



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
Tuesday, October 22, 2019  
Colwood Municipal Hall

**Present:** Beth Mitchell, Terry Phipps, Rod Huszar, Judith Cullington, Natalie Bandringa, Jill Collinson, Maria Bremner, Judy and Jason Nault, Vicki Metcalfe, Bev Deets, Thelma Wright, Kitty Lloyd, Ken Morgan (via phone)

DECISIONS				
1	ELSI will purchase a pair of chest waders for Green Crab monitoring			
<b>Next Meeting: January 28, 2020</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Purchase a pair of chest waders for Green Crab monitoring		Kitty	March 2020
2	Create an InfoSheet about rollover events at the lagoon, what it looks like, what it is, why it happens		Kitty	Jan 2020
3	Send note to ELSI to determine level of interest in establishing a Friends of Pit House Park group		Kitty	ASAP
4	Send invitation to harbours pilot survey workshop to ELSI		Natalie	ASAP
5	Send out the invitation to Harbours Speakers Series on Living Shorelines. Oct 28		Kitty	Done
6	Ken to send GIS contacts in Environment Canada to Natalie		Ken	ASAP
7	Organize a Broom Pull this fall/winter		Kitty/All	Fall

## INFORMATION

Territorial acknowledgement

Introductions round the table, new RRU representative Maria Bremner, Manager of Resilience

### Review of Action Items from July 23, 2019 meeting:

- All actions completed
- Fish monitoring in Selleck Cr: Ian McVitty and other ELSI fish monitoring volunteers set traps in two of the ponds on Two Waters property, no fish caught. They located two sites in the

creek that looked more attractive for fish, they are going to set traps there in the next week and send reports to Kitty

**Colwood Updates:** Jill Collinson

- Brookes School Riparian Works (via email from Dennis Carlsen):
  - On “May 30 and June 13 there were on site activities to remove invasive plants in the riparian area adjacent to the Creek. To date there have been no further updates.”
- Q: What remains to be done to satisfy terms of development plan?
  - A: “It primarily involves removing the remainder of the invasives and completing the replanting adjacent to the creek.”

Jill:

- Council is establishing a Waterfront Coastal Processes Select Committee and is accepting expressions of interest for representatives from the community to serve on it
- Jill brought applications forms, encouraged members to apply
- More information here, including the Terms of Reference: <https://www.colwood.ca/city-hall/committees/colwood-committee-index/waterfront-coastal-processes-committee>
- Term will be one year, with monthly meetings; members will be appointed by Council based on their letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and demonstration of abilities
- Committee will include 2-3 “knowledgeable citizens”, a representative from RRU, a coastal engineer, 2-3 council members and seats will be reserved for members of the Songhees, Esquimalt, and Scia’new First Nations
- There is no set place for ELSI on this committee, Judith was concerned about this, brought it up at the committee meeting, but it was not incorporated into the Terms of Reference
- Hope that lots of ELSI members apply, Jason has expressed interest
- Beth – contacted Colwood to say she has lots of information and background reports about coastal processes, many studies have been done in the past that can aid in the work of this new committee

**European Green Crab monitoring:** Update – Judy Nault

- During sampling on Aug 27/28 and Sept 25/26, no Green Crabs found
- Will start sampling again in the spring, Thelma offers to help
- Patty Menning will present results at Jan. 2020 ELSI meeting
- Green crabs were also found on Salt Spring Is. both at Booth Canal and Fulford Harbour
- Natalie talked about the Clean, Drain Dry program, an initiative of DFO to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species in the region

**ACTION:** ELSI can buy some chest waders

- Rollover happened at the lagoon last week; pretty much an annual event around this time of year

**ACTION** – Make an info sheet about rollover events, post on ELSI website, link to Colwood Community Facebook page

**Discussion:** Friends of Pit House Park

- Discussion about past efforts in the park to remove blackberries, broom, with Greater Victoria Green Team and local students
- Jill – One of the mid term actions from the new OCP is to develop a parks master plan, will look at all parks in Colwood; starting planning process next year; longer range initiative. Wouldn't include detailed site-specific plans for individuals parks, at least at this point
- Pit House Park is high value site for wildlife; blackberries are refuge for cougar and deer to raise their young; lots of owls hunt there at night
- Environmental survey should be done first to determine what is there now
- Find a student to do a restoration plan – could Colwood could reach out to the universities? Might be more interest from students
- Does Relevant Properties (owners of Two Waters) have any requirements because they are renting the sales centre?
  - No
- Q: After master plan, then individual plans for parks, but we're interested in getting something done sooner. What mechanisms can we use to get this underway?
  - "Friends of" group would be a good start, get other community members who are interested in the park specifically; good first step.
  - Terry Phipps will notify the residents of Ocean Grove of the "Friends of Pit House Park" group
- RRU has an environmental science program; Colwood has hired students from this program before to do various projects
- Maria – suggests Camosun College as well, Environmental Technician program
- Friends of Pit House Park:
  - step 1 determine level of interest
  - step 2 contact Jill to see where to go from there

**ACTION:** Kitty send a note to the group asking level of interest RE Friends of Pit House Park group, then Jill will report back at next meeting

