



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, February 23, 2021
2:00-4:00 pm, MS Teams

Present: Iain Bourhill, Erin Roberts, Judith Cullington, Maria Bremner, Jen Tyler, Lindsey McCrank, Wayne Crossland, Rod Huszar, Vicki Metcalfe,
Guests: Brian Koval, Peninsula Streams

ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Provide comments on City of Colwood Parks and Recreation Master Plan	All	March 15, 2021
2	Provide Lindsey with feedback on the 2021 Work Plan by March 15, 2021.	All	March 15, 2021
3	Lindsey will contact the list of European Green Crab potential volunteers to find two more volunteers for 2021 monitoring.	Lindsey	March 31, 2021

Next Meeting: May 25, 2021

INFORMATION

Review of Action Items from October 14, 2020 meeting

1	Lindsey will circulate the CWS survey about dogs in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries	Lindsey	complete
2	Lindsey will circulate the survey link to all ELSI volunteers	Lindsey	complete
3	Lindsey will get Ian more ELSI hats for Bee Creek volunteers	Lindsey	complete

Iain Bourhill, City of Colwood: Waterfront Public Realm Improvement Plan

- The plan will outline how a multi-use pathway could connect the Lagoon Beach from the Lagoon Bridge to Royal Beach and consider other enhancements and park amenities such as seating, signage, lighting and washrooms: <https://www.colwood.ca/news-events/news/2021-01-19-000000/colwood-embarks-waterfront-public-realm-improvement-plan>

- In keeping with the direction of the City's Official Community Plan, this initiative will balance the desire for vibrant public spaces with the need for ecological stewardship and collaboration with local First Nations.
 - The local landscape architect team at Murdoch de Greeff Landscape Architects will bring their experience to the project. The plan is expected to be complete within 2021, with improvements to be considered for implementation in the 2022 budget.
 - The project has two deliverables:
 - 1) Program plan for the waterfront
 - 2) Public realm improvements to the waterfront between Lagoon Bridge to Royal Beach, including a multi-use pathway
 - Iain will advise ELSI members how they can provide feedback over the coming months.

Presentation: Brian Koval from Peninsula Streams

BEACH Program: Beach Education and Conservation of Habitat

- Brian presented on Peninsula Stream's BEACH program, which includes shoreline clean-ups, forage fish egg surveys, and other volunteer opportunities.
- A version of his presentation can be found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yc2M8j7Qn34>
- Peninsula Streams is seeking volunteers to support its forage fish egg surveys at Esquimalt Lagoon. Pacific Sand Lance eggs were recently found by volunteers, who have been looking for them since 2018.
- If anyone is interested in volunteering please contact Brian at: briankoval1987 (at) gmail.com

PARTNER UPDATES

Vicki Metcalfe, Victoria Natural History Society

- VNHS is holding its AGM on March 9. Reserve your spot through the VNHS website:
<http://www.vicnhs.bc.ca/>
- Vicki is updating a list of naturalist organizations who are seeking volunteers, which will go on the VNHS website. Please contact Vicki with any volunteer opportunities: 46metcalfe (at) gmail.com

Maria Bremner, Royal Roads University

- Royal Roads is developing its Climate Action Plan, as well as closing out and analyzing its Sustainability Plan. The new focus will be on the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- Maria noted that biodiversity and ecosystem health are critical to climate action, and that partnerships and collaboration are an important part of the Climate Action Plan.
- RRU is planning another virtual Earth Day celebration, and can promote volunteer opportunities from ELSI partners if desired. Contact Maria at Maria.Bremner (at) royalroads.ca.

Rodney Huszar

- European Green Crab (EGC) monitoring in partnership with the DFO is continuing this year, starting March 31 and April 1. Rodney will volunteer again this year, as well as Judy Nault.

- The first EGC was recently found on the Sunshine Coast.

