



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
 Tuesday, June 14, 2016
 Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Joe Richardson, Roberto Melfi, Beth Mitchell, Judy Nault, Jason Nault, Judith Cullington, Phil Lambert, Kitty Lloyd, Jody Watson, Ivo van der Kamp

Guests: Sandra Russell, Ian Howat

DECISIONS			
1	ELSI will deliver the 2 interpretive signs ready for the lagoon to Colwood to install in consultation with First Nations		
2	ELSI will not continue the restoration project at Pit House Park until such time as Ocean Grove development has been built and park plan established		
Next Meeting: 9 August 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 into Pacific Landing gate closures (because of construction) of pedestrian bridge, at RRU	Nancy	ASAP
4	Send updated Royal Bay environmental development permit to all when ready	Ivo	When available
5	Contact Stuart Ralph re. if funds for gravel pathway at RRU have been received	Nancy	
6	Deliver the historical and First Nations signs to Colwood	Kitty	Summer
7	Send out information about Green Shores project	Kitty	When available

INFORMATION

Introduction: Colwood CAO Ian Howat

- New to Colwood, from mid-island, before that Tofino and lower mainland
- Passionate about environment
- Considers that the lagoon is Colwood's greatest natural asset
- We don't usually think about things beyond infrastructure as the valuable assets in a community; we need to start thinking differently about our built and natural environments

- Glad there's an organization like ELSI, wants to work with ELSI, it's all about balance, understanding each other's opinions, difference in approaches and opinions; wants a level of respect going both ways
- Introductions around the table, explanation of projects and initiatives that ELSI and Colwood have worked on together over the years, such as the Interim Management Guidelines for the Coburg Peninsula; OCP review; dune restoration; re-aligning of the parking spaces, garbage cans, trails to the beach through the dunes at Coburg Peninsula; ongoing review and comment on plans for developments around the lagoon

Questions/Comments:

- In 1990s, the beach at the lagoon was used as a party place, police were there regularly. Different story now.
- Regarding natural asset management: when are you putting a plan in place?
 - Hope to get started on that in the fall
- City of Gibsons is a leader in this
- Incorporating the value of natural creeks, trees, wetlands, adds to operating budget
- Poor job generally done in managing the built environment, putting a dollar value on natural environment is necessary as that is how other assets are currently evaluated
- Challenging exercise, for example using a stumpage rate to evaluate trees doesn't work in this context
- Dealing with the built environment is enough of a challenge, hoping to deal with critical natural environment at the same time – some of Colwood's assets are so valuable they need to be preserved (eg beach)
- Data and associated values need to be calculated
- Union of BC Municipalities conference in the fall will be dealing with this issue
- How do you assess the value of Esquimalt Lagoon, eg MBS is there, human population is growing there - are these conflicting values?
 - Yes, very complicated process
- How do you begin to estimate value of assets? Could ELSI help with this? We have lots of data about the natural environment at the lagoon
 - A: that will be very valuable data
- As an example, when we know the volume of water flowing in a creek, can calculate the value of all the natural filtration of water that is being done by the creek ecosystem
- We should be placing a value on every tree in Colwood, cutting a tree should have a cost associated with it, we should try and capture and preserve that
- In the US, there is a presidential order to look at and value environmental assets; developing same kinds of infrastructure, but identifying the goods and services provided by natural environment (as well as aesthetic, fishery values)
- Context of conversation among Colwood staff – how do we slow down the erosion of the lagoon?
- That was the point of establishing dune grass there
- Beach is an asset for people, but also for forage fish, bottom of the food chain that supports large bird populations in the MBS
- Jody – ecological inventory was done in 1999, 2000, this is slated to be repeated and updated over next 2 years
- Update about history of ELSI involvement in commenting on development agreements for large developments around the lagoon

Decisions and Actions – ELSI Steering Committee
Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Page 3

- Increased density in some of the developments were agreed to by community in exchange for amenities along the Lagoon Rd, traffic calming – a lot of these agreements have gone by the wayside as new owners take over and new agreements are settled on
- Re traffic calming on Ocean Blvd – Ian’s instructions were to paint narrower fog lines along the road, this will help to slow the traffic, also leaves more room on the pavement for pedestrians
- Also creative signage to slow the traffic, rather than heavy-handed approach which isn’t effective

