



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
Tuesday, October 09, 2018  
Colwood Municipal Hall

**Present:** Vicki Metcalfe, Beth Mitchell, Thelma Wright, Judy Nault, Owain McKibben, Graham Nicholas (CWS), Jason Nault, Judith Cullington, Gayle Johnstone, Terry Phipps, Natalie Bandringa, Kitty Lloyd, Caroline Aked (RRU), Iain Bourhill, Dennis Carlsen; Ken Morgan (by phone)

**Guest:** Jacques Sirois, Friends of Victoria Harbour MBS

DECISIONS			
1	Plan for broom pull in spring 2019		
2	ELSI will ask Colwood to take action on goose management		
<b>Next Meeting: January 24, 2019</b>			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Look into giving a presentation to next Colwood council about importance of Esquimalt Lagoon and ELSI's role re Coburg Peninsula IMG; write to new council members to introduce them to ELSI	Kitty	Winter
2	Make sure all ELSI reports, agendas, minutes, etc are posted on ELSI website	Kitty	Fall
3	Suggest that Colwood bring a resolution to UBCM or AVICC regarding goose management	All	Winter
4	ELSI will work with Colwood and CWS on new signage; CWS will take the lead	CWS	March
5	Let Kitty know what state Selleck Creek is in now that riparian works have been undertaken at Two Waters/Ocean Grove	Dennis	ASAP
6	Ask Patrick Lucey to give ELSI a tour of Selleck Cr when in-stream works are done	Kitty/Patrick Lucey	When works are done
7	Follow up with Colwood Engineering about an opportunity to co-host public information event regarding the coastal erosion study	Kitty	ASAP
8	Send invitation and time/date details for "Realms of the Sky – Indigenous Perspective on Birds as Coastal Indicators"	Kitty	(done)
9	Request to meet with driftwood artist at the lagoon and have a discussion about placement of sculptures.	Jacques	Fall

10	Contact Pacific Landing about kayak rentals being advertised in real estate ad	Kitty	Winter
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**INFORMATION**

**Review of Action Items from June Meeting:**

- Depth sensor in Colwood Lake: Patrick has not done this yet, but the Golf Course contacted Aqua-Tex about doing some work on the creek through their property, so that will provide an opportunity to bring it up with management there.

**Bird Sanctuary Update – Owain McKibben, Canadian Wildlife Service**

- Here is what's happening on federal side:
  - CWS is now a branch, not a small department within Ministry of Environment and Climate Change; big positive is that they're working on getting appropriate staffing levels to manage all the protected areas
  - Owain was previously looking after all of BC and the Yukon, now Yukon has its own staff; Graham now on board as temporary staff
- Now more possible to get things done on the ground, including new signage
- Want to install informational signage, not just rules and regulations. People will take care of an area when they have an understanding of what's there and why it's valuable
- Are there budgets for this?
  - Yes, money for signage in current budget year
- Now that CWS is a branch, the blue loon image is the official logo
- Want to make sure that the 3 sanctuaries in CRD have same level of energy put into them
- What about enforcement?
  - Tricky because MBS is not actually CWS property
  - Wildlife enforcement branch will not have much change in boots on the ground
- Any plan for managing non-migratory geese?
  - A lot are on private lands, and under variety of jurisdictions such as municipalities and other Federal Departments, like DFO
- Jacques: this is a hot topic throughout the region, we already know there's a problem; 15,000 geese in the region now, we need to do something about this sooner than later
  - May need to take action every year, not just once; need a plan for 3 sanctuaries
  - Need approval from all First Nations for any plan
- Tracy – At Two Waters (Ocean Grove), geese are huge problem, what can we do?
- Owain: could use trained dogs that permitted for this (not just off-leash dogs); need a multi-faceted approach
- Who is responsible for leading the development of a management plan?
  - Normally should be landowner
- The non-migratory CA geese were introduced in 1970s by Ducks Unlimited to farming communities in lower mainland. Instantly became a problem with farmers
- Natalie: members of Gorge Waterway Initiative noted that geese are eating eelgrass in the Gorge Waterway, any reports of that in Esquimalt Lagoon?
  - Judy – noticed lots of eelgrass shoots at mouth of Bee Creek
- Beth: time to re-do another survey of birds and eelgrass at the lagoon; she has seen lots of eelgrass torn up along the water line at lagoon

