



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
 Tuesday, April 12, 2016
 Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Dean Ridley, Ivo van der Kamp, Nancy Wilkin, Judith Cullington, Phil Lambert, Jason Nault, Beth Mitchell, Gayle Johnston, Kitty Lloyd

Guest: Michael Baxter, Colwood engineer

DECISIONS				
1	At some point revisit ELSI vision and goals to include watershed, update other language			
Next Meeting: Tuesday June 14, 2016				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Enquire about biocontrol of Scotch broom at DND		Jody	ASAP
2	Send Michael info for UBC contact for SLR adaptation		Nancy	ASAP
3	Look in to Zen garden and bridge across mouth Bee Creek in riparian area, and water access into the lagoon (on Pacific Landing's website) and have them corrected		Ivo	ASAP
4	Look into Pacific Landing gate closures (because of construction) of pedestrian bridge, at RRU		Nancy	ASAP
5	Send updated Royal Bay environmental development permit to all when ready		Ivo	When available
6	Contact Sandra Russell about status of waterfront signage and also ask about status of setting up discussion group		Kitty	ASAP
7	Invite Ian Howatt, new Colwood CAO to next meeting		Ivo	June
8	E-mail the Colwood Parks committee chair and suggest the idea is added to agenda re. student (RRU or UVic) project opportunities at Pit House Park		Jason	Spring/ summer
9	Contact Stuart Ralph re. if funds for gravel pathway at RRU have been received		Nancy	

INFORMATION

Presentation: Issues at Coburg Peninsula - Michael Baxter, Colwood Engineering

Safe pedestrian route:

- There are problems with this concept unless the road is made one-way
- Already a reasonable shoulder, could be improved, Colwood Eng. has been tasked with writing a report on this
- Shoulder: areas could be filled in, wouldn't have much impact on vegetation

- Don't want to add a lot of material there to make a level walking surface (on inside)
- Don't want to encroach on beach side, it would push traffic too far into the road
- Gravel walkway 2km long would be very expensive, no budget for that

Most of walkway marked by yellow paint, what about adding another foot there, using chip sealing?

What about funding from Aquattro and Essencia that was supposed to be set aside for that?

City has not received any funds for that. Both properties have new owners who have negotiated development plans with far less promised for offsite neighbourhood improvements

What is a speed cushion?

Like a long wide speed bump, designed with gaps spaced so that fire trucks can pass through. Well received by residents in neighbourhoods that have them. Speed cushions can be installed temporarily and moved easily. Engineering has been asked to cost this option

Speed tables are another possibility, these are less dramatic to pass over in a vehicle

Need to consider the longevity of the road there, with increasing erosion at the peninsula. One big storm can move thousands of tonnes of material that would render the road impassible. No instruction from council to plan for this. This road will continue to receive more traffic as developments are built out.

What about one-way traffic at lagoon?

This would work, it's cheap, lots of room for pets, people, bikes, people with mobility issues. This has to be taken to council, not for engineering to decide.

Have you been asked to cost out the one-way?

Have to consider all possibilities for improving pedestrian access. Goes to committee, see if they missed anything, also to public and then for decision by council

RRU did a road improvement project, wound up making all roads one-way. Commemorative statement says the roads must stay as pastoral roads and heritage settings, making roads one-way works just fine and accommodates increased traffic. Where pedestrians can't be accommodated, a trail across pasture was installed. Where road is too narrow for bicycle lane, cars and bikes have to share the road

Opportunity for ELSI to provide comment/review any proposed changes to Lagoon Rd?

When it's on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee agenda, public/ELSI can attend meeting and make comments, recommendations. Probably on the June agenda

What do traffic counters say?

Previous counts indicate 3,000 vehicles/day. That is relatively light traffic, mainly in 2 rush hours. When bridge was out a few years ago, the only effect on traffic on other roads nearby was the build-up of traffic in left turn lane off Sooke Rd. That was 6 years ago, there's more traffic there now, might be different.

What about solar powered speed indicator signs at lagoon? This would help slow traffic

Yes, this could be done especially during summer when less likely to get damaged by wind and waves.

Food trucks will be at the beach every Friday starting in June. There will be a garbage issue, especially if it's windy

What about large motor homes parking and taking up a lot of space along the lagoon? Another reason to slow traffic down.

Pump Station:

Draft report has been to ELSI, PALS, were going to consult just the affected homeowners, but now going to Colwood-wide consultation. Will be a meeting around end of April, need to get materials together first. Get input about different options

One complication is that when meeting with original consultants, using sea level rise (SLR) guidelines from the Province, revealed that province originally intended to review that estimate every 5 years. If done now, the guidelines would move from 1m SLR by 2100 to 1m rise by 2065. They understand better about the effect of melting ice beneath a glacier, more water increases the melting rate.

In light of this, should consider building a new pump station that should last 75 years minimum, usually just the electrics are renewed

Where should we put it? Upper reaches of Pit House Park? All of Goldfinch Ave is not very high Pacific Landing is being required to build to 2100 elevation. This means only 85 years, not long for a new construction

Colwood is at the forefront in CRD of planning for SLR

ACTION: Nancy: send Michael contact info for UBC researcher who has done SLR modelling for Fraser River area

Development Updates:

- **Pacific Landing** – Colwood Planning report for April was handed out by Ivo (copy attached) and some questions and concerns included:

Q: Were the trees that were cut down not on their plan?

Yes, they were creating a servicing corridor and had just spoken to staff, made an application and assumed they'd get a development permit in a few days and began work.

Q: Pacific Landing's website shows a Zen garden and bridge across mouth Bee Creek in riparian area near and water access into the lagoon. All 3 are contrary to environmental constraints

ACTION: Request that Ivo look into this and make sure that it is corrected.

A suggestion was made for Ivo to look at the excavation that has been done, different levels of soil types, they're down to basic grey clay and gravel (approx. 15 feet down), just to know for general purposes what would happen in a liquefaction event.

A geotechnical engineer told Colwood council that the grey clay that extends all through RRU property is just about impermeable to water (water gets trapped behind it and goes all the way down and out under the lagoon); they've been told when it's penetrated on the Royal Bay hillside, you generate an artesian well.

Equipment being brought down Heatherbell, parking at end of the road and offloading equipment and leaving vehicle parked there until they're ready to reload backhoe on the truck. Isn't this supposed to be contained on their property?

Wetland that Patrick Lucey is planning to put in may generate mosquito issues (stagnant water).

Q: Is there still public access? There's a gate across there most of time and you can go across the pedestrian bridge – there are some times where they have the gate closed off to RRU and you can't go through and you have to walk up to Heatherbell.

A: They will leave it open unless there's a danger to the public, in which case they close the gate. There's concern about that because students use it as University access.

Nancy: Randy Royer (from Pacific Landing) is in contact with Dan Tulip, VP at RRU.

ACTION: Nancy will find out if this situation is okay with RRU

- **Ocean Grove** – close to finalizing agreement – 4th reading of both OCP amendment and land bylaw scheduled for May 9. If that date is met, some construction may start within the year. Kitty requested a heads up of when that meeting happens.
- **Royal Bay** – application for temporary (10 years) waterfront park. Still working out where park is located, no survey has been received yet. Proposal includes: beach volleyball, playground, parking, food trucks, and public access to waterfront. Lots of concerns from legal aspects, including lots of covenants registered on the property. Privately owned, but publicly accessible waterfront park.

Q: Why would it be temporary?

A: Waterfront houses or larger park area may be in the future.

Some concerns about this development include: public fires on the beach – safe access, fire hydrants and garbage pick-up options were discussed.

Other recent applications include: 32-unit townhome development; neighbourhood house (including a development permit for a sign); rezoning application in for the Latoria-North area; master environmental development permit (EDP).

Q: Is there an existing EDP?

A: Yes, but outdated.

ACTION: Ivo send updated permit to all when ready.

Q: Have you completed bylaw about height of retaining walls?

A: No, but getting closer – waiting for consultant to provide more information. Concerns that Latoria-North is bounded by steep sloping sand area.

- **Dwight School** – no updates
- **Colwood Corners** – preliminary plans, but yet to make formal application.
- **Interpretive Signs** – Sandra Russell is taking lead on this.

ACTION: Kitty will contact Sandra about status of waterfront signage and also ask about status of setting up discussion group.

ACTION: Invite Ian Howatt, City of Colwood's new CAO, to next ELSI meeting.

Pit House Park work plan discussion (Kitty Lloyd):

Kitty showed a map of the area and discussion included:

- Students (RRU or UVic) project opportunities
- Need to meet with Colwood and figure out what the vision/long-term plan is for Pit House Park (not a park, it's a green space).

ACTION: Jason will E-mail the chair of Parks Committee and suggest the idea is added to agenda.

Coordinator Updates:

Updates included:

- Several community members met with Gord Beauvillier at Pit House Park to talk about pulling broom there
- ELSI display will be at Creatively United for the Planet event, April 16 at Royal Bay High
- ELSI Annual Report draft was reviewed and a few edits/comments were discussed
 - Under “Vision and Goals”: Discussion re. defining the geographical area.
 - Some goals listed, we have no way of actually achieving these.
 - Revisiting visions and goals for discussion at future meeting.
- Upcoming outreach events include May 1 Broom Pull, Mother’s Day Paint-In at RRU May 8th
- Migratory Bird Sanctuaries
 - Recent discussions and meeting about raising awareness and profile of the 3 MBSs in our region. Region has been designated by Nature Canada as a “NatureHood”
 - Centennial of Migratory Bird Convention 2016, and of Migratory Bird Act (CA) 2017
 - Events being planned to raise awareness:
 - International Migratory Bird Day, May 14 at Elk/Beaver Lake
 - Idea of a combined event, All Buffleheads Day, October 15
 - Plan to develop an Info sheet – 4-page (1 MBS/page)
 - Some groups involved in the discussions: The Bateman Centre (Project Sanctuary), Eagle Wing Tours (bird watching tours), Canadian Wildlife Service, Victoria Natural History Society, Rocky Pt Bird Observatory, World Fisheries Trust, Gorge Waterway Initiative, Friends of Shoal Harbour MBS, Friends of Victoria Harbour MBS

Jody Watson received approval for supplementary budget over next few years to complete inventories/surveys in the harbours (kelp, eel grass, bird surveys, underwater surveys, etc.)

- Gorge Waterway – issues of boats/birds conflicts in Colquitz River estuary and upper reaches of Portage Inlet.
- Ken Brock, CWS, can help in designing surveys (compilation of available bird data)

Partner Updates:

- Nancy Wilkin provided RRU updates:
 - new partnership agreement with Holiday Inn Express re. student housing - \$89/night if a student stays 10 days or longer; RRU has no plans to build new residence anytime soon.
 - Plans to build a new academic building and update Mews building/conference centre through new Federal Government announcement for post-secondary infrastructure (proposals must be received by April 22) for green infrastructure, energy retrofits and renovations of buildings
 - Canadian Wildlife Federation want to host summer institute of horticulturalists at RRU July 3-9; CWF considers that Hatley Gardens are very wildlife friendly
 - Research assistant, Roberto Melfi, will backfill for Nancy Wilkin for 6 weeks

ACTION Nancy contact Stuart Ralph (head of operations) re. if funds for gravel pathway to Pacific Landing have been received

- Judith Cullington:
 - Attended CRD’s Integrated Watershed Management Community Group meeting – good information and recommends people attend future meetings

- Jason Nault:
 - Council meetings (May or June) will include discussions on speed bumps and pedestrian access on the lagoon – any further ideas or comments pass along to him or attend council meeting
- Phil Lambert
 - Cattle Pt information signs, funding issues so not quite installed yet.
 - Q: Swans in the lagoon, where have they gone? A: There are some Trumpeters, Tundras and a few domestics.
 - Q: What kind of activities are others looking for updates on? A: Bird talks/walks at lagoon.
 - Idea to have some birding people around to discuss MBS when food trucks are at the lagoon on Fridays this summer
- Beth Mitchell:
 - Joe is ill so Bob and Beth will put some fish traps in Bee Creek below the worksite, need to notify owners of the property.
 - Joe would like to contribute \$70 towards refreshments (left over from Esquimalt Lagoon Enhancement Association) for upcoming broom pull
 - Beth will contact Kitty to discuss volunteers to survey the creeks – Joe will continue to report to Kitty and do reporting end of things.

Meeting adjourned: 4:30 p.m.