



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Revised 16 Oct 2014
 Steering Committee
 Tuesday August 12, 2014
 Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Ken Morgan, Nancy Wilkins, Phil Lambert, Matthew Payne, Gayle Johnston, Judy Nault, Joe Richardson, Beth Mitchell, Iain Bourhill, Kitty Lloyd

DECISIONS			
1	Move Harbour Survey presentation to October meeting		
2	ELSI will apply for funds from National Wetland Conservation Fund for surveying, monitoring and wetland enhancement at the lagoon		
Next Meeting: Tuesday, 14 October 2014			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Send notice to ELSI about VNHS tour at the lagoon September 14 th	Kitty	ASAP
2	Contact Colwood Parks about posting a sign re glyphosate use at Ocean Grove	Kitty	ASAP
3	Contact Gorge Beauvillier at Colwood Parks re Dogs on leash signs for RRU	Nancy/RRU	ASAP
4	Send out outline for invasive species workshop	Kitty	ASAP
5	Ask Natalie to make a stormwater grate image with Esquimalt Lagoon for RRU	Kitty	Soon
6	Investigate feasibility of different project ideas for wetland conservation funding,	Kitty/ELSI	Possibly 29 Aug
7	Contact Arielle Kobryn to request that her thesis be put on ELSI website	Kitty	ASAP
8	If there are concerns about planned fly-past at RRU during 75 th anniversary celebration next April, contact Nancy Wilkin	All	Fall

Development Updates:

- **Royal Bay:** Development is continuing, website has been updated with plans and advisories about what type of work is being done on site.
- **Seafeld Cottages:** Same owner but new developer. Plan remains as it was presented at the public hearing, which has now received 3rd reading. If new developer wants to change plans, would have to go through public hearing process again.
- **Ocean Grove:** Expecting a new plan to come before Planning and Land Use Committee in September.

Decisions and Actions – ELSI Steering Committee

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Page 2

- Who is responsible for the show suite on Colwood land? Upkeep of this building is the responsibility of the Receiver, as property is in receivership, and there is no formal lease arrangement with Colwood.
- Concern expressed about herbicide sprayed on trees and undergrowth at Ocean Grove. Signs were never put up, and now that fruit is ripe, people will pick without knowing about possible herbicide residue. **ACTION:** Let Colwood Parks know that they should put signs up at Ocean Grove re herbicide sprayed there earlier in the season
- RRU would like to get copies of the dogs on leash signs that are in other locations around the lagoon, so they can put them up at RRU. RRU should contact Gord Beauvillier, Colwood Parks manager

Interpretive Signs and Mural: Iain has touched base with his colleague at Songhees Nation, nothing new to report on that; putting together a plan for outreach in 2015. There will be costs associated with the ceremony, spiritual needs must be met as part of the healing process with the city (ie for disturbance to ancestral remains at pump station site).

CRD Harbour Survey Results: Presentation by Jody postponed until next meeting

Flow monitoring in Colwood Creek – when will data be available? Would like to see the flow meter data from the summer. Last week Joe recorded temperature of 15°C despite prolonged warm period – maybe because water levels are low and not overflowing into lower reaches of creek under Sooke Rd, ie water flow in lower reaches are from seepages from escarpment. Thus the creek temperature may be 17/18° in May/June and then lower in late summer due to decreased amount of warmer water coming from upper areas of the watershed.

Regarding the **watershed map of Colwood Creek** showing land use and degree of imperviousness: The map shows that about half of the watershed is impervious, but the detrimental effects of that may be offset by the forested upper and lower portions. Interesting to note that the CRD Parks Plan accepts the tenet that “nature needs half” and this map shows that the Colwood Creek watershed has approximately that ratio of vegetated land and developed/paved land.

CRD Storm drain image – RRU would like one with image of Esquimalt Lagoon for use with outreach about the “smart” storm drains in place near the lagoon. **ACTION:** Ask Natalie Bandringa to make one for ELSI outreach

Outreach events:

- **Summer events summary:**
 - **Broom pull in May** – successful in getting all visible broom plants removed from Coburg Peninsula; lots of new trees growing up, Douglas-fir 5-7ft tall; arbutus trees on inside of lagoon on Coburg Peninsula.
 - **Canada Day** – Lots of people came by the ELSI display at Ft Rodd Hill, and the lagoon watershed model was a major attraction. Matthew reported that there were 6,200 visitors that day at FRH, higher than normal, usually low 4,000s, but with Canada Day falling mid-week there is typically a greater turn-out.

Decisions and Actions – ELSI Steering Committee

Tuesday, August 12, 2014

Page 3

- **Two events at Coast Collective:** Not huge crowds, but some new volunteers signed up. Ann Nightingale gave a great bird talk and walk on Aug 9th and Angus Stewart brought the lagoon watershed model which drew a crowd as usual.
- **Invasive species workshop:**
 - Kitty met with Aimee Pelletier at FRH recently to discuss details. Tentative date set for 18 October, 10am – 3pm. It will be staged as part of FRH’s regular bi-weekly invasive species volunteer program. Participants will sign up as volunteers and insurance is covered.
 - Advertising: Let Goldstream Gazette and SHAW TV know about this, get some publicity; invite Colwood Parks; invite CRISP (Capital Region Invasive Species Program)
 - Species to include: Carpet burweed – there is a population at FRH; request for discussion of lesser celandine, would like to learn about eradication of that species for Bee Creek work
 - **ACTION** – send out workshop outline to ELSI
- **Tour of lagoon** with VNHS Sunday September 14, 10am – noon; send notice out.

Coordinator Updates:

New federal funding pool recently announced: National Wetland Conservation Fund.