Discussion: Colwood waterfront signage, events at the Lagoon in summer – Sandra Russell

- RE traffic calming, signage – Colwood was planning to create a stage at the lagoon for the Eats & Beats event, led to thinking about painting other things on the pavement, “slow down and enjoy the view”
- Eats & Beats – Sat July 9, 1 – 8pm
- Road will be closed and stage set up on road, 4 bands scheduled, to appeal to a wide audience
- 10 food trucks, Ocean River Sports, Brian Henry – will offer eco-tours of the area
- Kite Fest members will have a demo at 2pm, sponsors will set up tents and have activities for kids, beach volleyball – parking will be a limitation
- Juan de Fuca seniors activity centre has offered use of their bus to shuttle people
- Bike valet rack to handle 32 bikes
- Whiteboard will be there for a “graffiti board” – kick off for review of the Colwood OCP, people can post their ideas for Colwood’s future using words or drawings; Coast Collective will be there to facilitate that
- ELSI will have display there, will try and book the watershed model as well
- Any possibility that the mural will be unveiled then?
 - Colwood is eager to get this going; Ian wants to be part of that meeting with First Nations
 - Fort Rodd Hill has offered to erect the FN signs and mural
 - These should be located at the lagoon, need to discuss with FN before locating these anywhere else
- Discussion about other locations for signs, Sandra would be happy to have the signs at Colwood in the meantime

ACTION – Kitty will deliver the 2 historical signs to Sandra

- Other event – Beach Food Fridays, food trucks at the lagoon every week all summer
- Good opportunity for teachable moment: don’t feed the birds, please stay out of wildlife refuge areas, keep dogs on leash in MBS

Sandra – another project Colwood will undertake is a shoreline study, looking at current condition of shoreline, looking into initiatives we can undertake to prolong life of the shoreline

Jody – did a full assessment of the shoreline in 1999/2000. This is what we will be updating in the next year; maybe we can collaborate

Development Updates: Ivo van der Kamp

Royal Bay

- Launch last week for Royal Bay development; on location for the planned Neighbourhood House
- Today issued a permit for townhouses

- Development permit application for waterfront park will start ASAP
- Park will include a beach volleyball court
- Park is anticipated to have about a 10 year life span

Questions/Comments:

- There is a real need for a fire hydrant there [at the proposed park site]
 - Hydrant will be at top of the access road, on waterfront side of Metchosin Rd, also retention ponds
- Existing retention pond burst its sides twice last winter
- When would be best time for ELSI to do a coordinated response?
- Will there be an open house?
 - No, it's a temporary private park, so no requirement for public input
- This area is a big problem, lots of people using that area for illicit purposes
 - Idea is to bring more public to the site which will help deter those kinds of activities
- What about earlier plans to create a waterfront promenade?
 - This is a way to open up the waterfront temporarily to homeowners in the area and neighbourhood
- Should be an open house and need to reconsider the retention pond, it's a public danger
- Message from ELSI: proceed cautiously, lots of issues there, including an eroding beach face

Ocean Grove

- Council gave 4th reading to zoning bylaw amendment, includes funding for sidewalks, some buildings are allowed to go up in height, density from about 585 units to 785, 20 single family lots – same plan ELSI saw earlier

Pacific Landing

- Still working on building permit, they have foundation permits
- Advised them that the info on the website about a Zen garden and bridge over Bee Cr was incorrect and should be amended
- Working on permanent fence line for Zone 6, keeping it in a more natural state, when that's done, they can issue a permit for the next phase of development

What about Dwight School?

Still working on the development agreement, construction scheduled to start 2017

Official Community Plan – what is the schedule for the review?

