



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday March 19, 2014

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Present: Dorothy Chambers, Kitty Lloyd, Jody Watson, Yogi Carolsfeld, Rick Daykin, George Blogg, Vicki Blogg, Terry Eckstein, Craig Elder, Patty McDonald, John Noyes, Tricia Demacedo

Guests: Dave Lock – Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association

DECISIONS				
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Next Meeting: 21 May 2014				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Meet to discuss 508 Selkirk Ave site (restored site on Gorge formerly managed by The Land Conservancy)	Jody/Leigh/Julian	ASAP	
2	Talk to Malcolm Cowley (CRD engineer) to see if there is any funding available for the Shoreline School restoration project	Jody	ASAP	
3	Craig, Sara, Kitty, Dorothy, Tricia will work with Kim Strom at Shoreline School; will tour the property and come up with a plan for restoration and chip trail along waterfront	Craig, Sara, Kitty, Dorothy, Tricia	As project proceeds	
4	Send acceptance letters to the new groups	Kitty	ASAP	
5	Provide a bar chart showing the timing of fish usage in the Gorge Waterway (including ingoing and outgoing migration) for posting on the GWI website	Chris Bos	Next meeting	
6	Send PISCES newsletter to Kitty	George & Vicki	When published	
7	Send Yogi's message about the smart storm drains to PISCES	Kitty	ASAP	
8	Interested groups should contact Seaterra if their community association would like a presentation about the proposed biosolids pipeline routing	All	ASAP	
9	If interested in commenting on the bridge on Wilkinson, fill out on-line survey on the Saanich website	All	ASAP	
10	Send note out with summer community event dates requesting volunteers for outreach	Kitty	ASAP	

INFORMATION**Items from 15 Jan meeting:**

- Kitty handed out letter from federal Fisheries Minister Shea. Craig Elder also received a response from the Minister, and his letter mentioned that there will be a review of the Wild Salmon Policy.
- Kitty met with Shoreline Middle School principal Kim Strom on 23 Jan. to tour the site where restoration is going to occur. Kim said she will organize a group of kids and parents to work on the site, and will add the GWI volunteers to the contact list. Funding for the project was discussed, and Kim agreed that she will be the lead on this. No news since that time.

Colquitz River Coalition update:

- Friends of Swan Creek and Peninsula Streams organized a gathering of interested groups working on different areas within the Colquitz watershed and tributaries. About 20 people attended the March 1 meeting, representing about 13 groups working within the watershed. They discussed creating an umbrella group, but many did not want more meetings and also the individual groups want to continue doing their own work in the watershed.
- Very informative meeting and tour of Cuthbert Holmes and the Colquitz. Bob Cox is going to write up the meeting notes and send them out to the group

Update on Craigflower Bridge interpretive sign project

- Deb Becelaere sent Kitty an update on bridge construction – all the in-water works are completed. The contractor schedule for bridge opening May 22 but it may be open earlier; BC Hydro crews on site this week running the lines under the bridge.
- Kitty has been working with Songhees and Esquimalt Nations and View Royal on the sign project. Two artists have been contracted to create the header designs and the 3 sign panels.
- There will be a large 3-panel sign highlighting First Nations traditional territories in the region, Esquimalt and Songhees will each have a small panel dedicated to their story
- This sign will be placed in the middle of the bridge and two smaller horizontal signs will also go on the bridge. Migratory Bird Sanctuary sign is being replicated to attach to the bridge, beside the Underwater Bounty one that concerns herring, salmon, eelgrass and oysters.
- Hoping to have the signs installed in time for the official bridge opening and there will likely be some sort of grand opening or sign unveiling ceremony

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Outreach events for 2014:

Which events do we want to attend?

Vic West Fest – May 10 – 10am – 2pm

Selkirk Waterfront Festival: Sat. May 24, 10am – 3pm

Oceans Day at Fishermans' Wharf: June 8th, 11am – 5pm

Canada Day: July 1st - 9am – 4pm

Gorge Swim Fest: Sunday August 10th

Action: Kitty will send out a request for volunteers for these events

Update on CRD Harbours Program

- **Urban Forest Initiative** data – Inventory is now complete, analysis was done by watershed. 3 layers: land use and type, amount of imperviousness and tree cover changes over time - data for 1986, 2005 and 2011; Now figuring how to work this into the watershed data on the CRD website.
- **Water quality** data have been submitted to the province for analysis, but most of the provincial staff have been re-assigned to resource development projects in northern BC, not sure when province will be able to analyze our WQ data.
- **Harbours Survey:** Jody: CRD IT department waited for a critical opportunity to change the data to a more usable format for analysis. Now will be able to put the data into an Excel spreadsheet and analyze, then report out to the municipalities, and the community.

Other discussion topics:

- Discussion about routing of the biosolids pipeline that will cross beneath the Admirals Bridge over the Colquitz en route to Hartland Landfill. John will forward contact information about who to contact for information about community meetings to discuss the routing through different neighbourhoods.

Partner Updates and Events

- **Haig-Brown Flyfishing Association** – Interested in stream and habitat conservation, would like to restore two areas near Copley Park. They have funding available for projects, thinking of endowing a scholarship through UVic for creek restoration work
- **FCHP** – Attended the March 1 Colquitz meeting; this Saturday DFO is putting on a smolt course at Institute of Ocean Sciences; proposal to put some traps in with a small group in Swan Creek to assess the outmigration of smolts from the river.
- **WFT** – More involved in the coho in the Colquitz; have been applying for grants, looking for ways to install interpretive signs at the fish counting fence. Herring – trying to work with Andrew Payne on a project to cover some creosote pilings with cloth to provide substrate for herring spawning; herring populations all over

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Georgia Strait have increased. Likely that they are spawning in Esquimalt Harbour, might be just delayed in Gorge because of water turbidity, very few birds in the harbour this year as well. WFT may look at doing some genetics work, encourage everyone to watch for any sign of spawning (herring balls, diving birds, etc). The fishers are just starting to fish off the bridges over the Gorge, WFT doing creel survey estimates; Nature House and Seaquaria – launching crowd sourcing to try and secure some funding for operating the Nature House

- **GTCA** – AGM April 10; clean up in Gorge Park on April 26th; community garden was approved, will break ground for that in the summer; Kitty has been approached by staff at CRD to help with signage at the garden, will use the GWI template to create signs about the rain garden, low-flow irrigation and composting.
- **FoSC (Friends of Swan Creek)** - participating in DFO smolt workshop this weekend; PSF grant to create 3 riffles in Swan Creek
- **Saanich** – nominations are now open for Environmental awards, due end of April, looking for some especially in youth category; new bridge is being planned over the Colquitz along Wilkinson Rd at Lindsay, will include bike lanes; there will be an environmental assessment of impacts for crossing Colquitz River (close to the entrance of Quick's Bottom); survey on-line right now regarding the path
- **PISCES** - Trying get zoning changed for Saanich portion of Portage Linear Park, to match the park designation of the View Royal section; clean up planned in May; newsletter coming out 1st of April; sent letter of support to GWAS for a grant application; thinking of putting together a history of Portage Inlet;
- **PIPS** - AGM, working on updating their website
- **Esquimalt** - Just finished doing an enhancement to Esquimalt Gorge Park, now have a connection to the parking lot, Earth Day event planned for Cairn Park April 2, 10am-2pm, invasive plant removal; Blooming Beautiful garden, Archie Browning reno's ongoing, recreation centre upgrades are now complete
- **Esquimalt Residents Association (ERA)** – involved in the Gorge Swim Fest this year, want to improve the beach in Gorge Park
- **GWAS** – applied for funding for Nature House programming through TD Friends of the Environment; hope to encourage education about the migratory bird sanctuary in the Gorge; planning to apply for local municipal grants to continue with waterfront residents' education packages

Meeting adjourned: 9:30pm