



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, October 27, 2020
3:00-4:00 pm, MS Teams

Present: Ken Morgan, Judith Cullington, Beverley de Vries, Jen Tyler, Lindsey McCrank, Wayne Crossland, Rod Huszar, Vicki Metcalfe,
Guests: Ian McVitty, Bee Creek Fish Monitoring, and Barri Rudolph, CRD

ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Lindsey will circulate the CWS survey about dogs in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries	Lindsey	ASAP
2	Lindsey will circulate the City of Colwood Parks and Recreation Management survey link to all ELSI volunteers	Lindsey	ASAP
3	Lindsey will get Ian McVitty more ELSI hats for Bee Creek volunteers	Lindsey	ASAP

Next Meeting: January 2021, date TBD

Review of Outstanding Action Items from July 28, 2020 meeting

1	Circulate information about a September Broom Pull/Shoreline clean-up to ELSI volunteers	Lindsey McCrank	Postponed until 2021
2	Circulate Birds Canada's contact information and volunteer request	Lindsey McCrank	done
3	Circulate a map of the MBS boundary to the committee.	Lindsey McCrank/Erin Roberts	done
4	Circulate CWS's contact information and request for volunteers	Lindsey McCrank	done
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	done

Partner Updates

Beverley DeVries, Royal Roads University

- Royal Roads is launching its Climate Action Plan, which includes a taskforce and two advisory councils.
- The plan has some focus on biodiversity, though is not a stewardship plan.

Ken Morgan, CWS

- CWS has a public survey regarding at-large dogs in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries. Lindsey will circulate it to all ELSI steering committee members.
- Ken noted that a Research Scientist at Environment and Climate Change Canada will be capturing gulls to track their movement on Southern Vancouver Island and will be reaching out to CRD.

Action: Lindsey will circulate the CWS survey about dogs in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries

Rodney Huszar: Pacific Landing

- Rodney has been participating in the European Green Crab monitoring program along with Judy Nault.

Wayne Crossland, Parks Canada

- Wayne is creating an ecological plan for the Fort Rodd site, including a green research program linked with colleges and universities.
- A wildfire expert will be conducting a wildfire risk assessment. Fire could have a secondary impact on the lagoon.

Vicki Metcalfe, VNHS

- VNHS has held a few birding trips at the lagoon.
- Vicki and Wayne Crossland plan to connect regarding possible linkages between VNHS and Parks Canada, as well as Naturehood.

Iain Bourhill, City of Colwood

- Iain was not able to attend this meeting but wanted to remind people that Colwood's survey on its Parks and Recreation Master Plan project is available until October 30. This survey is seeking input on policy direction. <https://letstalkcolwood.ca/ourparks> .

Action: Lindsey will circulate the survey link to all ELSI volunteers.

CRD Harbours and Watersheds Update

Jen Tyler

- Our group has been designated as the lead on a biodiversity strategy. We are in the preliminary planning stages and will get going with preliminary consultations and scoping in 2021.
- We will be issuing an RFP for an updated land cover classification in the near future. We anticipate that this dataset will inform urban forest strategies, stormwater management, carbon sequestration estimates and other projects and initiatives.
- We were recently approved to proceed with an RFP for an update to the intertidal harbours inventory and rating using remote sensing in 2021, this will include Esquimalt Lagoon. We are hoping that the subtidal inventory will follow in future years.
- Our Regional Invasive Species Program recently coordinated a Yellow Flag Iris control workshop. The target audience was land managers and lead environmental stewards. We are planning on collaborating to host additional workshops in 2021
- Green Shores is a credit and rating system for sustainable shoreline developments and homes. Level 1 and 2 training courses are offered by the Stewardship Council of BC. Level 1 is continuously available online and a Level 2 course is available through UVic in February 2021. The course content is of interest to local government staff, conservation organizations, consultants and anyone with a general interest in shoreline ecosystem protection.

Lindsey McCrank

- Patty Menning (DFO) has started European Green Crab monitoring efforts again at Esquimalt Lagoon. 12 traps were set overnight in September, and again October 28-29. Two ELSI volunteers are currently assisting. Patty will call for volunteers again in April and provide training. No EGCs were found in September.
- 2021 meetings: ELSI meeting dates will be determined in early 2021. Meetings will remain virtual for the foreseeable future due to COVID 19. We will continue to use MS Teams.

Presentation: Bee Creek fish monitoring: Ian McVitty

- Ian lives at Pacific Landing and coordinates a volunteer-run cutthroat trout monitoring effort in Bee Creek (www.beecreek.ca)
- Once a month between May and October, volunteers trap fish at 5 sites along the creek. They count and measure the fish, and record air and water temperature, before releasing the fish.
- Results are posted on the beecreek.ca website and shared with the DFO and the CRD.
- The group also participated in the Herring watch program this summer.
- The group is mindful of the upcoming development at Pacific Landing and has some concerns about impacts to the riparian area and fish.
- The project has a strong volunteer base, though needs more ELSI hats.

Action: Lindsey will get Ian more ELSI hats

Presentation: Esquimalt lagoon water quality monitoring: Barri Rudolph, CRD

- Barri shared her presentation summarizing stormwater, creek and marine water quality data from Esquimalt lagoon (attached).

Adjournment: 4:00 pm