



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

- Present:** Yogi Carolsfeld, Sara Stallard, Dorothy Chambers, Craig Elder, Terry Eckstein, Tricia Demecado, Rick Daykin, Don Monroe, Caren Cameron, Julian Anderson, Patti McDonald, Melissa Huston, Cathy Carolsfeld, Kitty Lloyd, Jody Watson
- Guests:** Mick Collins (Victoria Golden Rods & Reels Society), Edgar Hullatt, Beverly Hippolito, Tony Copping, Reale Emond (South Island Sea Kayak Association)

DECISIONS				
1	GWI will make a 5-year goals/achievements update, to follow on 2010 report; draft to be reviewed at next meeting			
<b>Next Meeting: 18 November, 2015</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Identify potential MBS sign locations along waterfront		Jacques and Kitty	Fall
2	Organize a design charrette to discuss Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan		Jody/Marc Citonne	Fall
3	Collaborate on ways to tackle issue of wildlife/paddling conflicts in the Colquitz		Jody/Tricia	Fall
4	Send link to video of Colquitz Falls		Sara	ASAP
5	Provide comments on GWI display and map to Kitty		All	Sept 22
6	Send email version of the goals/achievements update table to all GWI		Kitty	Sept 17
7	Fill out the goals/achievements update and send back to Kitty		All	Oct 23

## INFORMATION

### Presentation: Victoria Golden Rods & Reels, Elk/Beaver Lake

Mick Collins, Victoria Golden Rods and Reels Society

- CRD proposed a new half- time position for a Elk/Beaver Lake stewardship coordinator to work with all stakeholders deal with the many water quality issues and to create a watershed management plan
- Supplementary budget request, weed harvester was also requested
- Politicians were not clear on why there is a need to create another position
- CRD staff directed to come back with more details and justification for request
- Elk/Beaver Lake – multi jurisdictional (federal gov't, province, Saanich, CRD Parks, Vancouver Is Health Authority)
- 2 years ago fishers were concerned about the water quality and applied for funds to do some water quality work
- Produced a bibliography of all the research that has been done in the lake to date
- Graduate student from UVic – paleolimnologic study of Elk Lake – lots of heavy mud in the cores, it's an artificial lake, reservoir, large dam and filtration bed was built
- Boreholes show 2 major changes: first was influx of of European settlers; second was post World War II
- This was the first water supply for Victoria, dam was built in 1872.
- Max depth 18m/60 feet
- Phosphorous conditions are an issue – where is it coming from? Approximately 70-80% of phosphorus is coming from the sediments, causes many algal blooms and toxic conditions
- Lake is naturally eutrophic, lots of septic fields around the lake, none of the area is sewerred
- Community and fishers did an intensive sampling and monitoring program (every 2 weeks) from March until early November last year
- Data was used by main scientific advisor and limnologist Rick Nordin to create a report on the sampling program: "Overview, Status and Phosphorus Budget" [now posted on GWI website <https://www.crd.bc.ca/GWI/resource-library/reports-studies> ]
- This report did not address phosphorus inputs into the lake, only had data from within the lake
- Current work being done to calculate total phosphorus budget (Freshwater Research group in Ontario)
- CRD Parks will redo the public washrooms and connect them to the sewers
- Government working group: VIHA, Province, CRD, Saanich – meets once a year
- BC Lakes Stewardship Society – provided lots of support as well; they held a Lakekeepers Course in March, well attended and many participants are still actively involved
- Priority is to improve water quality – big drive in the 1980s to work on water quality for the lake; water quality objectives were established soon after that
- MOE and CRD were to initiate a study of Elk Lake back in the 1980's was supposed to look at aeration, MOE decided not to monitor because there was no action happening
- Lake water quality is very poor, headwaters of the Colquitz so this is affecting the health of the whole river system
- Health issues of cyanobacteria – has become a recurring event in late winter that can cause serious health issues, and is potentially lethal

