



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, 21 May 2014

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Present: Rick Daykin, Don Monroe, Julian Anderson, Tricia de Macedo, Sara Stallard, Yogi Carolsfeld, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd

Guests: Jim Hemstock (Saanich), Craig Barlow (Applied Ecological Solutions)

DECISIONS				
Next Meeting: 16 July 2014				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Assist with the July 1 st event		Don Monroe	
2	Send out draft 2013 GWI Annual Update via email, get comments to Kitty ASAP		Kitty/All	ASAP
3	Send info about Species at Risk parks tour with GOERT to Kitty		Rick	ASAP

INFORMATION

Presentation: Craigflower Bridge update: Craig Barlow, Jim Hemstock

- Substantial completion on May 2nd; just a few more things to finish such as benches and seating areas, installation of interpretive signs; opening ceremony was held 26 April, good attendance
- Bridge was completed under budget; Saanich is very pleased with how things turned out
- Monitoring of compensation and mitigation to be continued for next 5 years post-construction
- Environmental work went very well; Aquaparian was the environmental monitor hired by the contractor, Applied Ecological Solutions provided audits of the monitoring for the proponent (ie municipalities)
- Monitoring reports were provided weekly during the summer when fish were moving through
- DFO audited the site three times during construction
- Used vibratory hammers instead of pile driving; sounds >30kPa is considered harmful to fish but levels never exceeded 10kPa during construction
- No apparent impacts to coho – highest escapement in many years in Craigflower and Colquitz creeks, had to get a revision to the DFO authorization to change the timing

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- Yogi said that only three herring were reported to WFT during the spring despite signage and outreach efforts to get catch information from local fishers
- Bridge footings were poured in place and have horizontal ridges to increase the surface area for oyster larvae attachment
- On the View Royal side there are rain gardens that the catch basins on the road drain into; Saanich side has stormceptors
- Riparian plantings were done at a density of 1plant/m² (industry standard) and include shore pine, big-leaf maple, Indian-plum, oceanspray, sword fern and other native species. There were also some plants put into planting wells in the riprap on the View Royal. Plantings were mulched afterwards.
- Post-construction monitoring will carry on for 3 – 5 years, and includes riparian planting areas, and if <80% survival, plants will be replaced
- A small area of marsh was transplanted from beneath the bridge to a sandy area in front of the Craigflower Schoolhouse. Marsh was planted at the same elevation as where it came from
- Re Olympia oysters: Yogi reported that monitoring will continue for a year on stakes that WFT put in nearby to provide substrate for oyster settlement
- Site monitoring will continue as long as it takes to prove that the habitat created as compensation for the construction actually functions as designed, although habitat created is always subject to changes in the surrounding environment.
- A report summarizing the environmental aspects of the bridge construction should be ready by next week.

Interpretive signs on Craigflower Bridge

- Showed the latest version of the three First Nations signs in full size format and described the process. Design is nearing completion and they should be installed by mid-June.
- If there is a celebration GWI members will be invited

Discussion about the oil spill through Gorge Creek

- GWI members raised concerns regarding the apparent challenges with getting an agency to respond
- No sign of intertidal mortality, although there were at least five oiled birds (mallards)
- Oil was identified as 10W30 oil, probably from someone changing their vehicle engine oil and pouring it down the storm drain.

GWI Annual Report 2013

- Word document was circulated, please send comments back to Kitty
- ACTION: Send Word document out to the group for input, get finalized in time for distribution at June 8 event at Fishermen's Wharf

Craigflower Pump Station and Shoreline School waterfront

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- Jody and Kitty met with Malcolm Cowley (CRD engineer) 20 May and walked the site to discuss opportunities for restoration and to see if some of the invasive species could be removed while the large machinery is onsite
- Need to engage the maintenance staff at school district
- Milk thistle – about 40 plants were seen on site and need to be dealt with immediately (highly invasive)

CRD Harbour Program update

Anchored boats:

- City of Victoria is moving forward with applying for a Licence of Occupation from the province for the water lease in front of Banfield Park
- CoV wants to do an environmental assessment of the area and make a case to the province to designate the area as an “environmentally sensitive area”; and CoV could then enforce bylaws to protect the area
- Assessment may just involve updating the 2000 detailed habitat inventory that was done
- Will use divers to ground truth extent of eelgrass beds and other sensitive habitats
- Planning to do a habitat inventory anyway in 2015

Victoria Harbour:

- Jody is part of a focus group working on planning for three properties on Victoria's waterfront: Ships Pt, Belleville terminal and Wharf St
- About 500 people came to the open house as part of this planning process
- Harbour Pathway loop being planned that will go along inner harbour from Johnson St. Bridge to Bay St, across Pt Ellice Bridge, back along Harbour Rd to Johnson St bridge
- Jody is hoping to be part of a technical group working on this plan, and contribute to habitat improvement as part of the pathway process

Partner Updates

Friends of Cuthbert Holmes – worked with Peninsula Streams' “Creatures of Habitat” event on the Colquitz, walk and talk with a grade 7 class from Colquitz Middle School; they will help with some invasive species pulls

VCKC– raised \$18,000 for sending handicapped kids to Camp Shawnigan; did a big garbage clean-up, much of the garbage was found around the Colquitz Creek bridge, lots of needles there; working with Power To Be on some paddling events; big fundraiser this Sunday; working with Craigflower School, almost 98% First Nations students; getting inundated with requests from school groups

BGCA – ongoing invasive species removal in Cecelia Creek

Saanich – garden group is moving forward with the Gorge Park community garden, do not have the money yet for building the garden boxes, compost bins etc. Results of survey

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about Wilkinson Rd bridge and other park upgrades showed that people are generally happy with Saanich's plans for that area

Esquimalt – final touches on tree protection bylaw, it will go to council soon, very similar to Saanich bylaw, increased ratio of tree replacements (3:1), valuation of trees, tree pruning also included (anything over 4" diameter requires a permit); Earth Day tree planting and invasive plant removal event was a huge success at High Rock Park, over 1,300 kids took part; moving forward with Archie Browning Centre upgrades, parks office will eventually move into that building, park wayfinding now available in 5 major parks, will soon have an app in place to show the features in each park; Blooming Beautiful garden contest in June; noxious weed bylaw part of new property maintenance bylaw. May 28 Species at Risk tour with GOERT (Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team) – 16 people only, details about what they are doing for the SAR, Ray will send details to Kitty for distribution

WFT – Iain Murray is the new manager for the Nature House; small science fair was held there by Glanford Middle School; a tour of the Gorge was done with Glen Lyon Norfolk School, and a map was created showing all the storm drains that enter the Gorge and Victoria Harbour.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:40pm