



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
Tuesday, June 13, 2017  
Colwood Municipal Hall

**Present:** Roberto Melfi, Judith Cullington, Beth Mitchell, Jason Nault, Judy Nault, Vicki Metcalfe, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd, Ken Morgan (by phone), Sheryl Greave (community member)

DECISIONS				
1	ELSI will submit response to Colwood draft OCP Visions and Goals			
<b>Next Meeting: 8 August 2017</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Arrange a meeting with Sandra Russell to discuss signage etc at the lagoon		Jason	ASAP
2	Re-send email response to Beach Food Fridays submitted to Jason/Colwood council last year		Kitty	ASAP
3	Send link to Climate Projections for the Capital Region		Kitty	ASAP
4	Engage RRU to see if they would put up the First Nation mural and sign on their property		Kitty	Summer
5	Send a link when RRU student bird projects are complete		Roberto	When available

### INFORMATION

**Addition to agenda from Jason:**

- Update/discussion about a structure being built at the lagoon. (discussion below)

**Action items from last meeting:**

- Broom Pull was held on Sunday June 11; 23 people turned out; broom, ivy and blackberry removed and garbage picked up. Greater Victoria Green Team was a great help
- Tour of Brookes School site today, with Patrick Lucey and Jeff Townsend

**Update from Owain McKibben, CWS (via email):**

- “The idea is to resign all along the boundary of the lagoon, to ensure that the public is aware of it being a Migratory Bird Sanctuary. Especially on the Royal Roads area, this is not as clear as it can be. We are looking to involve the University also with this.
- Working with DND to see about the disposal of the Royal Roads properties and how that impacts the Sanctuary.
- Signage – working with our signage company to get new and replacement signs up. We need them in both English and French to comply with our requirements and then to see

how best to use the digital images. Also working with them regards colours and fading as well as a means to prevent graffiti vandalism.

- Our signage will also incorporate the use of educational messages regards the feeding of wildlife. I am trying to get the correct message together about NOT feeding birds bread. This is unhealthy for them as well as causing lots of issues with wild waterfowl becoming habituated.
- Signage for canoeists and boaters is more of an issue as they would want to see this while on the water. We cannot put signs up in the water. We need to find ways to encourage them to look up the regulations and local needs before going out on the water.”

#### **Structure at lagoon:**

- Jason noticed that there was a plywood structure being built along the dune area, this has never been discussed at council, Parks Committee, nor at ELSI
- Had a reply from Sandra Russell – this is a movable pergola that will be used at events such as Eats & Beats, this was trial run for setting it up at events

**ACTION** Send Beach Food Fridays email to ELSI committee, as a reminder about what we expressed last year about possible effects of these events on dunes and wildlife

- Sandra has told Jason that signage for the lagoon is in draft format

#### **Discussion re signage at the lagoon:**

- Ken: signs are only as good as people’s willingness to comply. Can’t have someone enforcing 24/7, that’s not an option
- Food truck events are definitely an issue
- It’s about management at the Eats and Beats event and Food Truck events
- Need to work with staff regarding messaging, outreach
- We will reach out again with Sandra

**ACTION:** Jason will try and arrange a meeting with Sandra and ELSI members ASAP

- Some people become very aggressive when confronted about their off-leash dogs
- We could talk with CRD bylaw people who patrol the beach for off-leash dogs; it’s a Colwood bylaw issue; they contract CRD to do dog on leash patrol, but outreach about wildlife, etc would have to be an extra request

#### **Draft Colwood OCP Vision and Goals discussion:**

- Event a while ago at a Food Truck weekend to solicit public input about OCP draft goals
- Judith: OCP focuses a lot on waterfront, Colwood wants to make it a destination place, energize the waterfront as a recreation destination. Many councilors are supportive of this
- Idea is to enhance community spirit
- At same time, others, including ELSI are saying, yes, but let’s consider the MBS, sensitive dunes
- Music stage gets set up in middle of the dunes, is this necessary?
- There’s a pathway now from picnic tables to the washrooms; a trail had been formed there already, Parks staff have now marked it with driftwood

**Goal #1:** “The waterfront village is a gently-enjoyed, world-class destination for residents and visitors alike”

- Waterfront village “gently enjoyed” seems like a contradiction
- Everything got dropped in here, everyone can find something to approve of here

- Fundamental piece here, what will the lagoon look like in the very long term?
- How to find a balance between recreation and conservation?
- Set up areas where people are not allowed to go? Not practical to fence off areas when winter storms are going to destroy fencing anyway
- Current OCP reads very well, but generally Colwood never says no to development proposals despite what is stated in the OCP
- If we need to have a discussion about redefining ELSI's role, we can add that to a future agenda
- Goal 1 has lots of contradictions
- Where is the waterfront? The village, shops, homes sounds like Royal Bay, not the lagoon
- Suggest that it should be specific about where the village is
- Royal Bay area is where public events should happen
- Events need to be managed responsibly

**Goal #2:** "People and nature are exceptionally well-connected"

- Encourage increased sensitivity at the lagoon
- Emphasize the special values of the lagoon
- Only realistic way to "save the lagoon" is to keep people right out, that's not going to happen

**Goal #3:** "Residents have realistic transportation choices"

- Could suggest goal of eliminating Ocean Blvd, but other comments should come from residents, not ELSI

**Goal #4:** "Public places – including streets – are for public life"

- Ensure that events at lagoon are managed appropriately, including parking
- Cultural expression: what about the First Nations mural and sign?

**ACTION:** Engage RRU to see if they would put up the First Nation mural and sign on their property

**Goal #5:** "Colwood is prepared to adapt to a changing world"

- How does this fit with waterfront walkway and road at lagoon and sewer pump station?

**Yellow flag-iris in Bee Creek:**

- Introduced via ornamental pond that used to be onsite
- Judy tackled it a few years ago, but it's now in a boggy area that's very hard to get at
- Now the patch is bigger and further downstream
- Judy has deadheaded the flowers
- Will try and come up with a plan
- Judy is wondering whether it will thrive in the lagoon, literature says it's tolerant of brackish water
- Reach out to District of Saanich, they've dealt with it in allotment gardens
- No discussion yet with the developer; ELSI could write a letter to owners?
- Judy has talked with Patrick Lucey, he will let us know if they want a letter written by ELSI to developer

**Coordinator updates:**

- Brookes School: Six ELSI members had a site tour with Patrick Lucey and Jeff Townsend just prior to this meeting
- Original plan for that site was for a 20 story condo building
- This plan has very detailed plan for the riparian
- The development plan has been approved and is moving ahead, hoping to be open for school year in September 2018
- Jason will keep us up to date

**Partner updates:**

**Royal Roads group** – nothing new at this point, signing of MOU between Colwood and Songhees is a good first step, waiting to see what they can do now that will be most helpful at this point

**Fish monitoring:** Beth: fish trapping in Colwood Cr 3 weeks ago

Elaine Hawkins participated, she's the person who took photos of spawning salmon in Colwood Cr in 2015; caught a lot of tiny coho, down by first bridge

No cutthroat at all, fish may have been too small to stay in the traps

Trapping in Selleck Cr this week; Craig Barlow is interested in this info, he's still the biologist for owner at Ocean Grove

**Bee Creek:** main concern is yellow flag iris, also dealing with lots of other invasives at Pacific Landing site

**RRU:** June 21, celebrating National Indigenous Day at lagoon, canoe races and other activities planned

Two student projects: bird conservation project and bird-friendly certification program for businesses and institutes; projects will be done at the end of August; focus is on terrestrial birds

Working with Rocky Pt Bird Observatory

**ACTION:** Roberto will send a link when these are complete

Discussion about lack of mute swans, just because there is a year when they are not here does not mean something dire has happened

Trumpeter swans on peninsula have changed their habits as well

**VNHS:** Vicki Metcalfe is the new rep, Phil Lambert is now VNHS president. Happy to meet us all, will look at past meeting minutes to catch up on issues being discussed

**CRD Harbours:** Jody was on a climate adaptation working group at CRD, working with Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, looking at data generated by International Panel on Climate Change; projections for Pacific Northwest are being downscaled for local areas, using historic data for each region; has just been done for this region, went to CRD board recently

**ACTION:** Send link to this document on CRD website; this is an important tool for land use planning

**Meeting adjourned: 4:20pm**

**Colwood Planning updates** (provided by Ivo van der Kamp following the meeting)

- **Brookes School**

- First priority is to get fences installed to cordon off the protected riparian areas. Riparian and environmental works will be carried out under the direction of Patrick Lucey
- A soil removal permit will be required for this site, and technical review of plans is being undertaken
- **Pacific Landing**
  - Currently discussing Phase 2 plans
- **Ocean Grove**
  - In discussion now with environmental professional, potentially revisiting the planting plan as the existing plans will likely lead to the site becoming overgrown
  - Thomas Roy of Cascadia Biological Consulting is the environmental consultant
  - Construction of sidewalks on Heatherbell and sewer line along Seafield are part of the amenity package for this project
- **Royal Bay**
  - Nothing new to report, work continuing as before