



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, July 28, 2020
MS Teams

Present: Ken Morgan, Tami Kempton, Thelma Wright, Ian Bourhill, Maria Bremner, Wayne Crossland, Vicki Metcalfe, Erin Roberts, Jen Tyler, Lindsey McCrank

Guests: Justin Ziola (Environment Canada), Graham Sorenson (Birds Canada)

ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Circulate information about a September Broom Pull/Shoreline clean-up to ELSI volunteers	Lindsey McCrank	ASAP
2	Circulate Bird Canada's contact information and volunteer request	Lindsey McCrank	ASAP
3	Circulate a map of the MBS boundary to the committee.	Lindsey McCrank/Erin Roberts	ASAP
4	Circulate CWS's contact information and request for volunteers	Lindsey McCrank	ASAP
5	Erin Roberts will contact Iain Bourhill with a description of the CWS Migratory Birds and Dog Use research program for Colwood Council	Erin Roberts	ASAP

Next Meeting: October 27, 2020

INFORMATION

Review of Outstanding Action Items from January 21, 2020 meeting:

Outstanding Action	Decision
Create an InfoSheet about rollover events at the lagoon, what it looks like, what it is, why it happens (carried over from October 2019 meeting)	The group decided to put this item on hold due to lack of context or clarity about its purpose. It may be revisited at a future date if required.

<p>Follow up RE Pit House Park volunteers, groups to contact Colwood staff to express their interest</p>	<p>Following February and March meetings (with Colwood staff), activities at Pit House Park have been delayed due to COVID 19. If people are still interested in working to restore the site, please contact Judy Nault.</p>
--	--

CRD Harbours and Watersheds Update

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

Jen Tyler

- Imagery for a high-resolution, low tide orthophoto planned was flown during the July low tide window. The imagery will be used for the update of the Harbours Ecological Inventory. The RFP for the updated inventory is planned to be issued in the fall.
- Working on an RFP for a land cover classification project using 2019 orthophoto imagery.
- A shared contractor has been hired for invasive plant removal across the CRD.
- An Alert Sheet has been developed for yellow flag iris.

Lindsey McCrank

- ELSI meetings will remain virtual for the foreseeable future due to COVID 19. We will continue to use MS Teams. The final meeting of 2020 will be on October 27.
- Over the next few months Lindsey will circulate a survey to learn from ELSI members about opportunities for improvement related to ELSI's structure, function and purpose.
- Lindsey represents ELSI on the Greater Victoria Naturehood program which aims to connect people with local nature. She will promote the lagoon through the Naturehood map which is currently under construction.
- European Green Crab volunteer monitoring is on hold for the time being due to COVID 19. Lindsey will let members know when DFO is able to resume monitoring activities. Colwood has agreed to place two signs along the lagoon to alert people of the EGC.
- Lindsey will schedule a Broom pull/Shoreline clean-up during the month of September and will be sending out details soon. Other ideas about ways for ELSI volunteers to connect and get together outdoors are welcome (e.g. workbees, tours) so please contact Lindsey with suggestions.

Action: Lindsey to circulate information about a September Broom Pull/Shoreline clean-up to ELSI volunteers

Presentation: Esquimalt Lagoon Coastal Waterbird Surveys: Graham Sorenson, Birds Canada

- Graham discussed results from recent bird surveys at the lagoon. Several species of birds increased in abundance during the time of the Ocean Boulevard road closure. See attached presentation for more details.
- Birds Canada wants to continue bird surveys along the lagoon to better understand these trends and is seeking volunteers.

Action: Lindsey to circulate Bird Canada's contact information and volunteer request

Presentation: Enforcement within the MBS: Justin Ziola, Wildlife Officer, Environment and Climate Change Canada

- Justin Ziola discussed his role as a Wildlife Officer with Environment and Climate Change Canada in terms of enforcing regulations related to the Migratory Bird Sanctuary. He invites members of the public to contact his group with concerns related to the MBS that relate to:
 - Dogs at large in the MBS boundary
 - Birds being chased by dogs/cats
 - Direct harm to birds (injury/death)
 - Hunting or harassment of migratory birds.
 - Disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests
- If you have any of the above concerns, the Wildlife Enforcement Directorate can be reached via the Environment Canada Enforcement Response Line: 1-888-569-5656.
- Justin also discussed the boundary of the MBS, which includes the lagoon, the ring of land 300 feet inland of the lagoon, and Cobourg Peninsula up to the high water mark.

Action: Lindsey will circulate a map of the MBS boundary to the committee.

Partner Updates

Erin Roberts, CWS

- CWS has contracted a local consultant to research Migratory Birds and Dog Use within MBSs
- The consultant will conduct a comprehensive literature review of available information pertaining to migratory birds and known instances of at-large dogs within key study areas of the Victoria Harbour, Shoal Harbour and Esquimalt Lagoon MBSs.
- The consultant will prepare a training document describing a methodology to assess impacts of at-large dogs on migratory birds in key areas within the MBSs
- Erin is seeking volunteers to form a working group to provide information to the consultant
- Iain Bourhill asked that Erin share information about this project with Colwood Council

Action: Lindsey will circulate Erin's contact information and request for volunteers

Action: Erin Roberts will contact Iain Bourhill with a description of the CWS Migratory Birds and Dog Use research program for Colwood Council

Iain Bourhill, City of Colwood

- Colwood is in the procurement stage for a 2021 project for public realm improvements along the waterfront (between Ocean Blvd. bridge and Royal Bay)
- Iain hopes to present a work plan by next meeting

Maria Bremner, Royal Roads

- Royal Roads will be refreshing its Sustainability/Climate Action Plan and will be looking for input from ELSI

Ken Morgan

- No update

Tami Kempton

- Tami expressed concern about members of the public feeding birds and asked for clarification about whether this is legal within the MBS
- Answer: It is only illegal if an ornithologist deems it is harmful to a bird. The best approach is likely public education and not enforcement using MBS regulations.

Vicki Metcalfe, VNHS

- VNHS has resumed excursions that had been cancelled due to COVID 19
- VNHS is promoting a ban on rodenticides, which can harm owls

Wayne Crossland

- Wayne works for Parks Canada at Fort Rodd Hill in an ecological management role. For the next 6-8 months he will be considering issues such as invasive species and fire management and may be contacting ELSI partners.

Adjournment: 3:45 pm