- Primary program objectives:
 - **Restore** wetlands that have been drained or lost
 - **Enhance** infrastructure and/or functionality of degraded wetlands
 - **Scientifically assess and monitor** health and functionality of wetlands and species using them
- Kitty talked with Tasha Sargent at CWS in Delta about the fund:
 - Tasha will inquire as to whether ELSI is eligible to apply, or would have to go through CRD
 - This is a new fund announced two months ago, still working out the details
 - Larger projects favoured, rather than many smaller projects that take more time to administer
 - Multi-year projects are okay, first round of funding needs to be spent by 31 March 2015, second round will be announced in Sept for following year (1 April 2015 – 31 Mar 2016)
 - RRU lands not eligible as the land is federally owned, though there is another fund (Inter Departmental Restoration Fund) that may be applicable, Tasha will let Kitty know

Ideas for projects ELSI could apply for:

- Nikki Wright (via email): What about using wetland enhancement techniques to filter the non-point source pollution coming into lagoon from the streams and Colwood Creek? Nothing much will thrive in the lagoon until these pollution sources are seriously tackled. During the years of EcoRowing programming there, they saw a steady decline in water quality and biodiversity.
 - **Discussion:** RRU property is not eligible for funds as it’s on federal lands, but Beth suggested Selleck Creek as a good candidate, as the wetland that has now formed there is on park land dedicated to Colwood as part of development plans at Aquattro/Ocean Grove. The area is very overgrown with broom and other invasive plants. Iain reported that this area will be part of a remediation plan for this site, should wait until new site plans are submitted. Wetland enhancement and remediation in this area will be funded by developer, so should be no need

to apply for public funds for that site. Ilott Place – small estuary that acts as a septic drainage field for multiple properties – possible candidate for enhancement.

- **What about a boardwalk** around the lagoon, make it a destination for the region?
 - **Comments:** this has been discussed before, and costs would be prohibitive. Discussion about Parksville’s boardwalk which has become a very popular destination, and increases accessibility for walkers/wheelchairs; what about a trail from RRU to FRH – through Cavendish property (adjacent to RRU lands)? Matthew says FRH would be very interested; a natural path would be preferred and less expensive than a boardwalk, there is already a small trail there that could be enhanced. RRU and FRH will discuss this further.
- **Bird viewing platform** – cost for VNHS platform at Viaduct Flats ~\$30,000 including interpretive panels. Its purpose there was to keep people (birders) out of the marsh vegetation. This is not an issue at the lagoon.
 - **Comments:** there are positive and negative aspects to a viewing tower; makes a destination for visitors, adds value to Migratory Bird Sanctuary but wouldn’t really address issues we have at the lagoon such as keeping dogs on leashes and trampling of dune vegetation.
- **Other ideas:**
 - Delta at tidal entrance to lagoon, gravel bars from under bridge to RRU are now 150ft long – filling in a lot, especially since DND hardened area near the Ranger cabin
 - Monitoring along spit, are there mitigating measures that could be taken to ameliorate effects of reduction in sediment that used to feed barrier spit?
 - Put together all the research that’s already been done at the lagoon, such as habitat surveys, mapping of middens and clam beds, engineering projects; when construction starts at Ocean Grove there will inevitably be an effect on the lagoon, good to have baseline data before that starts
 - What about septic leakage into lagoon? RRU students did a groundwater survey and found low fecals
 - Nutrients from eutrophication of waters leading to algal blooms, oxygen depletion, fish kills; Canada geese population could be a source; discussion about inversion in lagoon, causes
 - **ACTION:** Kitty will inquire about getting Arielle Kobryn’s thesis on the ELSI website
 - Could apply for funds for 2-part project: Part 1: monitoring and surveying, citizen science, document what the current state of environment is at lagoon before big developments happen, students could be hired (eg RNS students at UVic, contact Val Shaeffer); Audrey Dallimore at RRU is doing clam garden research; Part 2: apply for funds to remediate problem areas that are identified in part 1 of study. Emphasize significance of Migratory Bird Sanctuary status of lagoon and surrounding lands.

Partner Updates:

CWS: no new updates

VNHS: Tour of the lagoon planned for Sunday 14 September 10am – noon

Decisions and Actions – ELSI Steering Committee**Tuesday, August 12, 2014****Page 5**

RRU: April 25, 2015 there will be a sunset ceremony to celebrate 75th anniversary of Royal Roads: 50 years as military college, 25 as university; 7pm ceremony with cannon salute and Snowbirds fly-past. **Please let Nancy know of any concerns;** requested funds for student project (\$500 project fee) for Jan. to Aug. 2015, to focus on invasive species; project will be to document and map the species on site; make a plan for their removal/control; identify and document plots as DND has been doing for about 10 years on the rest of site outside of core RRU area; students from RRU were funded by CRD Round Table to prepare a report on the management and disposal of invasive species in the region; conclusion is there's a need a regional strategy. There is talk of a new academic building up the hill from new LIC building, also a residence for 100 to be located up near Sooke Rd; Cedar Building is being completely renovated; successful in carbon neutral fund reimbursement, using funds to replace boilers in Grant and library buildings to further reduce GHG emissions

Bee Creek: working in stream protected area to create a Garry oak meadow with support from a new Saanich native plant nursery which supplied 3 blocks of native grasses.

Gayle: noticed walking through RRU that there are lots of owls – maybe displaced from Royal Bay; there has been a resurgence in barred owls in the region

Fort Rodd Hill: Matthew has accepted a new job in Pacific Rim Park, this is his last ELSI meeting; not sure who's replacing him, Dave King will fill in at ELSI in the meantime. Best of luck Matthew, we'll miss you!

Meeting adjourned: 5:00pm