



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
 Tuesday, December 13, 2016
 Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Jody Watson, Judith Cullington, Jason Nault, Judy Nault, Nancy Wilkins, Ivo van der Kamp

Guests: Barri Rudolph, Patrick Lucey, Bruno Tozzo, Jacklyn Barrs

| DECISIONS | | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | ELSI will sponsor an educational lagoon tour for OCP review committee and Colwood Council | | |
| Next Meeting: February 14, 2017 | | | |
| ACTIONS | | ACTION BY | DUE |
| 1 | Send updated Royal Bay environmental development permit when ready | Ivo | When available |
| 2 | Ben Mycroft – request to attend ELSI meeting to discuss waterfront development at Royal Bay | Kitty | Next meeting |
| 3 | Request that signage at the lagoon be added to Parks & Recreation committee agenda | Jason | ASAP |
| 4 | Arrange a phone-in option for people (like Ken M) who routinely can't attend meetings | Kitty | Next meeting |
| 5 | Check for 2007 groundwater flow testing done by RRU students | Barri/Kitty | Next meeting |
| 6 | Send Green Shores information to Ivo | Kitty | ASAP |
| 7 | Send Ocean Grove plans to Kitty | Ivo | When available |
| 8 | Send OCP report summary to ELSI | Kitty | ASAP |
| 9 | Scope out the opportunities for ELSI sponsoring a tour of lagoon with experts and OCP review committee/Colwood councillors | Jason, Ivo, Kitty and Jody | Spring |
| 10 | Follow up with Coast Collective re April 19 MBS celebration event | Kitty | Winter |

INFORMATION

Review of minutes and action items from last meeting:

- MBS brochure, final draft was handed out, also now posted on the ELSI website.

- Colwood Parks and Recreation Committee – request to add lagoon signage to agenda: Jason reported that just had a meeting last night, first one since June, agenda was full with other items; topic of picnic tables at the lagoon came up, Jason will make sure they know these should not be put in the dune area

Presentation: Stormwater monitoring in Esquimalt Lagoon and its tributaries

Barri Rudolph, CRD Stormwater Monitoring Program Supervisor (please see attached PDF for details)

- Monitoring program includes sediment and water quality in streams as well as stormwater discharges with human health as impetus
- Some water quality monitoring in creeks, as well as continuous flow monitoring, challenges maintaining the machinery and batteries, there's a flow monitor in Colwood Creek
- Also monitor benthic invertebrates as a measure of stream health, in Bee, Selleck and Colwood creeks
- In Esquimalt Lagoon, 20 locations are monitored, sites are assessed on basis of environmental concern and public health concern
- Marine sites: at toe of lagoon, in front of Selleck Cr, Colwood Cr and along peninsula
- Stormwater discharges, frequency of monitoring depends on level of contamination seen in past, if there's a concern, go back to resample twice a year, look further upstream for source of problem
- Also do 5 in 30s every 5 years, dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, nutrients, metals, benthic inverts
- Of concern – 4 discharges occasionally get elevated levels, (200 colonies/100ml) – that's the upper level for recreational contact (swimming)
- Lagoon is relatively clean compared to more urban areas
- One has a moderate public health rating (#933, toe of lagoon), on average, Bee and Colwood are lower than 200; Selleck is often over 200 (up to 300)
- Q: do you differentiate between human and animal source of fecals?
 - Yes, do Bacterial Source Tracking (BST), though none yet on Colwood Cr, will do that in 2017
 - Trouble getting a lab nearby that does this BST work
- Bee, Selleck: BST showed no human fecals nor caffeine
- Toe: human identified, also ruminant, birds and dog; hard to do upstream investigations at this spot
- Have explored using laundry whiteners as an indicator of human influence, didn't work well
- Creeks – all have elevated phosphorus levels as all regional creeks do, compared to provincial guidelines
- Nitrate is unusual – rarely see elevated levels in other creeks, but we do in the lagoon, not sure what the source is
- Occasionally see turbidity elevated, also copper, zinc and occasionally cadmium
- Benthic inverts – use CABIN (Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network) method, based on standard national protocols, for consistent comparisons; data shows that benthic invertebrates are stressed in all 3 lagoon tributaries
- Marine monitoring – of concern: dissolved oxygen, temperature, nitrate, bacteria (enterococci, fecals), metals (Cu, Cd, Zn)
- 2017 – will be going back to sample in Colwood Cr, 5 year mark, 2018 will do marine monitoring, then Selleck

- Will continue to monitor discharge #933 in the toe
- Patrick: How is flow measured?
 - Have done discharge rating curves to be able to relate flow to creek height (which is what is being measured continuously)
- Patrick is doing stage discharge in upper areas of Colwood Cr, his data will bracket the data being collected by CRD. We've been subsidizing all the local creeks with septic system discharges for past 100 years (i.e. using municipal water supply for septic systems that discharge to ground); with new sewer system, we will see a drying trend in creeks
- Patrick: geology here is unlike any other area, might be better to do all the creek sampling in same year, rather than alternating in different years, would give a good snapshot of groundwater quality, etc. Barri will consider this
- RRU student group did some groundwater testing in 2007, data is not in an electronic version