**CRD Harbour Program Updates** – Natalie Bandringa**Harbours Ecological Inventory:**

- Contracted Archipelago Marine Research to do a pilot study evaluating 3 different approaches to remote sensing of shorelines at low tide to determine best method to use for full harbour ecological inventory next year.
- Methods: drone aerial imagery, orthophotos from regular bi-annual fly-over of CRD by fixed wing, and multi-spectral analysis using enhanced satellite imagery. Will be presenting the results in November; holding a user workshop for municipal staff and consultants who used the Harbours Atlas web tool
- Invitation has gone out to environmental groups; about 20 signed up so far
- Would be good to have an ELSI member attending

**ACTION:** Send workshop invitation to ELSI

- As part of the inventory, there will be a bird survey as well, Ken helped with the evaluation; all proposals came in over budget, we're figuring out how to move forward, seeking direction on this
- Q: Bird studies Canada: Coastal Waterbird survey – why not use that data?
  - We're trying to repeat the study that was done 20 years ago to compare, also asking for year-round surveys and some other parameters that are not covered in Coastal Waterbird Survey
- Another component of ecological inventory is a fish survey – lots of information out there already, maybe this would be a curation of data that's already known (e.g. ELSI creek monitoring)
- Would include data such as are there barriers to fish passage within the harbours or creeks?
- Q: User workshop, was invitation sent to CWS?
  - Natalie unsure, is there a contact to send this to? (Ken suggests a GIS person)

**ACTION** – Ken to send GIS contacts in Environment Canada to Natalie

### **Regional Invasive Species program**

- More municipalities went in on the shared treatment contractor this year, this saves a lot of work, can draw on the services as needed, CRD does the outreach about the program
- In May – Invasive Species symposium focused on disposal issues; looking at shared portable curtain burner – on a trailer, to incinerate the weeds; especially useful for noxious weeds like knotweed
- Creating a series of Alert Sheets, posting on CRD website, what species to watch for
- Death cap mushroom, introduced, the world's most poisonous mushroom – becoming more of a problem here, several dogs have died from eating these; came in on the roots of horticultural plants; people have seen it jump to other tree species, including Garry oak
- Certain wasps are showing up that are not native to our area
- Current direction – focus only on plants; other organisms like fire ants, as needed

### **Coordinator Updates:**

#### **Outreach events:**

- Summary of outreach events, mostly staffed by CRD summer students; Peninsula Streams were contracted to deliver the watershed model outreach at all events. Approximately 1,000 people were reached through this effort
- Shoreline Clean up on Sept 14 was successful, 36 Air Cadets showed up and worked in teams to pick up garbage. Over 2,400 cigarette butts was the biggest "haul"
- Oct. 19 – All Bufflehead Day at RRU, organized by Friends of Shoal Harbour, event held simultaneously at all 3 sanctuaries; Not a great turnout, but we did see flock of buffleheads. Suggest holding the event on the peninsula next year
- Natalie and I represented ELSI at the 3 meetings held by ICLEI as part of an island-wide collaborative project to look at how climate change could affect various aspects of life in Colwood. We provided input about how climate change could affect biodiversity, birds and

other wildlife in the sanctuary, plant communities, coastal erosion processes, and other dynamics in the Colwood area. Ideas about how Colwood could plan for these changes were discussed.

- **Signage at the lagoon:** Waiting for CWS to re-connect after a hiatus due to the election process. ELSI members hope that signage will include interpretive messaging, including why people shouldn't feed the birds
- **Work Plan 2020**
  - Draft work plan discussed
  - Suggested changes: include National Indigenous Festival at RRU as regular event (June 21); rename Land Development Applications
- **Volunteer appreciation BBQ** was held at Gorge Waterway Nature House Sept 11, for volunteers with Bowker Creek Initiative, Gorge Waterway Initiative and ELSI; Very successful, good attendance
- Upcoming event: **Harbour Stewardship Series** talk - Living Shorelines. Oct. 28

**ACTION** – KL send invitation to Harbours Speakers Series – Living Shorelines

### Partner updates:

**Judith:** Invite the council liaison for coastal erosion committee to report to ELSI meeting  
CRD is embarking on updating their solid waste management plan, Sat. Nov 16 open house noon to 4 at senior centre at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/management-plan>  
Could include a discussion about invasive species disposal at this open house

How to deal with cigarette butts; shoreline garbage

**RRU:** Maria Bremner is the new RRU representative on ELSI; taking a new approach to sustainability, now part of a new portfolio within Resilience and Operations; another aspect of Maria's work is emergency management; coordinated approach to response internally and externally. Suggest early planning around the Indigenous Festival to ensure we avoid disturbance to the purple martins nesting in the boxes at the wharf

**Pacific Landing (Rod):** Has been some turnover, original developer leaving, another one taking over; Beadle Industries from Langford is new owner

**Jason** – happy to see that Brookes School is finally doing the invasive species removal with Green Team; hope to see planting in the spring

**VNHS:** tomorrow night is birders' night at UVic, Thursday there is a NatureHood meeting;

**CWS:** (Email from Owain) Hopes that Colwood will join the South Island Goose Management Group and provide information about goose populations, locations, etc; maybe RRU could get involved with that as well

**Adjournment:** 3:45pm