



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, June 12, 2018
Colwood Municipal Hall

- Present:** Vicki Metcalfe, Beth Mitchell, Roberto Malfi, Natalie Bandringa, Kitty Lloyd, Iain Bourhill, Jason and Judy Nault, Terry Phipps (Ocean Grove), Rod Huszar, Gayle Johnston, Ken Morgan (by phone)
- Guest:** Philip Nurse (Colwood Golf Course), Patrick Lucey (Aqua-Tex)
Possible new members: Bev Deets, Thelma Wright

DECISIONS			
1	Invite Nikii Hoglund to next ELSI meeting to give presentation on Traffic Calming in Lagoon Neighbourhood		
2	Invite Helen Lockhart to next ELSI meeting to give presentation on Erosion Study on Coburg Peninsula		
Next Meeting: October 9, 2018			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Look into giving a presentation to next Colwood council about importance of dunes and ELSI's role re Coburg Peninsula IMG	Kitty	January 2019
2	Make sure all ELSI reports, agendas, minutes, etc are posted on ELSI website	Kitty	Summer
3	Look into installing a depth sensor in Colwood Lake	Patrick	Summer

INFORMATION

Agenda changes:

- Nikii Hoglund and Helen Lockhart are not coming this time; both reports they were to present are not yet public
- Round of Introductions, 3 possible new members: Bev Deets (Pacific Landing), Terry Phipps (Ocean Grove), Thelma Wright (Colwood resident)

Review of Action Items from April:

- Kitty wrote to Colwood about moving the picnic tables; Gord Beauvillier replied that he needs direction from his supervisor to do that. Jason will continue talking to staff
- Natalie recounted earlier dune restoration work and re-aligning paths through the dunes
- Patrick – where is the repository of all ELSI reports and info, e.g. the fish data?
 - A: most info and reports are on ELSI website; hard copies of everything is on file at CRD
- Ken Morgan: should make sure everything is on the web

ACTION – put all ELSI reports, agendas, minutes, etc on website

- First Nations Mural and 2 interpretive signs are going to be installed at RRU, see Coordinator Update below

Discussion: Water flow management in Colwood Creek: Philip Nurse, General Manager, Royal Colwood Golf Course; Patrick Lucey, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting

- Seeking a better understanding of flow in the creek
- Important fish habitat
- Flow-wise, golf course has not changed any outflow properties of the weir in past 26 years
- They note annually when flow stops into the pond, this year stopped June 6th, always between June 6 – 17th.
- Many streams dry up in summer, but Colwood Cr is not technically an ephemeral stream, (i.e. one that only flows intermittently)
- Golf course has a water licence for irrigation purposes, outlet is dammed just upstream of Sooke Rd; another small weir maintains water in pond,
- Usually in July, pond downstream on Brookes School property goes dry, probably went dry in the past
- Colwood Cr is dominated by groundwater flows
- Well is used to pump water into small creek on golf course that flows into lake
- Patrick – since 1985 City of Colwood has hired Aqua-Tex to study and monitor Colwood Cr, measures water depth (not flow) at 5 locations from top end just below Glen Lake down to immediately above ocean
- CRD has a flow meter part way down RRU property
- Lake on golf course is stocked with rainbow trout (by province?) for last 40 years or so
- Lake is not lined; there is an island in the middle where turtles hang out
- Beth – many changes in land use throughout the watershed in recent decades, since original water licences were issued
- In past 100 years, large changes on west shore, major one being the loss of vegetation that intercepted large quantities of water
- Post 1975, more connecting of impervious surfaces, aim is to get water off the land quickly; Patrick: privately subsidizing water in Colwood Cr via Sooke Lake – through septic systems that use CRD water
- Need to re-think how to manage water in future with climate change predictions
- 4200 trees on the golf course
- Trees here have wide projecting root systems, not deep tap roots, maybe this is why cedar trees are dying (i.e. less water deep in water table that cedars tap into)
- Two culverts under Sooke Rd, one picks up small catchment (east) but other one is full of oily grey water, rusted pipe – rather than replacing the old pipe maybe we should install infiltration galleries along the system.
- Another approach is to drill holes in stormwater conveyance pipes, but have to consider road infrastructure, and not cause roads to be undermined
- EIA – effective impervious area, eg roof, connected by a pipe directed to city storm drain, want to take that water and infiltrate it or slow it down, detain or infiltrate
- Beth – can we affect water retention in the creeks to protect the fish habitat?
- Patrick – creek has one goal, to transport sediment; when we build ponds we need to understand that they will fill in over time, even the Great Lakes are filling in
- Can create a micro-habitat within the creek that would be self-maintaining
- Philip – monitors rainfall, already noticing shorter wetter winters, longer drier summers

- Patrick: As temperature goes up, ability for fish to maintain themselves alters dramatically; higher temp means lower O₂, also as pools become smaller, contaminants become more concentrated and pH changes can be big enough to have a lethal effect
- Jason – do we want to have more flow if it's warm and will affect fish negatively?
- Don't want to build fish kill zones
- Water temperatures above the Galloping Goose trail are increasing, but are lower below that
- Pond on golf course is full of sediment
- Philip – has never adjusted anything at the weir, practices have not changed, except to be more water efficient, more sensors all over golf course to ensure that they don't waste water
- Patrick – if we get longer drier summers, what is fire risk management?
 - A: non-smoking policy, irrigation is only on grassed areas
- Could consider adding a depth sensor in the lake

ACTION: look into installing a depth sensor in Colwood Lake

Colwood Planning Updates – Iain Bourhill

Draft OCP:

- Thanks to ELSI for comments, 3 changes incorporated:
 - Change to images on page 189: replaced tables in dune with natural shoreline
 - Brought back wording re long-shore sediment processes – avoiding any impacts on long shore
 - Royal Bay area plan - not amending this AP during this process, will look at comprehensive area plans after this OCP review process, in collaboration with property owners
 - Incentivizing Green Shores: there was a shift in wording around GS, would be hard for city to use 3rd party certification as a requirement, would be impossible to require that, so taking approach of encouraging using GS approaches
 - Planning staff all took the Level 1 training, will have more staff take the training
 - Next steps – public hearing on Monday, 3 and 4th readings could happen very soon after that, could happen on June 25th or July 9th
 - Green Shores: working on some guides for development in environmentally sensitive areas, will bring drafts to ELSI
 - Jill Collinson new senior planner, started yesterday
- Tree management bylaw: goal to have before council before summer recess July 9 – end of August

Pacific Landing

- Nothing new to report since last meeting
- Phase 2 starting soon

Ocean Grove

- New owners, working with Colwood to make changes to elements within existing development plan, preparing for development permit applications, mixture of town houses and apartments, relatively close to Seafield Rd, sticking to plan made by previous owners
- Nothing to report on riparian, Patrick is the QEP (qualified environmental professional) on this

- Patrick: looked up all aspects of aquatic ecology on this site, looked at deficiencies, planting plan that was not implemented, what this might look like, follow old plan or develop new plan?
- Old plan – 2006, climate change was not considered much then, may be worth changing plan to consider CC implications
- Working with city to look at long term ramifications of stream under the buildings
- Identifying status of aquatic features at this point
- Change in ownership requires a change in permits, including DFO permits
- No intention of digging up anything until 2019
- Waiting to install sensors to monitor creek flow, have to wait for permits
- Patrick: water table height is measured using a piezometer; wants to monitor sites throughout the area
- Climate change models predict 20% more rainfall in winter, intensity will increase

Seafield Cottages

- Stockpiling materials on site, some complaints about that
- Patrick is QEP on this project

Royal Bay

- No substantial change to plan for waterfront area
- Entire site changed hands last year, now there are 2 owners, waterfront owned by SeaCliff; other owner is Gablecraft – builder partner of previous owners
- Only Gablecraft is applying for dev permits at this point
- Dev agreement speaks to parks plan for the area around newly constructed water course
- push from city of have a more natural approach to the creek rather than the manufactured creek bed that was created through the property

Partner updates:

- VNHS – on summer hiatus, 700 – 800 members, monthly presentations on a variety of topics: birds, botany, marine biology, 4 guided bird watching events/month; Trips to Olympic Peninsula, participate in NatureHood activities, RBCM, scholarships for students
- Jason: urban forest bylaw coming back to council soon, huge changes to bylaw, much easier to follow, list of suggested plants and trees, suitable for urban environment, OCP public hearing on Monday; happy that many ELSI recommendations were incorporated
- GVG: planning to do another broom bash; Jason pointed out that the broom bash in Pit House Park, has been moved to Coburg Peninsula on June 19th
- Patrick working on water licenses transferred to new owners at OG, then will monitor Selleck Creek, flows will be diverted into a new creek when flows are over a certain threshold, when they get the permits then they can get the sensors installed, hoping to do this within the next month

ACTION – maybe Colwood could look at putting a depth sensor in Colwood Lake (pond on Golf Course), and maybe do a bathymetric survey, get a volumetric model of the pond so you always know how much water is stored in the lake. Patrick will look into this

- Maybe a RRU student could look into this?
- RRU: June 21 NIPD 1030 – 3, at Blue Heron House, boathouse re-building project is behind schedule, found some bones, also nest with barn swallows; put up some bird stickers on west side of LIC building, getting complaints from students of bird strikes;

invasive species pull held on May 18th with Greater Victoria Green Team, mostly broom and Daphne, submitted Carbon emissions report at the end of May, went up slightly from last year due to construction activities, expect these to go down again next year;

- Beth – one fish trapping event so far in Bee Creek, cutthroat everywhere but at the mouth; flow has changed, water runs under the tree roots, new spawning channel may be an impediment to coho coming in
- Patrick –concrete dam at the house is now failing, tile culvert may be diverting water, community has to decide what route the creek should take; Patrick has cleaned out the pond twice, just fills in again, if left on its own, creek would take a straight line to ocean, possible to replace logs and rocks near the mouth but need to anchor them this time (were placed there early on but got displaced by storms and inundation)
- Judy - Bee Creek: started fish monitoring with Beth, pulling yellow flag iris, got rid of it on Bee, though its elsewhere in the area
- Gayle – trees have fallen on the fence at RRU on Heatherbell between Seafield and bottom of the road
- CWS: no report, put up fish monitoring poster at IOS

Coordinator Updates:

- Natalie Bandringa is new Harbours & Watersheds Coordinator. Contact info: nbandringa@crd.bc.ca Tel: 250-360-3065
- First Nations Carved Mural and two interpretive signs:
 - Kitty met twice with representatives from the RRU Indigenous Education department, along with Butch Dick and Sandra Russell, regarding the installation of the mural and signs on the side of the new building adjacent to the Blue Heron House, on the waterfront at RRU. Everyone is very pleased at this outcome. They have made a display for the library to showcase Butch’s artwork, the 2 signs are now on display there as well
 - Installation tentatively planned for late July or August, when there will be a formal dedication event
 - June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day; there is an event planned at RRU 10:30am – 3:00pm, and ELSI has been invited to have a display there.
- Pit House Park restoration plan: Amanda Evans, Greater Victoria Green Team, has been in touch with UVic RNS program to request a student final project to develop a proper restoration plan for the park. Kitty also contacted RRU, details provided at the meeting
 - Patrick – planning needs to be done in collaboration with senior levels of gov’t that have an agreement to restore Selleck Cr (DFO, and FLNRORD)
- Outreach events:
 - Coburg Peninsula beach clean-up and broom pull Tuesday June 19th, @ 9:45am. Meet at the washroom building, GVGTT will be there with Dunsmuir School
 - July 1st at Fort Rodd Hill – ELSI display and watershed model has been organized. CRD student will attend with the ELSI display, volunteers are welcome to help and give Colby a lunch break. (Kitty will be away that weekend)
 - July 7th – Eats & Beats at the Beach

Meeting adjourned: 4:30pm