Erin Roberts, CWS

- More than 500 responses were received through the CWS survey investigating at-large dogs in Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.
- CWS will release recommendations based on the survey's findings at a future date.
- Erin chairs the Western Canada Chapter of the Society for Ecosystem Restoration (SER), which is promoting the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
- The SER is hosting the 9th World Conference on Ecological Restoration from June 21-24, 2021. <http://www.ser2021.org/>
- SER is also supporting the "Make a Difference Week," a global effort to encourage locally relevant, volunteer-led restoration efforts June 5-13. : <http://www.ser2021.org/make-difference-week>

Wayne Crossland (Parks Canada)

- Fort Rodd Hill has a 10 year ecological management plan which Wayne is implementing, including invasive species control.
- Wayne may be interested in volunteering with the EGC monitoring, and Lindsey will follow-up with him.
- Fort Rodd Hill will be starting to addle Canada Goose eggs on April 1. Contact Wayne for more information.

Iain Bourhill (City of Colwood)

- The City of Colwood is seeking public input into its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which Lindsey emailed to members. Feedback is welcome until March 15, 2021.
- In addition to the Waterfront Public Realm Improvement Plan which Iain presented on, Colwood is preparing a Coastal Adaptation Plan which will provide higher definition planning for sea level rise and tsunami flooding. He will bring more information to a future ELSI meeting.

ACTION: Provide comments on City of Colwood Parks and Recreation Master Plan by March 15, 2021

CRD HARBOURS AND WATERSHED UPDATE

Jen Tyler

Land Cover Classification

- Contract is in place for updating the land cover classification of the region.
- The project deliverables will include

- Updated land cover classification
- Comparisons between the updated classification and the 2011 and 2005 datasets for jurisdictional boundaries and watersheds
- Percent cover and impervious surfaces based on one hectare grids
- Riparian/wetland model
- Canopy height model
- Identification of suitable tree planting areas
- The datasets and associated reporting are planned to be completed in July 2021. Contact Jen if you are interested in the data or are interested further information.

Harbours Ecological Inventory:

- In 2000, the CRD completed an ecological inventory and rating of the intertidal, backshore and subtidal zones of Esquimalt and Victoria Harbours, Portage Inlet, the Gorge Waterway and Esquimalt Lagoon. The datasets were available to the public on the CRD Harbour Atlas
- Jen is working on an RFP for an update of the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating of the intertidal and backshore zones of the core area harbours including Esquimalt Lagoon.
- The project is planned to include mapped biological and physical features using low tide orthophoto imagery that was collected last July as well as an update to the ecological shoreline ratings that were conducted in 2000.
- A stakeholder workshop to discuss and refine the ecological ratings will occur in 2021. It is currently anticipated that the Harbour Atlas update would be completed by the second quarter of 2022.

Lindsey McCrank

- Lindsey introduced the 2021 Work Plan for ELSI. Group members can contact her with any suggested changes by March 15, 2021.
- The CRD will be celebrating the International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22) by hosting an iNaturalist challenge from May 21-24, with the goal of engaging residents to document and learn about biodiversity in our region. Lindsey will be sending information to partners in the coming months and hopes they can be involved and will help to spread the word.
- As Erin mentioned, the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration runs 2021-2030, and CRD is among multiple partners supporting the decade. Lindsey will keep ELSI members informed about ways to get involved. See <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>.
- A logo that celebrates the decade is available for use on interested partners' websites and materials. See <https://www.restorationscience.net/rns-program.html> for an example of its use, and contact Lindsey to receive the file.
- DFO indicated that there is room for 2 more EGC volunteers. Volunteers need to commit to 1-2 days of sampling every month between April and September, and ideally own chest waders (preferred) or rubber boots. Lindsey will contact the list of volunteers who have expressed interest in the past.
- Lindsey is receiving a lot of interest in people wanting to volunteer at Esquimalt Lagoon, but currently the CRD is not holding gatherings due to COVID-19 precautions. If any members

have volunteer opportunities to advertise, please let Lindsey know, and she will connect interested ELSI volunteers.

ACTION: ELSI members can provide Lindsey with feedback on the 2021 ELSI Work Plan by March 15, 2021.

ACTION: Lindsey will contact the list of EGC potential volunteers to find two more volunteers for 2021 monitoring.

Adjournment: 3:30 pm