- Increased concern due to climate change and increased rainfall
- Need to do a weed inventory
- Channel in between the two lakes is important and gets clogged with weeds
- Beaver Lake is more for the kayakers
- Elk Lake is more for the jet skis and boaters – it is the deeper lake
- Councillors Susan Brice and Judy Brownoff toured the lake recently
- Lots of work, takes multiple skills, complex interactions going on in the lake
- “Otter” – new technology aerator that is mobile, being considered for the lake
- Professionalism, partnerships, politics, persistence are what’s needed to resolve the water quality issues
- Event on October 29 7-9 pm at UVic: “A Tale of Two Lakes – Can aging lakes be rejuvenated?” Kitty sent details earlier and it’s posted on GWI home page

### New GWI Display Draft

- Not a lot of support for the photos on the display, need to be of natural shoreline, wildlife, people, less focus on the recreation
- Wording – issues with “balance”, don’t like ‘community values’ but like ‘healthy communities’,
- Suggestion: “working together to enhance, share and protect....our community”
- GWI should be the main wording not Working Together

**ACTION:** Send comments to Kitty by September 22

### GWI Goals and Achievements

- It has been 5 years since GWI did a progress review (Nov 2010)
- Group agreed that they would do another 5 year progress review
- Kitty will email out a template for each group to fill in

**ACTION:** Return template by October 23, Kitty will bring back a summarized version back to the committee at next meeting

### Coordinator Updates

- Conservation Connection Conference being held by Habitat Acquisition Trust, October 8 2015 at Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney
- Chance to meet other groups in capital region, learn about what they are doing
- There are no displays being set up this year due to lack of space
- Theme this year is Conserving the Coastal Douglas Fir Zone
- More information at HAT website

### Partner Updates

**VCKC** – July 1<sup>st</sup> Canada Day event, raised \$1300 for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, voyager excursions to Red Deer River; hosted annual dragon boat regatta; rides for kids at Big Brother Big Sisters annual picnic; August- conducted a rescue plan for the Songhees Nation with the War Canoes, kayak courses are coming up

**Saanich** – Cuthbert Holmes Management Plan was passed by council on Monday; the first focus will be on educational signs re the migratory bird sanctuary, the sensitivity of the river and its wildlife (to be directed at the boating community) and way-finding/orientation signs; Saanich will work with stakeholders about what to implement next; new development proposal for the retirement home on Gorge and Admirals; application received for a Lowes hardware store at Tillicum Mall, to go where the Target store was; artwork for the Craigflower Bridge will be

complete in October; Oct 3 is the EDPA open house – will be a repeat of the one in the spring and opportunities to provide feedback (also online feedback is possible)

**GTCA** – Gorge Park clean up next Saturday across from the Fairways

**Friends of Swan Creek** – doing more creek work and installing more riffles, was also a big project in the community gardens, removed lots of yellow flag iris, try to improve the water quality in that section of the creek

**GWAS** – Have 2000 rubber ducks – looking at how we can repurpose them to use as a fundraiser; spoke with classes at Shoreline School to see how could they use these ducks to raise money for the waterway

**Esquimalt** – national tree day Sept 23, planting in Esquimalt Gorge Park, lots of Garry oaks will be planted, will get a couple of schools involved Branch Out events, sculptures on display at Macauley Point this weekend, inventory was done of park and street trees (5,000), finished the plaza on Esquimalt Rd, neat lights, parks office is now on second floor in the Archie Browning center, **splash park plans** will be complete in 2 weeks

**BGCA** – This Saturday Sept 19, 10am-12 - Gorge clean up – meet at Selkirk park

**Sara** – Monthly invasive species removal in Cecelia Creek Ravine Park; Craigflower creek intensive survey – also sampled benthos, lots of coho fry in Craigflower; herring working group meetings seem stalled, attended a Keyline design workshop - method of farming that conserves water and reduces the sediment and pollutant loads into nearby waterways

**WFT** – end of the nature house season, full summer, CRD helped to rebuild the watershed model, likely to have nature house only open on the weekends, will redesign to make it a more Gorge Interpretive centre, herring samples were to University of Washington for DNA analysis

**FCHP** – DFO discussion – fish fence will go in on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> on the Colquitz, attended the weekend coastal bird surveys and beached bird surveys workshop. BC Hazmat is willing to sponsor training for recovery of oiled birds

**Meeting Adjourned: 9:40pm**