



Present: Tricia Demacedo, Rick Daykin, Sara Stallard, Dorothy Chambers, George Blogg, Vicki Blogg, Mary Vasey, Patty MacDonald, Craig Elder, Cathy Carolsfeld, Kitty Lloyd, Jody Watson
 Guest: Kim Strom, Shoreline Middle School principal

DECISIONS			
1	General agreement with the proposed 2014 work plan, consider meeting every 2 months rather than quarterly (see details below)		
2	If there is sufficient response from members, GWI will submit a coordinated response to Saanich Park plan proposal for Panama Flats		
Next Meeting: Wednesday, 15 January 2014			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1	Send water quality monitoring info sheet back to Mary at WFT	Kitty	ASAP
2	Collaborate with Maycira Costa (UVic) and SeaChange Marine Conservation Society regarding eelgrass surveys	Jody/Kitty	2014
3	Meet to discuss 508 Selkirk Ave site (restored site on Gorge formerly managed by The Land Conservancy)	Jody/Leigh/ Julian	2014
4	Check terms of reference and the process for a new group joining GWI (Friends of Swan Creek, group that counts fish at Colquitz)	Kitty	ASAP
5	Craig, Sara, Kitty, Dorothy, Tricia will work with Kim and will have a look at the property and see if they can come up with a plan for restoration and chip trail along waterfront	Craig, Sara, Kitty, Dorothy, Tricia	As project proceeds
6	Talk to Malcolm Cowley (CRD engineer) to see if there is any funding available for the Shoreline school restoration project	Jody	ASAP
7	Put Kim in touch with CRD Outreach staff re school curriculum	Kitty	ASAP
8	Submit comments to Kitty regarding Panama Flats within 2 weeks; she will compile the responses and send back out to the group – input can also go to the Saanich Environmental and Natural Areas Committee	All	ASAP
9	Craigflower Bridge Interpretive signs: request that speed limit sign for boaters get replaced under new bridge	Tricia	ASAP
10	Update the proposed 2014 work plan and send back to the committee	Kitty	ASAP
11	Request a map from the Provincial Capital Commission regarding their available land around the harbour, Gorge and Portage Inlet	Kitty	For next meeting

Presentation: Kim Strom, Principal, Shoreline Middle School

- Project changes have impacted the scope of the initial plans
- School property is quite large, school was hoping that they would cover pipeline trench with a chip trail, and that the trail would connect to Craigflower Manor; CRD says they can only contribute \$3500 to the trail project; View Royal is concerned that part of the reason for granting site rezoning was the CRD commitment to build a trail
- Shoreline area currently home to a number of invasive species and some heritage apple trees, the school has 15 new apple trees (3 with Coast Salish apple grafts), was hoping that they could have a small orchard at the back of the property (near pedestrian overpass) but now are considering overplanting of the heritage trees; a local arborist has offered to volunteer to prune the apple trees

- Arbutus tree needs some attention, school discourages the kids from going down into the mudflats, they are looking at turning the triangle of forest at back of school property into a demonstration forest. There's an issue with dumping of yard waste there. They have started marking out the trails and the kids use the area; applied for a grant with Royal Roads Univ. to catalogue the native species, remove the non-native species; received money from VanCity and planted 3 *Camus* mounds at RRU, working with Esquimalt and Songhees nations to manage these. If that works out they will look at expanding garden, possibility of trying to get a major research grant for traditional food garden
- Shoreline restoration area begins at the current pump station and goes along the trench approximately 0.15 km and the forest is approx. 0.2 hectares; digging of the trench has been delayed by one year; large truck traffic has not been much of a problem; there is a secure fence around the entire work area
- Trail must be built by the School District, must be 6-7 ft wide, need help engaging the community to take part in the project; already submitted one proposal to school district;
- Paramount to get the kids involved; they are happiest when outside getting their hands dirty
- Wants the space to be enjoyed by the community, it's the most beautiful school ground in the region
- Cathy suggested the possibility of mentoring with Esquimalt High School to get older students involved
- Any volunteers would need to have a criminal record check, but can streamline by "batch processing"
- GWJ members expressed interest in getting involved: Craig, Sarah, Kitty, Dorothy, Tricia volunteered to work with Kim and will plan a site visit at the property

