



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee  
Tuesday February 11, 2014

Colwood Municipal Hall

**Present:** Bob Sibbald, Joe Richardson, Gayle Johnston, Judy Nault, Jason Nault, Ken Morgan, Lorraine Collett, Beth Mitchell, Ivo van der Kamp, Matthew Payne, Brett Marchant, Judith Cullington, Sue Dugaro, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd

DECISIONS			
1	ELSI will host a Speakers Series event in 2014 on the topic of birds at the lagoon		
2	Species at Risk group from Ft Rodd Hill will join ELSI committee		
<b>Next Meeting: 8 April 2014</b>			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Arrange a meeting regarding the dune plants at Coast Collective for Feb. 14	Kitty	12 Feb
2	Follow up regarding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• dog off-leash area signage at lagoon</li> <li>• Scotch broom removal adjacent to Ocean Grove</li> <li>• Development proposal for Seafield Cottages</li> </ul>	Ivo	ASAP
3	Arrange a presentation from Parks Canada staff regarding controlling broom at a future ELSI meeting, or as Speakers Series	Kitty, Matt	Spring 2014
4	Update ELSI member list and contact information and change email format on ELSI website to protect personal email addresses	Kitty	ASAP
5	Pass DFO Community Advisor contact info to Bob	Kitty	ASAP
6	Organize broom pull for Saturday, May 3 and advertise the dates, post on website	Kitty, Joe	Spring
7	Contact Ann Nightingale about giving a talk on birds at the lagoon for a Speakers Series event	Kitty	Feb 2014
8	Forward information regarding Colwood's transportation master plan public event to Kitty for distribution to the group	Judith	When available
9	Suggest Bee Creek restoration and dune grass propagation as potential work projects for VIHA clients to Nancy Wilkin	Kitty	ASAP

**Interpretive Signs, Mural and Ceremony:**

Nothing new to report from Colwood; Songhees Nation has been busy with the opening of their new Wellness Centre; Colwood's goal is to hold the dedication ceremony in June.

Draft of Dogs on Leash flyer was sent to Colwood staff and suggestion made that staff request funding in the 2014 budget to post signs and do some enforcement

Two local veterinarians have placed doggie bag dispensers at both ends of the lagoon

**Development Updates:**

**Seafield Cottages** is a new development near the lagoon; 35 new homes planned for large vacant lot on Seafield Road; development of this would entail construction of a new access road to Ocean Grove, as Seafield Rd would be rerouted. Gayle brought a copy of concept plan distributed to some homes in the neighbourhood. Ivo will be working on this application and will let the group know how things progress. March 18<sup>th</sup> they will be presenting to the Colwood Planning Committee. Will need to do some neighbourhood consultation but unsure of when this will occur.

**Pacific Landing:**

- Plans are beginning to ramp up again, and a group of 15 investors were in town last weekend to visit the site for a dinner party and to attend the latest art show opening. We expect to have more detailed information to share within the next 5-6 months.
- First Nations artist group show at Coast Collective: "Gifts from our Ancestors" June 11-22
- **Labyrinth proposal** was sent out to the members, copy also handed out at meeting. There was some concern about it being in the MBS, but it is hoped that it will discourage people from letting their dogs run through the area, and also prevent people parking there.
- **Bee Creek Restoration Project:** progress report for 2013 was handed out to the group by Judy. Achievements include removal of invasive plants such as reed canary grass, blackberry and Daphne, propagation and planting of native species, education and outreach. Plans for 2014 include enhancing Bee Creek environment as habitat for trout and salmon. When restoration project started 10 years ago, there was talk of restocking the creek with salmon. Bob has made a couple of calls to DFO to inquire about this, but has not heard back. Important to include the Community Advisor (Shona Smith) in this conversation, Kitty will forward her contact info. Could also engage the local nature kindergarten with such a project.
- **MBS foreshore:** Cindy is hoping to apply for a grant to start the restoration of the foreshore area. The purpose would be to limit access to the MBS areas and provide bird watching opportunities. There were preliminary ideas in the Swell Environmental Assessment.

**Ocean Grove:**

- Ocean Grove held an open house in December, many ELSI members attended. Ian Porter, head of development company SeaCliff Properties, agreed to give a presentation to an ELSI meeting this spring. The developer has concept plans, and getting ready to make a presentation to council.