- Feeding geese is a big issue at the lagoon. Informational signage is also needed to educate the public as to why this is not helpful for migrating birds. The geese getting this benefit are problem, resident geese.
- What is federal gov't doing to make this easier to deal with?
  - CWS has scientific expertise to help with the problem, but hamstrung by not owning the land where most of the problems are
- Same problem occurs elsewhere in the world where geese have settled and become a nuisance, such as New Zealand
- Jason – suggests bringing this up at UBCM (Union of BC Municipalities) annual meeting; or AVICC (Association of Vancouver Is Coastal Communities); they meet in April
- **ACTION** – ELSI make a request to Colwood for action on goose management, and suggest bringing a resolution to AVICC
- Any actions taken to control geese populations will be met with objections from some people, need to be prepared for this
- Had problem with Canada geese at Royal Bay when it was newly planted; solution was to bring raptors from Duncan, same group that brings raptors to landfill and airport to scare away birds
- Does CWS have budgets for this? No
- Other culls in the area were funded through the province, since it was an agricultural problem
- Invasive species coordinator could deal with this?
  - Only if municipalities request it
- Have any municipalities asked for this?
  - Not so far, only the initial pilot study a few years ago
- Suggestion that CRD play a role in bringing muni's together to discuss this

#### **CWS signage at the lagoon:**

- Planning has already started, determining where boundaries are to post boundary marker signs, where to place informational signs; hard to put a date on when this will be done
- Would have to do archaeological work if signs are dug into ground around the lagoon, decals on garbage cans are being considered as well
- Would CWS pay for decommissioning the old signs and their kiosks?
  - Have to look into this and plan best way to get signs installed
- Ken – need to include activities that are banned such as feeding birds, allowing dogs off leash
- **ACTION:** ELSI work with Colwood and CWS on new signage; CWS will take the lead

#### **Colwood Updates: Dennis Carlsen**

**Pacific Landing:** Phase 2 creeping along; project is currently up for sale

#### **Two Waters / Ocean Grove:**

- Two buildings being built along Seafield;

- Completed Phase 1 riparian in-stream works behind existing town houses, at end of Holgate; placed works within the stream; Dennis will do a walk-about in next few days to see exactly what they've done
- **ACTION:** Dennis to let Kitty know what state Selleck Creek is in now that riparian works have been undertaken
- Beth: wants to drop fish traps there, Dennis suggests she contact Patrick Lucey or the owners. [Aqua-Tex is now the environmental consultant at this site]
- **ACTION:** Ask Patrick Lucey to give ELSI a tour when in stream works are done

#### **Seafield Cottages:**

- Work is underway, Colwood staff working with them to ensure they have proper working sediment control plan
- Alignment of Seafield Rd: existing road is twice as wide as original. There will be a verge between Seafield and Two Waters developments to provide stormwater management

#### **Royal Bay:**

- Development proceeding. Now detailing the parks planning, including the central stream to be constructed as part of stormwater management
- What about invasive species?
  - Maintenance of park system there will be discussed with developers
  - Concerned about protection of Murray's Pond, putting together scope of work for a boardwalk to manage intrusion into that area, prevent trampling

#### **Colwood Planning Department update:**

- Dennis and other planners are now part of Development Services;
- Iain is now Director of Long Range Planning and Sustainability, new department focused on implementing the new Official Community Plan, long-range planning projects, policy initiatives and environmental planning matters
- Iain will follow up with how ELSI will fit into this new re-organization at Colwood

#### **Other Colwood News**

- Colwood received funding to undertake climate adaptation project, managed by ICLEI local government group for sustainability
- Kick off for this in early Nov; could work with ELSI on that event

#### **Traffic calming:**

- Jason summarized the public input which did not reach the participation threshold needed for council to act on a study; not even half of those who received the survey letter bothered to send it in, so no action taken
- Any discussion about closing the road?
  - yes, but Colwood's approach is that the road will be abandoned as sea level rises; City is split on this issue, some want it closed, some don't

#### **Discussion: Coastline Erosion Study Final Report & Recommendations**

- Iain: approval in concept for beach nourishment program, is in the 2019 budget process
- Big take-away from study: erosion of upper beach seems to be primarily storm related, as opposed to sea level rise being the major threat to Coburg Peninsula
- Not many people in attendance when report was presented at council, could we work with Colwood to get engineering firm here again to have a public info evening?
  - Need to speak to Engineering about that

- Jason – council was presented with a variety of options, beach nourishment was least invasive; \$600,000 project
- Beach nourishment would only occur in front of pump station
- Consultant could not give a time line for how long the \$600K fix would last
- New council will not be familiar with the background for this issue, budget to be discussed in December at earliest
- Want to get input from environmental groups to see how they feel about this study and the recommendations for beach nourishment
- Is there opportunity for comments?
  - Have to contact engineering about that
- There is opportunity for comment to council – as this will go to a budget referral
- Concern expressed about dumping sand, lagoon is getting shallower, and with long shore transport, it will eventually wind up in the lagoon, we could wind up with a swamp
- This is a lot of money to spend, then still have to move the pump station
  - Idea is to buy time to postpone moving the pump station
  - Budget estimate for moving pump station around \$2.5 million
  - Current proposal is to move it to Pit House Park
- **ACTION:** Follow up with Colwood Engineering about an opportunity to co-host public information event regarding the coastal erosion study

#### **CRD Harbour Program Updates** – Natalie Bandringa

- Stewardship Council of BC AGM Nov 1, 1:30 – 3pm will include a webcast on “The Realm of the Sky” - Birds as an indicator of ecosystem health; ELSI invited to come to CRD office and view.
- **ACTION** - Kitty send invitation with details
- Natalie attending a “Living Breakwaters” workshop in Vancouver in Oct; knowledge gaps, barriers, potential nature-based solutions – focus is at UBC
- New Invasive Species coordinator, Jenny Eastman, half time position; first task was to hire a shared treatment contractor for Knotweed treatment. Municipalities can request to use this shared service

#### **Coordinator Updates**

- Received scientific collecting permit for fish trapping program from DFO; new community advisor is Melissa Nottingham

#### **2019 meeting schedule**

- Meetings will be held in Jan, April, July, Oct on fourth Tuesday, same time of day
- Meeting calendar will be sent out

#### **First Nations Mural and Sign** – RRU Update: Caroline

- Secant wall along waterfront is now complete, finalizing all deficiencies, should be completely finished construction by end of October

#### **Broom Pull?**

- Plan for spring

#### **Upcoming events:**

- Pit cook at Fort Rodd Hill Oct 13
- All Buffleheads Celebration, Oct 13/14 in Sidney
- Kitty asked what people thought about the **bird sculptures at the lagoon**. She noticed that the dunes around the sculptures now have very little vegetation from trampling.

**ACTION:** Request to meet with artist at the lagoon and have a discussion about placement. Jacques offered to join

- Suggestion: Place them beside the paths, or on logs in front of parking area
- Colwood received a complaint about the sculptures, and have asked the artist to not create any more

**Partner updates:**

**Colwood Council** - Jason: Council has gone ahead with a resolution to dedicate Pit House Park as an official park; it now has all protections of other Colwood Parks

**Two Waters/Ocean Grove:** Terry - moving massive amounts of soil; predominantly town houses being built in this phase

**VNHS** - Vicki: dormant over summer, Sept meeting mostly housekeeping

**Jacques:** Nature Canada recognized our 3 MBSs as a NatureHood; place for Canadians to experience nature in an urban environment. At Government House, sign was erected 2017 to endorse this initiative; now entire CRD is recognized as a NatureHood

Salmon now moving through Victoria Harbour, counting fence in place at Colquitz; All Buffleheads Day at Roberts Bay, Sat. morning boat tour leaving inner harbour, heading to Esquimalt Lagoon and Shoal Harbour; 3 buffleheads have been seen in Shoal Harbour already

**RRU** - Caroline: Secant wall complete in front of Blue Heron House and Boat House, all of it is underground, done as a seismic upgrade; carved cedar mural going up this month; staff moving back to boat house 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October; plaza in front of buildings will be completed at a later date. Opening ceremony is being planned, ELSI and Colwood will be invited

**Beth:** Dedicated group of residents at Pacific Landing trapping fish once/month; lots of cutthroat; creek channel is changing quite a bit especially at the mouth

Colwood Cr: trapped in June but not enough water since then to trap; end of Sept: found coho and cutthroat and parr, lots of crayfish

**Bee Creek** - Judy: fish have been seen in new spawning channel

**ACTION:** Contact Pacific Landing about kayak rentals being advertised in real estate ad

**Meeting adjourned:** 4:30pm