Panama Flats

- Over 300 surveys were submitted to Saanich
- Lots of positive comments about the plan for the flats – combining agriculture, realigning the creek, creating wetlands for bird habitat and creating some more trails along the outer edge (commuter trail though the middle)
- Would no longer be able to drain fields directly into the creek, to maintain wetlands for bird habitat and flood abatement
- Plan will go through committees first, then eventually to council for final approval
- Is there any mechanism for the GWJ to provide comment? More consultation to occur over next few months
- GWJ interests/concerns – creek flow; mitigation, silt coming off the flats, stormwater/rainwater storage, off channel fish habitat
- Individual groups should have a look at the info on the Saanich website and send comments/concerns to Kitty

GWJ Work Plan 2014

- Proposed work plan includes Speakers Series – try to do one as part of reporting out on the Harbours Survey
- Project management of interpretive signs for Craigflower Bridge: getting quotes, meeting with View Royal and Saanich regarding content and siting; will collaborate with First Nations; may want to include some fish information
- Add Craigflower Manor to list of development applications: ensure new owner/manager is aware of the shoreline values at the site
- General consensus is that quarterly meetings are too infrequent, would prefer every 2 months

Anchored Boats:

- Jody provided comments on behalf of the CRD to a plan proposed by the provincial government to regulate anchoring of boats and other floating structures
- Lots of discussions ongoing between municipalities and the province about this issue

Esquimalt Neighbourhood Watershed Mapping

- Kitty presented to the Esquimalt Environmental Advisory Committee – with help from CRD GIS technicians they are creating a neighbourhood watershed map for the municipality, showing the stormwater infrastructure for all

neighbourhoods in Esquimalt; want to get the message out to the community so residents become aware of where their streets and property runoff are draining to; aim is to encourage stewardship and decrease contaminants flowing into watercourses

- Kitty discussed how the GWI and partners could help with outreach and education about this. Marlene Lagoa will attend a meeting in the spring to present to the GWI.
- Dorothy has spoken with Esquimalt council about fuel oil tanks
- GWI members commented that there should be one of these maps made by all the municipalities

Partner Updates

- Esquimalt – parks restoration and invasive species removal at Highrock (Cairn) Park, Earth Day event planned April 22nd, lots of street trees being planted; signs for McCauley Point regarding the species at risk, dogs on lease etc; lots of work on facilities including energy retrofit at recreation centre, renovating, working on the atrium, wellness area, seniors lounge; released tender for Archie Browning retrofit to redo front entrance and make the building larger with a plaza out front, make it look better from the road; successful Communities in Bloom program this year
- FoCH – Colquitz counting fence has been highly successful – so far 1,245 coho since Nov 2nd, hundreds of visitors to the fence this year, lots of school kids, Craigflower has also had very significant runs, furthest upstream location of spawning was Quick's Bottom; now they think the furthest salmon go is Goward Springs (Mann Ave); spawning in Swan Creek as well at the new restored area
- GTCA - opened the fish counting trap and fish were trying to jump out, on YouTube there's a short video of spawning salmon at the restored area in Swan Creek
- FoSC (Friends of Swan Creek) – did not get the DFO permits to create the riffle in Swan Creek, hope to get permits next year; having first AGM in Feb; received funding from Pacific Salmon Foundation to do water quality monitoring; did a bio-engineering workshop at the creek, created wattle fencing on the banks; saw Coho near the Columbine Ave site
- Fish fence on the Colquitz is operated by the Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society; will inquire whether the group would like to join GWI
- BGCA – finished removing all the golden willows from Cecelia Cr, invasive plant removal efforts ongoing, 5 in 30 water sampling currently underway in Cecelia Cr, CRD has been in there shoring up the sewer main in the area
- PISCES – invasive species removal around the neighbourhood, lots of poison hemlock along the bank in Portage Park; graffiti removal done in the area; Provincial Capital Commission (PCC) owns Portage Park, also some of Cuthbert Holmes – wondering what will happen if PCC is being disbanded
- WFT – lots of regular volunteers are participating, especially UVic students; trying to expand to the community; upwards of 50 visitors every weekend, many have donated interesting things; getting WiFi soon at the Nature House (thanks to Esquimalt); did a dive survey on the oysters beds, there has been oyster spat settlement, hundreds of crabs seen on the reef
- GWAS – distributed GWI InfoSheets and other information to Esquimalt residents along the waterway, spoke with some home owners, people seemed appreciative, received funding from Esquimalt for that project, TD Friends of Environment funding went to the Nature House, AGM Dec 4th
- GCTA – community gardens in Gorge Park was approved, Dec 8th event: Lights on the Gorge in Gorge Park, Saanich's Pulling Together group cleared gorse in Gorge Park

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm