



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 21, 2015

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Present: Patti McDonald, Dorothy Chambers, Tricia Demacedo, Craig Elder, Rick Daykin, Yogi Carolsfeld, Cathy Carolsfeld, Norm Bruce, Jaques Sirois, Terry Eckstein, Don Monroe, Caren Cameron, Sara Stallard, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd, Vicki Blogg, George Blogg

DECISIONS				
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Next Meeting: 18 March 2015				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Send Point Ellice restoration project final report to GWI		Kitty	ASAP
2	Develop draft criteria for determining which development referrals from muni's		Kitty/Jody	Next meeting
3	Provide notification of spills to GWI member when possible		Kitty/Jody	As required
4	Identify potential locations for CWS signage around the Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary – all the way to Ten Mile Point		Jacques	ASAP
5	Review the wording for the signage and get comments to Kitty, determine the number of signs needed for the waterway		All/Kitty	Feb
6	Send link to public input on draft CRD Regional Sustainability Strategy		Kitty	ASAP
7	Kitty and Caren will meet with representatives of VCKC to formalize our relationship to continue using club house for meetings		Don	ASAP
8	Post GWAS contest on GWI website		Kitty	ASAP
9	Send out the oil spill report from the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC		Kitty	ASAP

INFORMATION

Approval of Agenda

- Added Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan update as an agenda item

Presentation: Point Ellice Shoreline Restoration

Kitty gave the group a presentation on the completion of the Point Ellice Shoreline Restoration project. A total of 28 tonnes of ivy and other invasive plants were removed, almost 1,000 trees and shrubs planted, and more than 3,100 hours of volunteer time were expended on the project.

ACTION: Send final report summary to GWI

Response from municipalities to GWI request for referral of waterway developments:

- City of Victoria has added the GWI as a referral agency for waterway development
- District of Saanich has sent the letter to all departments to remind them to include the GWI as a referral for major projects
- Have not heard back from View Royal and Esquimalt
- GWI members discussed the need to develop a set of criteria that can be used to vet which developments the group would review.

ACTION: Need to develop a draft for the next meeting.

Signage for Gorge Waterway re Migratory Bird Sanctuary

- Discussions with Courtney Albert, Canadian Wildlife Service, regarding signage for the key wildlife areas in particular the Colquitz estuary
- Sign under the Admirals Bridge “invites” people in, Saanich is going to work on changing the wording on the sign
- Another location should be under the Craigflower Bridge, need to contact Saanich/View Royal
- Draft wording provided by CWS is too long, input from the group was to reduce the number of words
- All of the bridges should have signage underneath for boaters/paddlers, including Selkirk Trestle, Bay St and Johnston St
- Some members who live along the water see kayakers trying to get as close as possible to the birds
- Also noted that there are far more boats and paddleboards throughout the waterway than in recent past.
- GWAS is working on a project to encourage all paddlers who rent equipment at local venues, to sign an acknowledgement that they understand they are entering an MBS, and should not approach birds and wildlife too closely.
- Saanich councilors are considering designating the Colquitz estuary as a protected area
- The big issue is the racing boats when there are 6 or 7 boats racing up the waterway and into the shallow creeks
- Many residents would like to have a sign on their docks and in Cuthbert Holmes Park requesting people/kayakers respect the wildlife
- All of Cuthbert Holmes Park is an off-leash dog area
- Jacques is meeting with the VNHS soon, they are very supportive of increased awareness and education regarding the Victoria Hbr MBS
- Important to have a common, recognizable sign along the waterway, CWS has an MBS sign that is displayed in other MBSs
- CWS will make the signs, they want our comments on the wording they provided, and number of signs requested. Note that CWS can only put up signs within the MBS, which in the waterway only includes the water up to the high tide line.
- The signage needs to be educational and simple, similar to BC Parks sign that Dorothy sent around earlier

ACTION: Review CWS sign wording, determine number of signs required

Meeting with CoV Planning staff re Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan update

- Jody met with CoV staff today to discuss their plan to update of several LAPs, starting with Burnside Gorge. This neighbourhood goes from Harriet St to Bay St along the Gorge, and up to Douglas St at Mayfair Mall
- Main drivers for updating this LAP now are:

- Rapid transit corridor being established along Douglas St
- Work being done on Rock Bay remediation: coffer dams are now in place and dredging of 7 – 14m layer of coal tar deposits on bottom will start soon
- Working harbour/employment lands are in this area: e.g. Schnitzer Steel, Ralmax, Ocean Cement
- Going to council later in January with the project charter, to request this be included in the 2015 budget
- Will set up a stakeholder advisory group – opportunity for people to apply to council to be included in this group – deadline for applications is Feb 9th; duties would include attending open houses, help with outreach, summarize results of public consultation
- Full public consultation in spring/summer; and open houses in fall
- Jody told CoV staff that GWI would like to have a presentation at the GWI about this LAP update

CRD Harbours Program update:

- Water Quality Objectives – close to getting a final draft, hopefully by end of Feb.
- Draft will be taken to municipalities for input, then out for public discussion
- Following this, the province will likely establish WQOs for the nearby creeks, based on objectives set for the harbours
- No news yet re the National Wetland Conservation Fund application
- CRD is requesting public input on draft Regional Sustainability Strategy (replacement for former Regional Growth Strategy)

ACTION: Kitty will send link to RSS survey

GWI Meeting Space

- Need to review and formalize our relationship with VCKC
- Reps from GWI and VCKC will meet this week to discuss continued use of VCKC space

Partner Updates

GWAS – partnership with Gorge Pointe Pub, Hoyne Brewery and Ocean River Sports in a raffle to win a kayak. Portion of all Hoyne products sold until end of January will go to GWAS. They are earmarking the funds for the Nature House and MBS signage.

ACTION: Post contest on GWI website

WFT – There were 3 oil spills in the Gorge recently. What about setting up a fund to help homeowners who get stuck with huge clean-up bills? Would like to receive notification whenever there's a spill into the Gorge. Through colleagues at CRD who monitor stormwater discharges, Jody and Kitty sometimes hear about spills quickly, but typically it's up to the municipality and BC Hazmat teams to do the clean-up, not CRD mandate unless it's caused by CRD-owned infrastructure

There's a **forum on home heating oil tanks on Feb 5th, 7:00 – 8:30**, at Spectrum High School

ACTION: Forward report from Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC on Managing Residential Oil Heat Systems in the CRD

BGCA: Volunteers in CoV Parks update: existing groups are able to carry on with work parties as usual; staff are looking at policy for any new initiatives within the parks

Sediment releases into Cecelia Cr: recently a big plume was observed, after calling Emergency BC, CoV staff were called out but all they did was take photos. Sediment plumes into Cecelia Cr are a regular occurrence, little seems to happen to find the source and take action about it.

Adjournment: 9:50pm