



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, April 9th, 2013

Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Ken Morgan, 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

DECISIONS				
1	ELSI Volunteer Appreciation BBQ – after July 9th meeting			
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3				
Next Meeting: July 9 th , 2013 at Fort Rodd Hill				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	ELSI, host 1-2 Speakers Series in 2013		Natalie	
2	Colwood working with both the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations to settle to define what exactly Colwood committed to during discussions when original disturbance occurred (November 2003) and what is required now to settle matters and erect the mural and interpretive sign on site		Ian	ASAP
3	ELSI host: - display at May 24 th and July 1 st (with manned watershed model) - broom pulls (dates to be determined)		Natalie ELSI Volunteers	May 24 July 1 TBA
4	Draft Public consultation for Water Quality Objectives		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	Natalie will send out email to ask individuals if they would like to participate in the interviews with UVic class		Natalie All	ASAP

INFORMATION

Approval of Agenda

1. Interpretive signs and mural

- Ian Bourhil, Planner, Colwood reported that Colwood is moving forward with discussion with both Esquimalt and Songhees Nations to settle to define what exactly Colwood committed to during discussions when original disturbance occurred (November 2003) and what is required now to settle matters and erect the mural and interpretive sign on site
 - Colwood has hired Linda Ross (cultural liaison consultant) to assist with these matters
 - It has been confirmed and both Nations understand that there has been a reburial at the Songhees graveyard several years ago
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2. CRD Harbours and Watershed

A. CRD Harbours Survey

- UVic student and staff are drafting a survey to gather information on peoples' uses, values, concerns and vision of Victoria Harbour, Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet, Esquimalt Harbour and Esquimalt Harbour
- Survey will be distributed on paper and on-line for outreach events this Spring and Summer
- This information will be utilized for drafting a 50- year plan for the harbour areas

B. Water Quality Objectives (WQO) – sampling results, consultation + drafting

- CRD staff measured surface water quality in Esquimalt Lagoon in 2011 and 2012 to support the development of water quality objectives in both wet and dry seasons to quantify stormwater runoff
 - analysis includes fecal coliform and enterococci bacteria, dissolved oxygen, pH and salinity, some include metals, nutrients and PAH (polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons) -- a potent atmospheric pollutant
 - In Esquimalt Lagoon: metals look good but nutrients and fecals appear high
 - BC Ministry of Environment will be interpreting and writing up report
 - CRD will be conducting municipal and public consultation (projected for Summer 2013)
 - In the summer 2013 CRD will have 1 full year of flow data on Colwood Creek and begin to calculate contaminate loadings into the lagoon from Colwood Creek
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3. UVic Student engagement

- Trevor Lance (Professor, UVic) teaching a 3 week Environmental Studies class called "Urban Ethnoecology" which has two assignments focusing on the Esquimalt Lagoon in May. The goal is that the class could produce usable deliverables for ELSI and/or public consultation for the development of the Harbour's 50 Year Plan and Water Quality Objectives.
 - Two of the classes assignments would focus on the Esquimalt Lagoon
 - A - Interviews with resources people including ELSI members
 - B – Topic Essays
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- Topics that would be good for essay topics and interviews include:
 - Stories of the Coburg Peninsula
 - Crabbing
 - First Nations Use (only with permission by FN)
 - European History
 - Fort Rodd Hill
 - Sand Dollars
 - Invasive Plants
 - Dogs on leash (video)
 - Birds and various bird counts
 - Emily Carr

4. DND Degaussing Houses/Stations

- Small Degaussing hut has recently been removed
- Natalie has requested information from DND as to their plans for removal of the , Environmental Assessment and has requested a representative to present to ELSI
- ELSI has concerns around what DND has plans and budget to do at the house site. Will DND:
 - only remove house?
 - restore land/parking lot?
 - remove riprap and restore dune habitat?
 - does the site have a septic tank/sewer lines, will these been fully removed?
- Natalie will forward any information she receives from DND to ELSI
- there is an example in Seattle where a similar site has removed riprap

5. Outreach

Dune Maintenance

- Broom Pull: March 23rd,
 - successful event with approx. 17 people, including new community members
 - large patch of ivy found on beach side near parking – Colwood Parks staff have fully removed
 - Colwood continues to maintain clear paths for clear beach access

MBS Protection Outreach

- Natalie spoke with Trevor Castnger at Environment Canada about collaboration on a enforcement blitz to support Colwood Bylaw Enforcement and ELSI's volunteer work, hoping to schedule an event this summer at high use
 - Trevor mentioned that the phone number will be changing on the Wildlife Refuge Areas signs at the lagoon. The new number (Fall 2013) will be a central number in Ottawa, rather than the current Vancouver phone number
 - ELSI members have noticed an increasing number of people with children and or dogs walking to the island near the bridge
 - ELSI volunteers mentioned that people are mostly aware and respectful to Dogs on-leash within the
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MBS but, are not aware of the dogs-off leash beyond the public bathrooms – City of Colwood needs to install signage in key areas

Outreach Events 2013

- May 12th Mother's Day, RRU – ESLI display
- May 24th Off the Grid, FRH – ESLI display and watershed model
- July 1st Canada Day, FRH – ESLI display and watershed model
- In high Summer season (TBA): Potential enforcement blitz with Colwood Bylaw and Environment Canada enforcement officers

6. Coordinator Update

- ELSI Website

- CRD is designing a new website and with it will include a new ELSI website design
- ELSI's website will remain looking distinct (similar to current) but will include the CRD branding with logo and saying "proudly supported by (CRD logo)"

7. Partner Updates

Bee Creek Update – Judy

- restoration is going well with over 300 volunteers hours logged in 2012
- focus is on removal of invasive plants, using cardboard as weed barrier, growing and planting native plants
- local companies of donated materials and native plants

Judith

- Launching the "Friendly Trails Guide Book"
- Capital City Centre has free community meeting space available for booking
- Urban Forest Stewardship Initiative (UFSI) will be soon launching its updated data layers

Cindy

- Currently focusing on:
May 24th, Off the Grid Festival, RRU & FRH

VNHS – Phil

- 2 new directors at VHVS
- may have new representative on ELSI

Adjourned 4:30 pm