ACTION: Barri will check into the 2007 data

Development Updates:

Royal Bay

- Still working on OCP amendment, went to Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee, recommendation will go to council, proposed changes to park plan, terms of reference for Latoria North, OCP rezoning expected early January
- Development permit application for Phase 1E of sector 2, corner of Latoria Blvd and Metchosin Rd, for lot layouts, coming at same time as rezoning application
- Developer now realizing that it's more efficient and timely to apply for one subdivision application and OCP amendment, rather than separate one for each phase of the development. This process was finally agreed on at last night's meeting, OCP will drive the application process rather than other way around
- Beth: playground equipment at Beach Park would not meet Colwood standards
 - Colwood will not be taking over that part of the park
- Will there be an overall site development plan in 2017?
 - Hopefully! When this goes to council, next application will be for all the rest of the site
 - ELSI will be very interested in participating

Brooks School (formerly called Dwight School):

- Environmental development permit is underway, Ivo will check whether referrals have been sent out yet, details of development agreement are being worked on
- Not sure how long that will take, next step to take to council for bylaw adoption, 3 months more or less
- Aqua-Tex is environmental consultant for project, complex site with golf course upstream; culverts, dams, lots of infrastructure, legacy tree copse on either side of creek; working on "living lab" aspect of the school

Ocean Grove

- Application received for subdivision of 20 single family lots, 2 multi-family dwellings
- Working with developer and some strata members to do some riparian work along Selleck Cr, hoping to do clean-up in next few months; development permit to construct

the wetland that was supposed to be done on phase 1 but didn't happen; no plans for the current works, have a letter stating that the works were not completed, they've done the middle section but not the 2 ends; permitting will take months, in meantime will clean out broom and blackberries by hand, removing the smaller alders, thinning them out in area behind existing town houses; 3 phased approach, clearing out broom, blackberries, obtain permits to do the work in riparian, then do pond work, then plant with native vegetation

- This was supposed to be done within one calendar year of permit being issued
- Strata group is keeping an eye on the riparian, and should be at the design table; seems to be some misunderstanding between strata and developer about the maintenance regime
- Municipality will take additional security from developer, will not issue building permits if riparian work does not get completed
- Craig Barlow (Applied Ecological Solutions) is the environmental consultant for this project
- Colwood will require a development permit application for the works within the 15 metre setback of Selleck and a riparian report is expected as part of the application. When report and application are received, will send out referrals and include a copy of the report.
- Ivo – trying to strike a balance; bylaw adopted in June, just considering it now, 6 months have passed, only set date is bylaw adoption, this is the only regulatory power that municipality has to actually ensure that the work is done
- How can ELSI be involved so we have some say in planning for this creek and riparian area? ELSI has always played an advisory role, what are our options to make this happen?
- Ivo – when they receive a development permit application they will send out referral to ELSI
- Jody – a referral is sent out when a plan is already visualized, we want to return to working with municipal staff on developing the plans, rather than just reacting to plans after they are submitted. How can we reach that point again?
- Lots of knowledgeable people on the committee, want to have more active involvement
- Judith – agrees that it's frustrating to be left out and to find out about things after concepts/plans have been formulated
- This would make the work easier for both developer and the municipality
- Process of community buy-in much easier at the beginning rather than reacting to something that's a done deal
- Colwood should make sure that the community is kept in the loop, they should want the community to be part of the planning process, whole process will be much easier
- Want to have discussion about how this might be possible, e.g. as the process was for Pacific Landing when it was Essencia, first the community was up in arms when they saw plans being proposed, but then a more collaborative approach was achieved, worked well for municipal staff as well as the developer

ACTION: Ivo will send the plans as they exist now

- Jody talked about Green Shores workshop held in November, there's an opportunity to take part in that program, Colwood could consider requesting that the developer adopt these approaches for waterfront development
- Would be a great program for Colwood to get on board with, lots of opportunity to incorporate GS language in the new OCP review

ACTION: Kitty will send Ivo information about Green Shores

Pacific Landing

- Jason excused himself from this part of the meeting, due to conflict of interest
- Nothing has changed, new application is for a parking variance, went to committee, deferred, have now received a 3rd version of parking report
- Varying the parking for one phase, but this will affect parking for other phases, working out the details now
- Reducing requirements for Phase 1, but will provide more than is required for other phases, and where these will be placed will be a bit irregular; Jan 17th is new date for the meeting of the new Advisory Planning Commission (replacing the Planning and Land Use Committee)
- Will this parking change have any impact on surrounding neighbourhood?
 - Before the next phases are built, parking will be accommodated in adjacent phases. As part of the application, they will be going to neighbours within 75m of the property.
- Patrick: the site has an enormous amount of water flowing through it, engineer advised using pumps to remove water; Patrick got them to pipe the water into 40m of trout spawning habitat he had built, very clean and pure water, no turbidity, developer and engineer did not consider this option but Patrick had it built 2 months ago, it snakes through trees and flows back into Bee at mouth of creek, provides a refugium from sediment coming down the creek; sediment is mostly coming from eroding escarpment on RRU property, sediment used to collect in pond at the dam, but that was removed
- Patrick – taking a GS approach with Pacific Landing

OCP Review update

- Judith – Sandra Russell sent out a summary report, she has forwarded to Kitty and Jody
- ACTION:** Kitty send OCP report summary to ELSI
- Topic areas of interest – transportation, transit, bus lanes, trees and urban forest strategy, protection of wetlands, tidelines – celebrate and conserve
 - OCP steering committee meeting – has been bumped into the new year
 - Jody – What is overall schedule, and when will be the best opportunity for ELSI to review, or get involved in the process?
 - Expect a draft plan in Fall 2017, not sure how entire process will go, gathering information now through open houses and website, on-line survey, comment boards are throughout the community
 - Jason is chairing the committee: Feedback: consider a boardwalk in lagoon, protecting MBS is high on the list, push to add more seating for events at the beach, ELSI should have input about that
 - Many people want a waterfront restaurant, Royal Bay would be the best site for that
 - Jason – ELSI should come out to meeting where we discuss waterfront, environment. OCP review committee is open to all, not a set group working on this
 - Beth- in summer maybe ELSI volunteers could do some outreach and education at the lagoon, trail walks, etc. Need to have more education at the lagoon next year for visitors
 - Patrick – This is a unique landscape, rare situation on this coast, what goes on in upper reaches of the watershed has a big direct effect on the lower reaches of creeks and the lagoon;
 - Judith: Good to have experts come to a site visit

- Suggestion – ELSI ask Colwood whether they would like us to organize a site visit of lagoon and creeks with local experts, to educate people working on the OCP review to learn more (eg geomorphologist, ecologist, Canadian Wildlife Service, etc)

ACTION – Jason, Ivo, Kitty and Jody – scope out the opportunities for this

Coordinator Updates:

Water quality monitoring:

- CRD water quality monitoring equipment brought for volunteers, who will repeat the 5 in 30 sampling during the wet season.
- Several new volunteers have requested to participate in the monitoring efforts over past few months
- Jody has a meeting in early January with provincial Min. of Environment to discuss the Water Quality Objectives for CRD Harbours

ELSI Work Plan 2017

- Add Brooks School to list of developments to follow

Events to attend in 2017:

- Events to organize – MBS celebration
- Kitty spoke with Cindy Moyer from Coast Collective, about 2017 MBS celebrations. Childrens' Art Show there April 19 – 30th. Wants to plan events beforehand, hands-on interactive activities for kids, something for opening night Apr 19, would ELSI like to be involved?

Urban Sanctuaries Project:

- Draft of Migratory Bird Sanctuary brochure shown at last meeting is finalized, 750 printed and distributed; several copies brought to meeting
- Lots of input from the Urban Sanctuary partners, especially Jacques Sirois and Friends of Shoal Harbour
- Important to inform residents in the region of the existence and importance of the MBSs
- Brochure will form part of the outreach that CRD does in all its programming, as well as member groups of ELSI, GWI, other groups
- Bateman Centre is designing an 18 month Sanctuary Program targeted at youth
- Speakers event sponsored by GWI was held Dec 8th given by Jacques Sirois at the Robert Bateman Centre; ELSI display set up
- Other talks planned for February (photographer Stuart Clarke), April (Ann Nightingale); will keep ELSI informed

Other Business:

- Patrick – Has been asked about what is the process for disposing of federal lands that are excess to needs? Regarding DND property at RRU – FN would be given first refusal, as in Jericho lands in Vancouver
- Patrick has talked with province about this, has anyone else here been asked about this?
- Judith – 15 years ago or so, people were worried about this, RRU could be made surplus to requirements

- Original RRU Mothers' Day picnic was organized by people who were worried about a possible sale, to raise public awareness, it was successful
- Jason – DND no longer has an operational need for RRU land, prior to disposal of property, DND is having ongoing discussion with First Nations, no plans determined as yet, sensitive to the importance of heritage aspects of the property, uncertain how long this process will take, talks are not linked to treaty process in any way
- RRU and Colwood have not been involved in these discussions; RRU is “just a lessee”, has no formal say in the process
- Jody – In the past, the disposal process was that property offered first to other federal departments, then FNs, lastly to lower levels of government
- Judith – Colwood's ability to control what happens there is dependent on who the owner is, DND does not have to comply with any of Colwood's bylaws
- While the federal government owns this, there are many regulations that apply to what happens on that land. If it becomes private, these will not apply
- Discussions are not open and transparent, decisions can be made without any local input

Partner updates:

Judy - Sales staff at Pacific Landing is interested in letting ELSI hold events at Pendray House

Jason - Clean Water and Wastewater Fund Grant has been applied for to cover cost of Ocean Blvd pump station relocation planning

Nancy – RRU: Mews building has been emptied out now, funds are in place to renovate, restore and add an addition to the back; will become labs, conference centre, will be energy efficient, got federal and private funds, will do crowd funding for outdoor classroom

Meeting adjourned: 4:45pm