- Scotch broom removal in adjacent Colwood park area: Ivo will check with Parks staff to determine if they will be doing anything to deal with Scotch Broom on this site. Kitty discussed this briefly with Gord Beauvillier in Parks, and there is some budget for managing invasive plants, maybe some effort could be spent on this area.

**Royal Bay:**

- Ivo reported that Colwood has received an application for a subdivision in this area that will include only single family homes.

**MBS & Habitat Protection**

Outreach handout, garbage can sticker about keeping dogs on leash: ongoing, have not heard anything from Colwood Parks

Off-leash area still needs signage

**Outreach Events & Materials:**

**Broom pull** – Joe is hoping to organize a broom pull on the lagoon, proposing Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> as the date to do this. ELEA will supply sandwiches for the volunteers, ELSI provides tools and beverages. Joe will provide a poster that Kitty will post to the ELSI website, also can go on the Colwood website. At RRU they have removed broom and lots of Daphne is now moving into the area.

**Website** – the new ELSI website was presented to the group. One suggestion that personal emails should be posted in a different way to prevent spam

**Speakers Series**, topics, venues – maybe the Scotch broom could be a Speaker Series item, helps to raise the ELSI profile in the community, other topic ideas? – birds at the lagoon (VNHS),

**CRD Harbours & Watersheds**

**Harbours survey:** preliminary results were handed out at the last meeting, still trying to do more detailed analysis – (time is the issue!)

**Water Quality Objectives:** Provincial Ministry of Environment staff have all been reassigned to LNG and pipeline work, CRD staff are waiting for them to interpret the results; public consultation is on hold until this is complete.

**Partner Updates:**

**Parks Canada:** Matthew reported that Parks staff want to work with ELSI on invasive species and species at risk; has not yet talked with Coast Collective about coordinating events in 2014; there will be an event in August to mark the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War and in Sept. for the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 2<sup>nd</sup> World War; introduced another event – the Off the Grid concert, this will not be at Ft Rodd Hill this year, but at Belmont High School; in June a new event called Timelines – focused on living history, will invite other organizations to study living history at FRH, trying to tie in with the end of year school trips. May be an opportunity to have some speakers series during some of these historical events; hosting

Canada Day again this year, ELSI will have a display; the Species at Risk group at FRH is interested in working more closely with ELSI. Would it be possible to have another representative from Parks Canada and SARA group? General agreement. Matt will invite them to attend next meeting.

**Environment Canada:** Courtney Albert could not attend today; Brett Marchant came in her place and reported that there have been no complaints re: boating in the lagoon

**Sue Dugaro** (Camosun College): reported on the dune grass propagation project. There are over 1,000 seedlings at Camosun and about 200 at Coast Collective. In 2013 the plugs were transplanted into 1-2 gal pots, not ready for cloning this spring; biggest problem at Coast Collective is space and lack of volunteers; at Camosun there are students who take care of the plants. A meeting is planned Feb 14<sup>th</sup> at Coast Collective to discuss this further.

**Beth Mitchell:** Continuing with fish monitoring and bird surveys. A mute swan was killed after coming in contact with low power line across the mouth of Colwood Creek. Could request that BC Hydro install bird diverters on those lines.

**Jason Nault:** saw a neat kayak on the lagoon with electric motor and bird blind, shooting pictures of the birds. Birds did not seem to even notice.

**Colwood Council:** Judith reported that the new CAO James Molnar will be starting in a couple of weeks; Colwood in process of creating a transportation master plan; there will be a public event on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre; also working on economic development strategy; about to post a request for proposals for a municipal rainwater management plan; City of Colwood has a new website, can get automatic emails sent to be alerted about meeting agendas. Colwood is looking at creating its own tertiary sewage treatment plant (would be sited beneath the Juan de Fuca Park & Ride); Capital City Centre project is now on hold.

**RRU:** Nancy Wilkin forwarded an email from a colleague at Vancouver Island Health Authority, looking for work projects for young people with mental health issues; VIHA is looking for a diversity of activities to engage these young people, want to know if there any projects that these kids could get involved with at ELSI. Suggestions: Bee Creek restoration, taking care of the dune grass seedlings

**ELSI Contact List:** A list of ELSI members and their alternates was circulated for updating of names and contact information. The new draft version will be sent out for further revisions as necessary.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:30pm