



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Jason Nault, Nancy Wilkin, Kitty Lloyd, Vicki Metcalfe, Emily Rudderham, Beth Mitchell, Judith Cullington, Judy Nault, Rod Huszar, Cheryl Grieve

DECISIONS				
1	ELSI will submit comments about the revised draft OCP to Colwood			
Next Meeting: April 10, 2018				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Make suggestion to Colwood about where the food trucks and picnic tables should be located for 2018 season	Kitty	Spring	
2	Engage RRU to see whether they would put up First Nations mural and sign on their property	Kitty	ongoing	
3	Send comments on revised OCP Draft to Colwood, letter to include previous comments about Royal Bay and Ocean Grove area plans	Kitty	(done)	
4	Request that Royal Colwood Golf Club staff meet with ELSI, see if they're interested in a tour of the creek	Kitty	Spring	
5	Kitty send Beth info about CRD's flow meter	Kitty	(done)	
6	Send the Brookes School Environmental report (Dec. 2016) to committee	Kitty	(done)	
7	Send Kitty the form for requesting RRU student project (regarding a restoration plan for Pit House Park)	Nancy	ASAP	
8	Email Jason regarding pruning blackberry canes in Pit House Park	Beth	ASAP	
9	Enquire why Green Shores certification requirement for shoreline developments was removed from draft OCP	Jason	ASAP	
10	Contact Dave Blundon at Camosun College to see if dune restoration monitoring is continuing	Kitty	Next meeting	
11	Check the terms of reference for ELSI Steering Committee. Perhaps update the terms? Use social media to solicit new members	Kitty	April meeting	
12	Add Rod Huszar to ELSI list; send Cheryl's contact information to Beth	Kitty	(done)	

INFORMATION

Agenda changes:

- Dale Desrochers & Melissa from DFO joined ELSI members on a tour of Colwood Creek this afternoon, but did not attend the ELSI meeting.
- Ivo van der Kamp has moved on to a job in Central Saanich, he has not been replaced yet. Still waiting for a Colwood staff rep on ELSI

Decisions and Actions from last meeting:

Water Licensing on Colwood Creek – (Beth)

- No response from the province, we need people with some clout who know how to involve/deal with the public and to be able to negotiate change.
- This is about the pond on the Royal Colwood Golf Course (across from Sooke Road, where Colwood Creek has been dammed to create a pond for watering the golf course). The golf course has a water license, they cut the water supply completely from lower parts of the river for several months each summer.
- In the new BC Water Sustainability Act people that have water licenses will be grandfathered in and will continue to have these licenses. Despite these changes the fish do come back; consider inviting members of the golf course to attend a meeting so we can talk about this. Understand what their requirements are, can they let some water out? We should have a tour with the golf course, show them the creek.

ACTION: Invite golf course staff to next ELSI meeting

- We need data on critical flow and how much oxygen is needed for the fish, and when critical times are during the year.
- Do we know when their next water renewal license is due? Maximum time is 25 years for any water license in Canada but normally is only for 5 years. Licenses go up for public comment before they can be renewed. Can be searched online, Kitty has the license number, will forward to Emily/Beth.
- Best option is to start negotiating with the golf course but we will need more data, reports should include the critical flow, knowing how many spawners are returning and how many fry we are trapping.
- If the golf course is retaining the water for most of the summer and then releasing it, what is the temperature going to be? Could do more harm releasing warm water. The creek is fed by some seepage from the aquifer, which seems to keep the temperature low but the creek temps were 170C in recent years. 180C is detrimental to coho fry, we are right on the edge.
- Environmental report prepared by AquaTex for Brookes School has detailed information on use of water in the golf course.

ACTION: Kitty send Beth info about CRD's flow meter and how to access the data; info on Colwood Cr water licenses

ACTION: Send the Brooke's School environmental report to committee

Urban Forest Bylaw Comments:

- Comments from CWS (Owain McKibbin): Kitty did not hear back from Owain, but Ken Morgan's comments were forwarded to Colwood

Restoration plan for Pit House Park:

- The UVic student who was going to prepare a plan for the park as a project dropped out of the course

- What are the requirements to request a student from RRU?
 - Nancy: Community sponsor submits a proposal to RRU in September, faculty member reviews, hear back in November. Typically get 4-5 students in 3rd/4th year, January-August one day/week. Fabulous program! Send request to Heather Wanke who runs the projects for the school of Environmental Studies, if they think it is a worthwhile project, a faculty member is assigned, there is a budget, basically a consulting agreement.

ACTION: Nancy to send Kitty the form.

Discussion regarding recent activities in the park (Beth):

- Someone pruned the orchard; bank of blackberry bushes is gone, old holly tree was cut down
- Left a mass of Daphne laurel under the tree – toxic berries could be eaten by children.
- Blackberry canes were left in the field, there have been bicycle tire punctures, dogs' paws being injured, poking through kids' sneakers. No response from Colwood Parks

ACTION: Beth to email Jason, he will follow-up.

