



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday, May 18, 2016**

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club  
 355 Gorge Rd West

- Present:** Julian Anderson, Dorothy Chambers, Cathy Carolsfeld, Yogi Carolsfeld, Mick Collins, Jacques Sirois, Vikki Blogg, George Blogg, Terry Eckstein, Patty MacDonald, Sara Stallard, Melissa Huston, Adam Steele, Craig Elder, Charles Bouchard, Linda Thompson, Morley Eldridge, Laura Kravac, Kitty Lloyd
- Guests:** Barri Rudolph, CRD Stormwater Monitoring Program

DECISIONS				
1	Request a site tour of the McKenzie interchange with MOTI staff			
2	New GWI outreach display was approved			
<b>Next Meeting: 20 July 2016</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Discuss potential Green Shores partnership with municipalities		Jody	ASAP
2	Send Barri's presentation to the group		Kitty	ASAP
3	Send Kitty details of provincial tree replacement criteria for mitigation		Sara	ASAP
4	Contact MOTI to request a site tour of McKenzie Interchange		Kitty	ASAP
5	Send comments and additions to draft letter to Kitty		All	May 25 <sup>th</sup>
6	Send comments/suggestions to Kitty for inclusion in letter to CoV re Gorge Waterway Zone bylaw amendment		All	July
7	Contact Mick Collins if interested in Sept 24 workshop on aquatic weed identification at Elk/Beaver Lake		All	June
8	Contact Sara Stallard with ideas of where she can bring portable rain garden model to use as public demonstration		All	Any time

### INFORMATION

**Action items from March 16 meeting:**

- No sampling has been done by Esquimalt in Gorge Creek

- CoV is not planning to do a specific consultation with the GWI about Burnside Gorge Local Area Plan. Three open houses and a design charrette with the community were held over the winter, and notices sent out to the GWI to participate.
- Signage in MBS: Jacques has met with all 5 municipalities bordering the MBS (4 Gorge municipalities plus Oak Bay), they are all in the loop about available signs. Five signs are now up in Esquimalt

### **Presentation: Stormwater sampling results for the Gorge Waterway**

Barri Rudolph, CRD Stormwater Monitoring Program Coordinator

[NB – Barri’s presentation was sent to the GWI 24 May as a PDF]

- Monitoring program covers water and sediment quality, flow dynamics and presence of benthic invertebrates (good indicator of stream health)
- Staff monitor 145 discharges in Gorge and Portage Inlet for heavy metals and hydrocarbons
- Marine receiving waters for bacteria, nutrients, metals (every 5 yrs)
- New program started last winter to sample public beach marine winter sampling for enterococci (bacteria that survive longer in marine water, better than fecal coliform for marine testing)
- Looking for bacterial sources at high-use beaches, especially as more people are now using beaches in the winter for paddle sports
- Stormwater discharges – 27 of the 145 discharges have elevated bacterial levels (>200 CFU/100 mL), 6 have high counts (>5,000 CFU/100mL)
- 7 were assigned a high public health concern rating due to high bacterial counts and human exposure potential. Upstream investigations have shown that two of these are from sources on private property; Cecelia Cr is high, also areas near Banfield Park; public sources are mostly from old infrastructure, one is on a strata property where ownership of the pipe is in question; cross-connections – working with municipalities to address these
- Of the 7 of high public health concern, they are close to solutions on 3 or 4 of these.

### **Monitoring of watercourses (Craigflower, Colquitz, Cecelia creeks):**

- parameters of concern are phosphorus, bacteria, turbidity, cadmium, copper, zinc and the benthic invertebrate communities in the streams show signs of stress
- Cecelia, Craigflower & Colquitz creeks are monitored every 5 years for bacteria, nutrients, metals and physical parameters (temperature, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH). Two creeks/year are sampled in the core area. Colquitz was sampled with 5 in 30 testing (5 repeated measurements within 30 days, in both dry and wet seasons) in 2011/12, due to be repeated in 2016/17

Question: Is low DO ever a problem in Colquitz? Where are the sampling points on the creek?

