



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, January 8th, 2013

Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Ken Morgan, Mathew Payne, Jim Dodd, Judith Cullington, Cynthia Day, Jason Nault, Judy Nault, Joe Richardson, Nancy Wilkins, Richard Walker, Beth Mitchell, Phill Lambert, Richard Walker, Jody Watson, Natalie Bandringa

Guests: Glenn Willings, Rick McKay, John Reed, Jack Bates, Joe Blog

DECISIONS				
1	ELSI, host 1-2 Speakers Series in 2013			
2	ELSI host display at May 24th and July 1st (with manned watershed model)			
3	ELSI host broom pulls (dates to be determined)			
Next Meeting: April 9 th , 2013 at Colwood Municipal Hall				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Set meeting date to discuss outreach campaign for habitat protection bird/dog conflict . Special committee: Judith, Cynthia, Beth, Joe, Matt		Natalie	Feb /13
2	Colwood follow up with connecting with Chief Thomas to define what exactly Colwood committed to during discussions when original disturbance occurred (November 2003)		Judith / Cynthia	ASAP
3	Work with Esquimalt, Songhees and Colwood regarding installation of signs and mural.		Judith Natalie	Fall 2012
4	Draft Public consultation		Natalie/Jody	Spring 2013
5	On ELSI website put information re: RRU upcoming road and pathway improvements		Nancy (RRU info to Natalie) Natalie (ELSI website)	As needed
6	Follow up with RRU (Nancy) on student project using "patrol barriers" in campus parking lots		Natalie	Winter 2013

INFORMATION

Approval of Agenda

1. History of the Lagoon

presentation by: Glenn Willings, Rick McKay & John Reed

- A group of longtime residents of the lagoon identifying themselves as “Peninsula and Lagoon Supporters” (PALS) presented to ELSI
- Overview of the history of the Coburg Peninsula and Esquimalt Lagoon From 1850-present day
- **Recommendations of PALS:** keep bridge open, installation of boardwalks and paths on inner peninsula along with paths through dunes on outer peninsula
- Bird watching kiosks/shelters
- Allow disability access
- As DND house becomes available consider for coffee shop, bathrooms, meeting rooms, etc.
- Continued preservation of lagoon and Coburg peninsula

ELSI comments:

- Refer to Colwood’s document entitled “Coburg Peninsula Interim- Management Guidelines”, some of the recommendations made by PALS does not align with this document
 - PALS was inferring that someone is trying to close the bridge – “who is trying to close the bridge?”
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2. Harbours Water Quality Objectives (WQO) – sampling results, consultation + drafting

- Lagoon and creek sampling “5 in 30”s indicate elevated levels in the rainy season:
 - Boron – naturally high for this area
 - Zinc – likely source road runoff and culverts
 - Copper - likely source road runoff
 - Nitrates – high in lagoon, likely source birds
 - ELSI has indicated that they are interested in assisting CRD with WQO public consultation (expected start Summer 2013)
 - A separate consultation process will take place for the various jurisdictional bodies
 - MOE will be taking CRD sampling results along with background data analyze data and draft WQO
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3. UVic Student engagement

Kitty and Jody have met with professors in the UVic Geography Department about collaboration. As a result, harbours planning will be incorporated into several winter/spring courses (projects in the future may include the Esquimalt Lagoon):

- “Living Stories: Applied Ethnoecological Research of the Local Landscape”. Students will explore the relationships between people and landscapes, through stories, may involve an interview process, planning to use the Gorge/Portage Inlet as “local landscape” study site; documenting how
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people have used the Gorge over time, how the landscape has changed, and what people value about the Gorge. Part of the course will be developing a map with layered information that links to student projects in more detail.

- Water Resources Management course: Students will create a draft vulnerability assessment related to flood/drought predictions for the CRD Harbours area; figure out what data is still required, what steps CRD could consider next, where the key points of tension likely to be around managing floods and droughts
- Geography student honours project: some aspect of the harbour public consultation process – developing a survey form, etc
- Coastal Communities: building coastal resilience; research and mapping related to harbour/waterways stewardship

4. Interpretive Signs and Mural

- Colwood has been working on their action item to have Mayor and Chief Thomas
- Colwood is going to continue to look further into what they have committed to
- Councilor Day & Cullington will follow up with Mayor and have item brought to Parks Committee
- Goal: June 21st, 2013 to have all needed dialogue between Colwood and the respective Nations completed, mural and signs up and a potential celebration event (if that is what the First Nations desire)?

5. Outreach Events 2013

- July 1st @ FRH – with watershed model and ELSI
- April 20-21nd Creatively United @ St. Anne's Academy (volunteer ?)
- Broom Pulls: Coburg Peninsula, Aquatro Park (confirm dates)
- ELSI Speaker's Series: 1-2 in 2013, suggested topics/people – Bob McDonald (CBC), Todd Litman (LID/GI), tectonic faults/earth quakes, Ethnobotany
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6. Partner Updates

Natural History Society:

- new book: Nature Guide for Victoria Region, by Anne Nightingale (available at RBCM and bookstores)

CWS

- Christmas Bird Count indicted number of individual and species are both very low, however the weather was also poor that day
- “normal” number of species is about 200, but this year count was 140

Parks Canada

- Negatively impacted by budget cuts
- Now have no active staff during winter season, yet visitor numbers have not gone down

RRU

- Tim Brigham, Centre for Livelihoods and Ecology, RRU, secured funding from VanCity to create a campus garden/mounds
 - Road and trail work continuing and Natalie is posting updates on ELSI website
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Fish Counts

- Selkirk Creek had Cutthroat trout
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Adjourned 4:30 pm