela Hanes, Brad Proctor, George and Vicki Blogg, Bill Thomas, Yogi Carolsfield, Thomas Munson, Brianne Czypyha, Jacklyn Barrs, Rick Daykin, Jen Tyler, Mick Collins, Lindsey McCrank

Guests: None

DECISIONS			
Next Meeting: July 15, 2020			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Report back on the status of the dock expansion at Banfield Park	Brianne	done
2	Send info about Natural Assets to Angela Hanes	Jacklyn	done
3	Circulate contact information for World Oceans Week	Lindsey	done

INFORMATION

Review of outstanding action items from January 2020 meeting:

Transport Canada Reports: Lindsey reported that the TC reports containing survey data re: sediment contaminants in shoreline properties (provided by John Roe, Dead Boats Society) are available to borrow from the CRD Harbours and Watershed library.

Harbours Speaker Series: Barri Rudolph is preparing a virtual presentation of stormwater monitoring results for a future GWI meeting, likely September 2020.

Johnson St bridge lighting: Brianne stated that no special lighting is put up on the bridge specifically for Christmas, and that the City of Victoria is limited in its ability to change/dim the lights.

508 Selkirk: Brianne reported that there is currently no City of Victoria budget or maintenance plan for this property. However, there may be an opportunity for input during upcoming budget consultations.

Q: What is the status of the dock expansion at Banfield Park?

ACTION: Brianne will follow-up.

Partner Introductions and Updates

New Members:

Jen Tyler (Harbours and Watershed Coordinator) and Lindsey McCrank (Assistant Harbours and Watershed Coordinator) introduced themselves. They are both joined the CRD in April 2020.

Katie Turner (Saanich Park Stewardship Coordinator) is also new to her position and will be joining the GWI committee.

Angela Hanes:

- The rally opposing the HandyDART facility on Craigflower Creek was postponed due to COVID 19.
- Angela has received a grant through the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund for lawyer services to better understand options regarding the facility
- A go fund me page has been created: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-craigflower-creek>
- A working group is in place with the goal of holding BC Transit to account with regard to ecological protection of Craigflower creek
- Angela is interested in exploring a Natural Assets approach to valuing the ecological services of Craigflower creek.
- **ACTION:** Jacklyn Barrs will send contact information to Angela about the MNAI program

Brad Proctor

- The Nature House is currently closed due to COVID 19 and the GWAS is thinking about how to operate in light of the pandemic
- 3 summer students have started (Environmental Biologist, interpreter and restoration specialist)
- The Environmental Biologist will be doing monitoring including water quality, temperature, sediment, bacteria, among other measures. The data will be available to anyone interested.

George Blogg

- PICSES is not currently holding meetings due to COVID 19
- A bird study is underway
- George expressed concern that his group is not getting updates about MOTI activities in Cuthbert Holmes Park and will follow up with Saanich Parks

Katie Turner

- Katie is new to her position as Saanich Parks Stewardship Coordinator. She oversees the Pulling Together and Parks Ambassador programs.

Thomas Munson

- Thomas Munson works with Saanich Environmental Services

Bill Thomas

- The Goldstream Hatchery is still operational, with fish needing to be clipped in September. Bill will look for volunteers at that point

- Only Bill and Bruce are currently working for Peninsula Streams. The Millstream Project is on, and the fish ladders will be completed this year.

Brianne Czypyha

- Peter Pollen Park/Laurel Point restoration: The City of Victoria is in concept plan phase, moving to detailed plan. They are considering a Green Shores approach but are not sure because of the existing riprap. They are treating the shoreline like a bluff environment and definitely want to build some sort of habitat enhancement into the plan.
- Songhees park is also getting close to a detail planning stage
- City of Victoria is looking for ways to continue having meetings and public engagement in spite of COVID 19

Jacklyn Barrs

- No fish embryos were found in recent forage fish monitoring efforts at Gorge Nature House.
- Jacklyn received a report from Telegraph Bay Park of people removing gravel from the foreshore. Thomas Munson from Saanich Environmental Services offered to assist. Jacklyn will send him photos.

Rick Daykin

- Rick reported on the recent work on Gorge Park Pavilion and Parking lot, a new space with rain garden solar panels, rainwater capture, and more. LEED certified.
- Close to finishing planning and design phase and will be going to tender soon. Anticipates construction starting in Sept 2020 for approx. 1 year.
- Esquimalt received \$40,000 funding for Gorge Creek estuary and beach restoration. Would like to remove riprap, make channels more fish friendly.

CRD Harbours Program and Coordinator Updates

Jen Tyler

- Jen is working towards issuing an RFP for an urban forest land classification project, which will be used for watershed mapping, monitoring canopy cover, measuring impervious surfaces, and more.
- She is also coordinating a harbours inventory mapping project, including ortho-photography to be taken during low tide windows in June or July.

Lindsey McCrank

- GWI will keep its original 2020 meeting schedule (July 15, Sept 16, November 18) and likely will hold all meetings virtually, using MS Teams. We hope to bring in speakers to present virtually.
- Lindsey would like to hear feedback about how the MS Teams meeting format can be improved so please contact her with suggestions.
- Jen and Lindsey would be open to holding small group gatherings/tours to share information or problem solve an issue. Please contact them with any ideas.
- World Oceans Week is June 7-14 and it will be held virtually this year. Organizers are looking for online education and activities. Lindsey will circulate the contact information if anyone wants to be involved.

ACTION: Lindsey to circulate World Oceans Week contact information.

- The City of Colwood has developed a survey about the future of Ocean Boulevard/Esquimalt Lagoon. It is open until June 15. Everyone is encouraged to fill out the survey to provide input on what you value about

this area and your thoughts on the potential closure of Ocean Boulevard. (Survey was emailed by Lindsey prior to the meeting)

- Lori Beaulieu from BC Transit is planning to attend the July GWI meeting to discuss the HandyDART project. Her presentation this month was delayed due to COVID 19. Lindsey provided a link to the BC Transit website for the latest information on this development. Angela Hanes plans to circulate a condensed version of the project background to GWI members before the July meeting.

Adjournment: 8:15 pm