RFP just closed yesterday, need to see who the consultant will be, envisioning this to be done by fall of 2017; public input will be a big focus

CRD Harbour Program updates: Jody Watson

Harbour inventory

- Had hoped to start in 2016, but didn't have the funding in place before field season
- Hope to go to RFP by February 2017 or earlier, new processes at CRD mean that we need to start process 6 weeks earlier than in the past
- Went to Salish Sea Conference in May, focused on seeing what others are doing in this regard – now there's LIDAR capacity that can be used from a boat
- Need to meet with municipal staff, ask what information they use, what's most valuable for them, will also request that info from the public

Bird surveys

- Tri-MBS initiative – several meetings of groups who are involved in stewarding the three regional MBSs
- Put in a funding application for getting all stewards together to discuss how to work together
- Ken Brock came over from Delta office of CWS for initial meeting, 2016 marks 100th anniversary of International Treaty on Migratory Birds that created North American partnership; 2017 – 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act
- Plan to start the bird surveys this fall, will continue over a full year or more
- Boat/bird conflicts are happening in the Gorge, especially with increase in recreational paddlers (boats and stand-up paddleboards); one area of the Colquitz estuary, many conflicts with birds/birders when boats come through in shallow area
- Also a perceived conflict during the salmon spawn in fall
- Jody is talking with municipalities about the wildlife refuge areas that were established in Esquimalt Lagoon, maybe do the same in Colquitz
- Discussion started with Canadian Wildlife Service, but want to have an updated bird inventory first

Water quality objectives

Still waiting for response from Ministry of Environment on the draft water quality objectives that we submitted last year

- Working with municipalities to establish watershed boundaries – height of land doesn't work with urban watersheds where infrastructure has re-aligned flow direction in some municipalities
- Sending this updated info back to engineering and GIS staff
- Then need to re-run the stats with updated info, and all data on the roads (size, type, etc) and infer the amount of runoff/impact of cars
- Part of the delay from MoE is that they trust that we are doing a good job so we are not high priority on their list

Green Shores

- Green Shores is a LEEDS-type rating system for environmentally-friendly shoreline development, aimed to preserve and restore physical form and ecological function of the shoreline
- CRD is collaborating with BC Stewardship Centre on a Green Shores project, through the Climate Action and Harbours Programs
- CRD will participate in a local government Green Shores working group, need to identify interested pilot community – maybe Colwood is interested?
- What are they looking for in terms of host municipality?
 - Want demonstration projects, developing outreach tools, incorporating Green Shores wording and principles into OCPs, training sessions – level 1 and 2, to be offered to staff
- Applied for funding to Real Estate Foundation; Jody or Kitty will sit on the local government working group; we will send out information when/if project proceeds

ACTION – Kitty send out info when available

Coordinator Updates:

Traffic Calming on Ocean Boulevard

- A report on options for traffic calming on Ocean Boulevard will come forward to the July Transportation and Public Infrastructure committee meeting.

Decisions and Actions – ELSI Steering Committee
Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Page 6

- Jason reported that has made recommendations to council 4 times in the past year about traffic calming, still no decisions made

Bull frogs in Colwood Cr

- Contacted Purnima Govindarajulu, Small Mammal and Herpetofauna Specialist, BC Ministry of Environment about giving a workshop or training in bullfrog eradication, waiting to hear back
- Contacted Gord Beauvillier to let him know that the frogs have entered the lower reaches of Colwood Creek. He already knew there are bull frogs in Glen Lake, and is interested in participating in a workshop on eradication

Project ideas for 2016/2017

- Pit House Park – Greater Victoria Green Team is keen to partner on a grant application if we want to try getting funding to do some planting in the park
- General consensus at ELSI is that we should wait and see what happens there as Ocean Grove gets built out; developer would probably object to planting tall trees along the waterfront
- Thank you letter was sent to Greater Victoria Green Team for their work at the park and at the broom pull

Outreach events

- MEC Run is being held at RRU Sunday June 26; approx. 500 participants expected. MEC contacted Kitty to see whether ELSI could have a display with information about the lagoon. Package of ELSI material has been sent to MEC to have at event
- Canada Day: July 1 at Fort Rodd Hill, watershed model will be there, volunteers requested to help at display table
- July 9 Eats & Beats at the Beach: event runs from 1 – 8pm, ELSI will set up display and has requested the watershed model. Good opportunity for outreach about MBS and having dogs on leash

Partner updates:

- Judith – what about moving some of the sand from delta at mouth of Esquimalt Lagoon to Tod Inlet where SeaChange Marine Conservation Society is planning a Green Shores project to cover contaminated sediments there and create a pocket beach. Does ELSI have any concerns about this idea?
 - Not a good idea, the sand could be forage fish and/or clam habitat, DFO would have an issue with that; this sand protects the spit to Fisgard Light

Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm