



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Tuesday, July 23, 2019
Colwood Municipal Hall

Present: Thelma Wright, Rod Huszar, Craig Rawlinson (RRU), Jason Nault, Judy Nault, Vicki Metcalfe, Natalie Bandringa, Kitty Lloyd, Ken Morgan (by phone); Iain Bourhill

Guests: Tami Kempton, new Colwood resident

DECISIONS			
Next Meeting: October 22, 2019			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Patrick will coordinate with Beth/other fish monitors to survey Selleck Creek; Kitty will contact Patrick about this (done)	Patrick Lucey	Summer
2	Follow up with Jason RE riparian works by Brookes School	Iain B	ASAP
3	Investigate getting baseball caps with ELSI logo for volunteers to wear when at the lagoon	Natalie	Fall
4	ELSI 2018 Annual Update – review and send comments to Kitty	All	July 26

INFORMATION

Review of Action Items from April 23, 2019 meeting:

- All actions completed except fish monitoring in Selleck Cr
- ACTION: Kitty to contact Patrick about this

Colwood Updates: Iain Bourhill

- Nothing new to report about developments, any specific questions can be sent to Development Services at Colwood
- Expect dog on leash issue to continue, but at this point council is resolved to keep animal control bylaw as is (i.e. to not extend the boundary to the municipal boundary offshore)
- Eats & Beats event July 20 was well-attended
- Q: What about the Interim Management Guidelines (IMG) for Coburg Peninsula - could we have a status update at the next ELSI meeting?
 - A: Should have staff conversation about this; see what the process is, Iain strongly suggests that this document be updated
 - Makes sense to look at IMG in terms of parks and trails plan
- Q: Erosion study on Coburg Peninsula – is that finished?

- Study was completed last year, available to review, the report informed the council decision to undertake beach nourishment at the lagoon
- Council made a motion to strike a coastal erosion committee, will bring it to the meeting in late Aug. to set up a committee
- Who will sit on it?
 - Representative from council, community member, staff from engineering
- Controlled access (gates are in place, could be closed off) was installed as a recommendation of that report; KWL report recommended beach nourishment as best option to protect infrastructure at the lagoon
- See summary and link to full report on Colwood website:
<https://www.colwood.ca/news-events/news/2018-09-05-000000/colwood-keeping-eye-its-coast-and-shoreline-assets>
- Q: Brookes School – is riparian work being done?
 - ACTION: Iain will email Jason as a follow up; Dennis Carlsen is in charge of that
- Q: Any discussion with Sandra Russell and CWS re signage?
 - Not aware of any; there is a focus on wayfinding signage; since council did not pass the on-leash by-law amendment, focus and urgency for new signage has changed; discussion with CWS about signage was to go along with new on-leash regulations for the lagoon which has not gone forward

European Green Crab monitoring: Update – Rod Huszar

- Last monitoring was done on June 24/25 following up the eradication that happened in May; set the traps for 24 hrs, then recover and enumerate what's in the traps. No EGC found in June
- For the eradication in May, 90 traps were set, 1 EGC caught at inflow end of the lagoon
- Under DFOs direction, the new monitoring sites are in front of RRU, 3 sites along the waterfront there
- Did not find any green crabs in June
- Lots more variety of marine life found this time, e.g. 108 stickleback in one trap; Dungeness, graceful and shore crabs
- Everything is released again except for EGC which are frozen and DNA analysis done to see where they are coming from
- Still no scientific license received from DFO, so this month will be doing the monitoring with Patty Menning under their license
- DFO take their records back and send us a copy

Discussion: Signage at the lagoon

- The old ELSI/VNHS signs date from 2006, need to be replaced; we have started conversations with CWS, and Colwood but so far no action
- Vicki will canvas VNHS members about board priorities for messaging
- Garbage is a big issue at the lagoon, how about an increase in service level of garbage collection at the beach? Should send a request to council
- There is a movement in other places to jog and pick up garbage at the same time; keep it positive

- Social media campaign to get people involved? Sandra handles that for Colwood
- No recycling bins at the lagoon, especially during beach food events, there should be recycling options
- Vicki – there's a program in State of Georgia where plovers nest (on the ground) and volunteers set up an info station to educate visitors. This has helped raise awareness and now there are more nesting plovers there
- What about a ball cap with ELSI logo that people can wear when they go to the lagoon?
- ACTION: Natalie will inquire about this at CRD
- Set up a table of info at events?

Observations at the Lagoon – Tami Kempton

- Tami Kempton recently moved here, walks her dog frequently at lagoon
- Some of the things she has noticed:
 - Lots of interaction with dogs and the water
 - People feed everything to the birds at the lagoon
- Most people are receptive to Tami talking to them and letting them know about the MBS, wonders why so much anti-bird behaviour
- Everyone has rationalized why they do what they do
- No one seems to notice the signs
- Some feed the birds, others threaten and chase them, hit them with wood
- Music and food at the beach are also disruptive
- Tami has noticed that people on the lagoon side of the peninsula want to interact with the wildlife, feed them bread or grain, etc
- On the outer beach side, people tend to leave the wildlife alone, but this is typically where the garbage is
- Comment: signs are not going to change behaviour; it's part of human nature, would hate to see the area plastered with signs;
- Comment: there's an inherent conflict – municipality pushes the lagoon as a recreation area, while it's also a bird sanctuary where birds and wildlife should be left undisturbed
- We're at risk of loving it to death
- Educating people is okay, but most are hard-wired to do what they saw their parents doing, and are not going to change

CRD Harbour Program Updates – Natalie Bandringa

Harbours Inventory:

- Last inventory was done in 1999/2000, pre-GIS technology; we are re-doing that
- Hired Archipelago to do a pilot study to evaluate 3 methodologies for re-doing the inventory:
 1. multi-spectral imagery from satellite (intertidal, upper subtidal, backshore)
 2. orthophoto analysis; 3 band width, can do more interpretation
 3. drone

- We may need a combination of these technologies; looking at the 3 options
- Did the first ground survey in July; use that to “teach” the other technologies using information from ground truthing
- Q: Is intent to try and do entire harbour and compare to 1999? Yes
 - Then could use that info to motivate change, if the public realized the changes that have occurred over last 20 years,
- Working with CRD IT staff to close the old Harbours Atlas platform down and launch a new one with both inventories available for viewing
- Not all data can be collected this way, so bird and fish surveys will be done as separate contracts
- Data from green crab surveys and fish monitoring will be useful
- Goal will be to have a product that municipalities can use to help inform development and planning decisions
- Iain – engage biologists in the region, they would appreciate access to this kind of data, and are often the people hired by municipalities to gather information to base decisions on
- Hope to bring municipal staff together for a workshop
- Bird survey Request for Proposals is almost ready to be posted publicly

Regional Invasive Species program

- Half time coordinator, Jenny Eastman, works with CRISP (Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership) – all municipalities in the region have staff representatives on CRISP, Jenny takes direction from them
- Recently held a regional invasive species symposium; about 50 municipal staff and land managers attended, was not open to public this time, maybe in future
 - Talked about main invasive species to watch for, and the issue of regional disposal
- Natalie brought some alert sheets on high priority species to watch for in the region
- Clean Drain Dry program – Canada-wide program to reduce spread of aquatic invasive species; CRD received 8 signs that are going up around lakes in the region (e.g. Langford Lake, Elk/Beaver Lake)

Coordinator Updates:

- **2018 Annual Update** draft was sent earlier and hard copies provided at meeting;
 - ACTION – send comments to Kitty by July 26
- **Outreach events:**
 RRU Mother’s Day, Canada Day, Eats & Beats all attended with CRD summer students and watershed model from Peninsula Streams
- **New building at RRU** – consultant contacted Kitty to say they are investigating concept of using groundwater for geothermal HVAC system for new Learning and Teaching Auditorium at former pool site. They would tap into stormwater system (installed in 1950s) that is piped underground and from there flows beneath alder wetland west of the

ponds and fish ladder. They have three temperature loggers in place now, collecting data at different sections of the groundwater/stormwater system. Consultant wanted to see if there is additional data that would be helpful in making a decision about this, and whether we had any concerns about this concept

- With all the groundwater seepage around the lagoon, this would probably be very minimal change in temperature. Data collected during summer will help inform the decision
- **Volunteer appreciation BBQ** will be held at Gorge Waterway Nature House Sept 11, for volunteers with Bowker Creek Initiative, Gorge Waterway Initiative and ELSI

Interpretive sign and Cedar mural: Kitty went to RRU last week and saw the signs and cedar mural in place on former boat house building – very impressive

Partner updates:

RRU: National Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated at RRU June 21; large get-together, very happy with the turnout, engagement with local community and schools. There is currently lots of traffic on main road; this will diminish as current projects wind down

Jason – very disappointed that council turned down the dog on leash proposal; 4:3 decision

VNHS: Nothing new to report; will put on a push to get volunteers for the next season

Adjournment: 4:00pm