- Quick’s Bottom is often very low, probably due to low flow and shallow water

- Sampling is done at the mouth of Colquitz, above Swan Lake, in Swan Creek, Quick's Bottom and just below Elk Lake

### Winter Beach Monitoring

- The CRD is moving towards more receiving environment monitoring to determine the impact of stormwater discharges in the marine environment. In 2015, staff worked with Island Health Authority (IHA) to conduct a study of stormwater impacts on public beaches during the wet season. IHA is the agency responsible for determining public health safety; CRD helps collect data, but signage and designation as health risk is up to IHA
- In 2016, CRD staff will be conducting further sampling to determine the sources of contamination and observe how rainfall levels influence the data.
- Poor water quality conditions persisting at Cadboro Bay prompted some of these investigations in the core area. Questions being asked: What is the impact of first flush of rain after long dry season? What are the impacts of heavy rains? What are the impacts of stormwater inputs on bacterial levels in the receiving environment?
- High public use beaches adjacent to stormwater discharges of concern were sampled every 2 weeks, Oct 2015 – Feb 2016, targeting rainfall events. Enterococci were measured
- Sites in/near the Gorge sampled as part of the winter program:
  - Upper Victoria Harbour at Canoe Club dock on Swift St (#622)
  - Gorge Creek at Sioux Place, in Esquimalt Gorge Park (this is referred to in Barri's slide show as "Gorge Park", discharge #742)
  - Selkirk Trestle at mouth of Cecelia Cr (#641)

Results: high counts were associated with rainfall levels; did some Bacterial Source Tracking (BST) sampling to determine the sources. Mostly human, some dog and ruminant (probably deer). This test does not differentiate bird sources.

Question: Are swimming beaches in the Gorge sampled?

- Yes, Kosapsom Park, Banfield Park, Gorge Creek, in conjunction with IHA. All of this data is shared with the CRD Board, the municipalities, and IHA. Barri has met with all municipal staff to explain and discuss the results, and assist in resolving problem areas

Why is there no signage put up when levels are dangerous?

- IHA samples only during summer months, and at one spot on the beach - not necessarily where the storm drains discharge. Lessons learned from the contamination at Cadboro Bay, where high levels of contamination enter the beach through the storm drain system, showed that this is not always captured by the IHA sampling method. CRD now sampling in winter – there is more beach use in winter now with all the kayakers and paddle boarding in the region.
- CRD is working closely with IHA to develop public education and notification strategies.
- Next steps:
  - work out where signage should be, and what information it needs to convey
  - Fall/winter 2016 - focus on sampling before, during, after rainfall events, to see how bacterial levels in the marine receiving environment are affected

- CRD Staff report “Winter Shoreline Bacterial Levels Update” to the Environmental Services Committee meeting 25 May 2016 is available here:  
<https://crd.ca.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=7077&GUID=1B25B8B9-DC5B-4597-A8C0-18DB1BDC1A7C>
- **Note:** In 2010 the UVic Environmental Law Centre investigated the issue of contamination entering the environment through the stormwater system, and published a report entitled “Re-Inventing Rainwater Management in the Capital Region: Protecting Health and Restoring Nature in the Capital Region”. It documents the damage stormwater causes and lays out a strategy for solving the problem. It is available on the ELC website: <http://www.elc.uvic.ca/publications/stormwater-report/>

### **Discussion: Highway 1 McKenzie Interchange Project and Environmental Assessment**

- Coordinated response from GWI should be submitted by June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) held an open house earlier today to show details of the chosen partial cloverleaf interchange design, public transit and cycling connections, noise and environmental mitigation strategies, anticipated construction schedule and traffic management plans
- Online feedback form is available at [www.engage.gov.bc.ca/mckenzieinterchange](http://www.engage.gov.bc.ca/mckenzieinterchange) until June 10<sup>th</sup>

### **Comments/Discussion:**

- Sara: Environmental assessment had no bird survey, no reptile and amphibian surveys; there’s an established protocol for environmental assessments that has not been followed; level of effort in the report makes it not very useful; need a more detailed scope of work; states what could be there, not what is actually there
- Expected a much more detailed assessment for a project of this magnitude
- Re tree replacement – there are provincial criteria based on diameter of trees being removed in a project, e.g. diameter of the tree determines number that must replace it

**ACTION:** Sara will send the provincial tree replacement criteria to Kitty to include as a reference in the letter

- George talked to Janelle Erwin from MOTI, she is willing to come and talk to us again
- Janelle called Kitty today to say she will come to next GWI meeting
- We already asked her these questions, and they are still not answered
- Need to be more positive about things we want, not just negative
- Another thing missed in the EA is the amount of pavement that is being removed, and replaced with trees
- We should work with them to ensure that they replace with trees that we want, Saanich would never have paid for all this restoration
- Consultation process was deficient, this should be pointed out
- Call a special meeting? Seems to be a rushed project, need to meet before July 20 GWI meeting

- Julian and Dorothy walked through the footprint of where the new cloverleaf will be with MOTI staff, not necessarily a done deal that all the big trees need to come down, everyone should come and see what it will actually be like; Dorothy felt reassured after walking through the site with MOTI staff, overpass is not high overhead; highway through lanes will be lowered, cloverleaf within the park will be 12 feet above grade for most of the cloverleaf area; more buffer from existing forest
- A 3D model would be useful to see what this interchange would look like from different angles

**ACTION:** Request a site tour of McKenzie Interchange project site with MOTI staff and environmental consultant. Admirals parking lot good place to meet

- Julian – Saanich has passed a resolution to request 8 considerations from the province as a condition of this project, including transfer of lands owned by Provincial Capital Commission to Saanich, enhancement of river and estuary, protection of existing habitat, financial support for CHP, more detailed environmental assessment; GWI could mention this as an appendix in our letter, expressing support for this resolution
- Dorothy – Two Saanich Advisory Boards, Parks and Environment and Natural Areas Committee, never received any information about the environmental and natural areas to be affected by this interchange project, nothing was discussed at all about this interchange. Advisory boards seem to be in the dark about the project
- Saanich had not expressed an opinion, trying to play catch up now; resolutions from two advisory boards are worthy of our support
- GTCA – tolerating our government to spend all this infrastructure \$\$ on too much asphalt; water catchment of cloverleaf is good, but we could do better if we slow down and b
- PISCES – has been on committees for several years, said there was no money for an underpass for Burnside, this is a start, we should be pushing to get what we can for the park
- GTCA – plan will destroy the buffer zone for the park and all the great environment in the park, and will not help traffic flow

**ACTION:** Send comments and additions to draft letter to Kitty by May 25<sup>th</sup>

### **Discussion: City of Victoria Gorge Waterway Zoning Bylaw Amendment**

- City of Victoria will be receiving input on what to include as requirements for the license of occupation (essentially the rules that people will have to follow).
- GWI could request inclusion of ideas such as:
  - limiting the number of boats allowed to anchor/moor at one time
  - install mooring buoys to discourage/prevent anchoring or wait and see how many boats actually use the area, if none, maybe there is no need for any moorings
  - requiring holding tanks and maybe even requiring pump out prior to be allowed to anchor there
  - parking/shower/washroom/garbage facilities at a shore location
  - appropriate shore access so that it stops the degradation of shoreline habitat from unsanctioned trails

- ensure that CoV is discussing this issue with other municipalities so that problem does not just move elsewhere [Saanich amended their P-1 Assembly Zone to prohibit live-aboards and to restrict anchoring to no more than 72 hours/month; Esquimalt's section of the waterway is zoned Marine Navigation M-4, which prohibits boat moorage].
- environmental assessment being done – what is the question being asked or is it a habitat inventory?
- area is restoring itself, recovering from log booming activities
- Adam Steele (new GWI representative from CoV):
  - a desk top environmental review has been done
  - starting an environmental assessment in June
  - possible that detailed underwater survey will happen later
  - timeline is about 3 – 4 months, council meeting said 6 months
  - Contributions to bylaw amendment – more or less by September

**ACTION** – Provide input for a coordinated response to bylaw amendment

### Coordinator Updates

- Draft 2015 Annual Report was circulated
- Update on CoV-owned site at 508 Selkirk that has conservation covenant held by The Land Conservancy (TLC):
  - Kitty, Thomas Munson (CoV Natural Areas Technician) and Andrew MacKinnon (from TLC) met onsite 12 May
  - Seawall was removed and pocket beach installed 10 years ago
  - Site looks good, most native plants including marsh plantings on shoreline have survived and are doing well
  - A few invasive species observed, could have a work party there in the fall or get students to work there this summer
  - Kitty suggested that a couple of Douglas firs could be planted there, site has no large trees and this would provide valuable shoreline habitat
- Responsible Wildlife Viewing - we could develop a brochure like the BC Parks one (circulated at meeting), take a voluntary approach to encouraging responsible paddling/wildlife interactions
- View Royal Parks Management Plan: Open house was held in April; several GWI members attended and voiced concerns about the lack of reference to the bird sanctuary in Portage Inlet, and the over-emphasis on waterfront access. Draft Management Plan has not been posted on the website as yet

### Partner Updates

**Golden Rods & Reels:** half time coordinator for Elk/Beaver Lake initiative will be hired within a month or so, good response so far to job posting, due diligence being done on use of Phoslock (to control phosphorus in sediments), scientists coming from Germany will study mobile phosphorus content; new weed harvester on lake on Friday; Sept 24 workshop on aquatic weed identification and survey of Elk/Beaver Lake to map and inventory the weeds, Mick will send an invite if you're interested

**WFT:** World Oceans Day June 4 at Nature House in Esquimalt Gorge Park 11am – 3pm, NGOs welcome to have a booth, will also be at BC museum June 8, and Fishermen's Wharf June 5<sup>th</sup>



Attended Vic West Fest last weekend with touch table and watershed model, about 100 came through the GWI display, 3 people signed up and are interested to get involved with projects  
**GWAS** – will attend World Oceans Day; welcoming first 2 summer students starting end of May, restoration, education and outreach focus, looking for potential restoration projects along the Gorge, road ends?; anyone looking for extra hands over next few months, please contact Patty or Laura; working from Nature House, want some hands-on restoration; students have general terrestrial and marine experience, Sara can identify some road ends for them along the Gorge  
**SIASS**: last weekend at Hillside Centre at Ocean Wall science promotion event, brought a portable rain garden with CRD watershed model, worked well. If anyone can think of places where the raingarden model would be good, please let Sara know; Canada Day picnic suggested

**GTCA** – thank you for sending a letter from GWI to make things better for interchange, effort is appreciated

**CoV** – At public works day today, Brianne and Adam used a model of Victoria's watershed with Grade 5 students, rain garden would have been great to use for that

**BGCA** – annual Selkirk Waterfront Festival, Sat May 28

**SISKA** – intertidal paddles in April and May at Willows Beach, birding paddle at Sidney and Mandarte Is, Jacques will be giving a presentation soon, interested in learning what can SISKA do to help promote goals, objectives of GWI

**VCKC** – Recently 20 teenagers from Montessori completed paddling course in Crystal Pool, including info about habitat and wildlife; 2 mornings last 2 weeks with young kids, pointing out eelgrass to them, that it's healthy not yucky; Big Brothers and Big Sisters event coming up, VCKC will offer canoe rides; completed ocean paddling course, overnight camping trip, day paddles to Darcy Is and other trips

**FoVicHbrMBS**: Tri – MBS meeting – Bateman Centre is developing a sanctuary project for 2017, focus on bird sanctuary in an urban environment; Migratory Bird Day last weekend at Elk/Beaver Lake; in conversation with parks services in 5 municipalities about promoting the MBS and getting signage up; new species for sanctuary – angel shark at Clover Point, first for Canada, BC and sanctuary

**FoSwanCreek** – smolt count since March, this year only 4, last year 600. From spawn of fall 2014 where there were 1600 at counting fence, where are they? Waiting for rain? Died last summer when it was so dry? Water level is so low trap is not underwater, have observed some fish further upstream but maybe they have just not moved down

**FoCHP**– hosted a day camp from Baptist Church, invasive plant removal in park, busy with highway interchange project, want to get all of the provincial land transferred to Saanich so we don't have to go through this again

**Adjournment: 9:50pm**