Revised Colwood Draft OCP:

- Kitty read comments via email from Gayle Johnson about the Ocean Grove local area plan. This is something we have already commented on, that plan is not being updated during this revision process.
- Jason: Local Plans are not current, last owner was going to replace townhouses with single family homes. This map now shows townhouses, will ask staff what happened.
- Reviewed the Appendix 1 – Page 144: 202. Marine Shoreline Guidelines – the requirement for new projects to be registered with Green Shores program has been removed from revised OCP
- Kitty: Green Shores is a program of the Stewardship Centre for BC, incentive-based credit system like the LEEDS program for green buildings.
- Way of encouraging property owners, home owners, developers, etc to follow soft engineering approaches to shoreline development. System based on credits, e.g. replacing a concrete wall with rocks, logs and plants, etc. get so many points towards certification
- Incorporating this into the OCP could help lessen impact of sea level rise, reduce erosion. Disappointing to see it taken out.
- At least the hardening of shorelines is not supported in the draft
- If no Green Shores requirement, is there anyone else who is qualified to even make these kind of recommendations or calls? Similar principles are in the guidelines of the OCP, but you will need to staff to understand the guidelines. Using Green Shores you get an accredited system, standardized, with professional certification.

ACTION: Jason: inquire why requirement for Green Shores certification was removed from draft

ELSI Work Plan 2018

- Not too different from last year.
- Dune Restoration – There is a coastal sand dune ecosystem workshop offered by Parks Canada that Kitty is going to on February 27. Kitty contacted Dave Blundon from Camosun College to see if he might be interested in doing a presentation of his findings but didn't hear back.
- Have not heard back from Dave about their monitoring results.

ACTION – Inquire whether Dave is still doing dune restoration monitoring at Coburg Peninsula

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- Habitat Mapping and Inventory: still on the CRD Harbours Work Plan. Similar to the survey we did back in 1998/1999 for the Harbour Atlas. We are overdue to repeat the inventories.
- Seaside Festival at Fort Rodd Hill: we didn't attend last fall but could consider doing this year.

New membership drive:

- Beth could use a hand with the fish monitoring program.
- Use social media to solicit new members. Emily knows people who may be interested in fish monitoring, she could approach environment sciences class at Royal Roads
- Kitty contacted First Nations rep at RRU, may be interest for putting together a program in the future.

ACTION: Check ELSI terms of reference to see if we are missing rep's in particular categories, consider updating the ToR. Use social media to solicit new members

Colwood Development Updates (Jason)

- The undeveloped properties at Royal Bay changed owners, all the land to the ocean side of Metchosin Rd is now one owner and the land from Latoria Rd west is the other owner. We don't know if the plans are changing. The new owners have not come forward with any change proposals.
- Seafeld Cottage project is moving ahead slowly, the transfer of Seafeld Rd to the developer is underway. The city is giving them road right of way to build houses on, and will build a new access road tht will access facing rows of houses. When Ocean Grove finally goes ahead, the public has stated that they want a different access road so residents are not driving through residential neighbourhoods. It is a reasonable request.

Partner Updates

Royal Roads (Nancy)

- Installed nine new outdoor stainless steel recycling units for campus. First time we've had outdoor recycling streams, only had garbage cans. Aim to reach 80% waste diversion by 2020.
- After two years of studying our international students at our recycling orientation, convinced our branding staff to put photographs on the recycling bins instead of stylized icons.
- Some of international students will be on campus for four years. We have taken over the international program, no longer a contract with an outside agency. For the first two years, students will take English every morning and academics in the afternoon. Students are engaged with the campus.
- The Songhees are interested in some fish/stream restoration on the property at RRU. They have applied to the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation for funding
- The Centre for Environmental Science and International Partnerships will be completed by March 31, 2018 in order for us to get federal funding. Will open in September 2018. Very exciting! What to do with the former Pool - to be discussed.
- Boat house is being completely redone: Continuing Studies offices and two classrooms. It will be an energy efficient building.
- RRU has reached 31% emissions reduction now, so are on track to meet the 33% target by 2020
- Nancy is retiring at the end of March 2018 - Congratulations! We will miss you, and appreciate everything you have done.
- New director will be sitting on the committee: Roberto Melfi.

ACTION - Kitty – send Dale and Melissa's email address to Nancy.

Urban Forest Bylaw – Judith:

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- Meeting every Thursday until the end of March when report is due. Our job is to provide recommendations to council about what bylaw changes should be made, want it to be the right fit for Colwood

VNHS – no report

Colwood Council – Jason:

- OCP Review: Chairs the committee for the official community plan review; expect first reading at council tonight. Second reading, then public hearing, then a couple more OCP Committee meetings, committee of the whole meeting to discuss this to be open for anyone who has concerns. Feels that the OCP is really good plan. Council needs to buy in to it.
- Urban Forest Bylaw– Jason is council liaison on this committee, it is a very strong committee with registered professional foresters, arborists, other in the industry, Colwood residents, very balanced and well informed input. Interim bylaw is way too restrictive for private homeowners and hopefully we can fix this and create a bylaw that works for everybody.

Pacific Landing/Bee Creek:

- Judy: - could organize guest speakers at the Pendray House, good for the neighbourhood if we could get this together. Would ELSI like to be involved?
- Had a meeting with residents who are interested in stewardship, very informed people. We are have a work day once a week for two hours on Thursdays.
- Rod (new resident at Pacific Landing) - All units are sold, strata is still trying to get itself organized. Maintenance of all of the protected areas (bird sanctuary, riparian area) have been turned over to the strata council from the developers but it isn't clear what that means; each building will have its own strata council; communal areas will be maintained by the strata. If our group can help, let us know.

ACTION – Add Rod Huszar to ELSI email distribution list.

ACTION - Cheryl interested in fish monitoring; Kitty send Chery's contact info to Beth

Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm