



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
**Wednesday, March 15, 2017**

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

**Present:** Dorothy Chambers, Tricia deMacedo, Melissa Huston, Jacques Sirois, Morley Eldridge, Cathy Carolsfeld, Mick Collins, George and Vicki Blogg, Jody Watson, Sara Stallard, Kitty Lloyd, Jack Meredith, Don Munroe, Bill Buckley, Laura Kravac, Yogi Carolsfeld, Adam Steele

DECISIONS				
1	GWI will submit a response to MoTI regarding the berm proposal at McKenzie interchange			
<b>Next Meeting: 16 May 2017</b>				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Watch for action from CoV regarding oil tanks on private properties		All	When available
2	Send feedback about McKenzie interchange berm proposal to <a href="mailto:mckenzieinterchange@gov.bc.ca">mckenzieinterchange@gov.bc.ca</a> ; copy to Saanich Parks		All	March 24
3	Request an onsite meeting with MoTI, Golder, Saanich engineers, request cross sections of proposed berms		Kitty	ASAP
4	Let Dorothy know about your projects for Shaw community TV segments on the Gorge		All	ASAP
5	If/when a notice is posted about the public hearing on Saanich EDPA, let Kitty know		All	When posted
6	Send Kitty the research PISCES has done on EDPA issue		Bloggs	ASAP
7	Send out link to Saanich aerial atlas to GWI		Kitty	ASAP
8	Ask Ben Martin, CRD engineer, about status of sewer line project at Elk/Beaver Lake		Kitty	ASAP

## INFORMATION

### Review of Action items from last meeting

- Inter-municipal oil spill training workshop – time to look at coordinated training for municipal staff?
- Looked at examples, we should all be on the same page and following best management practices

- CRD is getting information from municipal staff about what they are already doing for staff training
  - CRD will look into holding a training session every 2 years or so for new staff
  - At CoV – have done a fuel tank inventory, went through all paper records received from fire departments and mapped all the tanks on record; went to council and shared the map with CRD – there were thousands
  - Once this has gone through council, will contact homeowners and let them know that there is a record of that property having a tank, will offer incentives for converting to heat pumps
  - Q: will the map become public?
    - Not sure, they will share with inter-municipal group
  - Jack – 1000s of oil tanks in Victoria, are many of these inactive?
    - A: not sure of this, just had documentation that the property had a permit to install one at some point in the past
  - CoV will send current homeowners the info they have on record, and provide them with an incentive to switch to another fuel source
  - Lots of discussion of spills on First Nations lands and the jurisdiction issues there
  - Jody spoke with Aboriginal Initiative Coordinator at CRD about how to approach this
  - Sara – may be some other types of workshops available, looking at other impacts on watersheds, e.g. when there's a fire, huge volumes of (treated) water enter nearby creeks; also discussed topic of street sweeping methods
  - Like the idea of central training for all municipalities
  - Streamkeepers training a few years ago (Dorothy went with Saanich muni staff) that made a huge difference about their approach to streams and waterways, Ben Bowker in Saanich organized that
  - Sara saw CoV staff at a construction site near her home where sediment was being dumped into a storm drain; spraying water into a construction site, then pumping rainwater and washwater into storm drain at Pandora and Vancouver (Bosa); Sara has photos, NTU readings were many times the recommended; CoV has said they will fine the company
  - Oak Bay sent a letter in 1996 to all homeowners with oil tanks stating that they had to remove these at cost of \$800
  - These tanks are a liability, we should take action as a group
- ACTION** – watch this as it goes to Victoria council, see what the letters say, and what the subsequent actions are

**Discussion: Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure Open House RE McKenzie Interchange Project, 13 March 2017:**

- Open house was to show the public the proposed berm along highway between McKenzie and Tillicum
- MOTI wants the project to go to tender ASAP, want to put the fill in the berm site
- Dorothy and Bloggs met with Saanich Parks
- MOTI needs approval from Saanich Parks to take more of CHP lands to build berm on
- How much habitat will be lost?
- What is the slope of the berm?
- It will look very high from the river since the river is so much lower than the highway
- Need to have a cross section, is the toe of the slope same as footprint?
- Tricia – how about staking a line that we can live with in the park, and make the berm that high
- Statement from Becky Goodall – at this time, staff working on details such as planting, mix of deciduous and conifers throughout the berm on provincial land and land leased to Saanich for the park

- Saanich staff working on details of grading, layout of pathways and various planting details, such as native species and bunch grass meadow
- No reason not to have all native species, not the mix that is listed on the poster boards
- Tricia – slopes being proposed are too steep to be mowed, something to consider as far as invasive species become established
- Mick – danger is stopping sediment from slumping soon after construction, costs and benefits, we should argue for it to be done in best interest of the park
- Need more details about slope stability, talk with Saanich Parks, they will review from a plant and trail point of view, not necessarily from a saving the river point of view, hope they would consult with Saanich engineers as far as dealing with steep slopes
- Depends on what the fill will be
- Feedback deadline is March 24,
- Jody – send feedback also to Gary Darrah, Saanich Parks regarding the berm
- Sara – add on about slope of the berm around the cloverleaf
- Bee garden? Garry oak meadow should be on top of berm

**ACTION** – send feedback by March 24 to [mckenzieinterchange@gov.bc.ca](mailto:mckenzieinterchange@gov.bc.ca)

**ACTION** – request an onsite meeting with MoTI, Golder, Saanich engineers, want to see cross sections of proposed berms

**ACTION** - Kitty send these comments to Gary Darrah, ask this to be considered as part of berm design

### **Sewage spill into Colquitz River - Dorothy Chambers**

- On Dec 11, 2016, there was sewage guysing out of sewage manholes about 15 feet from bank of the Colquitz on private property
- Intentional? Yes
- Floculators are supposed to manage stormwater runoff, but Jacob Bros (contractor) diverted sediment-laden stormwater into Saanich sanitary sewer which overwhelmed the system so there was a 6 hour overflow of raw sewage into lower reaches of Colquitz River, and onto private properties
- Jacob Brothers did not tell Saanich, contaminated 2 private properties with raw sewage
- No consequences, no fines, 2 months went by, and nothing had been done, they called Dorothy, she contacted all gov't officials, no one had done any monitoring
- No public notifications were made about this breach, Dorothy alerted all the departments and media, next day Dorothy had a call from Saanich and the same thing had happened again (February)
- MoTI issued a non-compliance report, Saanich told Jacob Bros that if this happened another time they will be fined
- 12 hrs after 2<sup>nd</sup> spill, CRD tested and found high fecals
- Dorothy was working with kids in the river during the salmon spawn, no one had warned her that there was sewage in the water (first spill)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> spill eventually tripped the SCADA alarm (on the pump station) – overwhelmed the sanitary system and overflowed into storm system
- Q: wonder how many times this has happened unbeknownst to anyone, in the dark of night
- Jacob Bros should have known that they needed a permit to dump into the sanitary sewer
- Dorothy asked CRD, Saanich, Island Health – to provide notification, signage on public accesses to let people know when something like this has happened
- Shocking that people with jurisdiction don't act on this, why is this left to concerned citizens like Dorothy?

**Shaw TV – Environmental Segments focused on Gorge Waterway – Dorothy Chambers**

- Dorothy received 20 hours of training on how to produce environmental segments for community TV, Creatively United for the Planet is working with Shaw, approached Dorothy to see if she would be a resource for environmental questions about the Gorge
- Hope that there may be 6 segments in the next year, bringing attention and education about the Gorge,
- Jacques and Dorothy will be speaking at Earth Day April 22 event at RBC Museum, panel discussion of the area, wants to know projects going on the area, filming will be on site

**ACTION** – Let Dorothy know about your projects in and around the Gorge

**Discussion: Saanich EDPA update – George Blogg**

- Purpose of EDPA was to protect sensitive environments, rare plants, marine environment
- Growing amount of misinformation, Saanich held an open house in 2016
- Some in Saanich wanted EDPA bylaw repealed
- Municipality hired a consultant to provide recommendations about revising the EDPA wording (Diamond Head Consulting)
- Saanich has received 70 applications to have properties removed from EDPA
- Only thing on the Council agenda last week was removal of 8 properties from EDPA, but at the meeting, motion was passed to reduce the EDPA area by 27%
- PISCES wrote to council expressing concerns about lack of public notice
- This needs to go to a public hearing, no date set for that yet
- Some residents want out of EDPA, others feel that the mapping was incorrect, their property should not be included
- Improve the mapping, some feel that EDPA causes economic harm
- Perceived conflict around the restoration wording
- PISCES wants Saanich to hold off making a decision on this until EDPA review by Diamond Head is finalized
- Why was this brought up as a motion after the public input period was over?
- Tricia – had to consult with lawyers about legality of striking out the bylaw
- Vicki - Legal counsel was that was considered legal but not good governance
- What is the objective here? What's the hurry, why not wait until the consultant report is in?
- When motion went to staff, they recognized that this needs to go to public hearing
- Motion was passed to change the bylaw, but the motion alone is not enough, has to go to public hearing
- In the meantime it's business as usual
- There's a very vocal group who wants to get all properties out of the EDPA, council was intimidated
- Can we ask to be notified when the public hearing will be?
- Sometimes the agenda goes out on a Friday for a Monday meeting
- Q: are all marine shorelines in the EDPA?
  - Yes, except for 16 that have been individually removed
- Colquitz is in a Streamside EDPA

**ACTION** – if you see a notice about the public hearing, let Kitty know

- What are the implications of a change in waterfront governance/bylaws?
- Sensitive ecosystems, red and blue listed animals and communities, marine backshore, streamside DPA is 30m on each side of a creek
- We can draft a letter with our position on this, have it ready for such time as it goes to public hearing
- Look on Saanich mapping site, look at the layers of EDPA

**ACTIONS** – Bloggs send Kitty the research you’ve done, Kitty send out link to Saanich aerial atlas to GWI

### **CRD Harbour Program and GWI Coordinator Updates**

- Referral submitted to View Royal regarding Christie Pt proposal (GWI did not support this)
- Inquiries made to Esquimalt regarding re-development of EconoLodge (“Portage West”), no response
- Met with Deb Becelaere at View Royal to discuss Bird Sanctuary signage in Portage Inlet.

#### **Green Shores**

- Harbour program is part of GS local government working group
- basically for shorelines where homeowners or developers can go through process of credits and have a rating assigned, based on LEEDs green building system
- looking for demonstration sites, Christie Pt has registered to be assessed, SCBC wants to have a series of case studies
- Could give a presentation about the program at a meeting,
- Jody has given presentations at James Bay Neighbourhood Association, and Oak Bay Community Association, can do this for other community association meetings

#### **Water Quality Objectives**

- Ministry of Environment has the reports but have not looked at them yet, person in charge is going on maternity leave, hope this gets done before she leaves

#### **Climate Change Projections**

- Sea level rise mapping is on the CRD website, with 1m rise projections
- Jody is part of an internal working group with Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium, downscale modeling of actual climate change models, how will our local climate change in next 80 years?
- More rainfall, more hot days in summer

#### **Anchored Boats**

- Jody has been asked to draft wording for a model bylaw to deal with derelict boats
- Prepared a staff report in the fall and proposed a regional coordinated approach to this issue
- Politicians realize it’s a problem everywhere
- Some confusion – anchored boats, derelict boats, or wrecks, need clarification as each has a different definition
- Supposed to have a model bylaw for CRD board review by September, more likely by Christmas

### **Partner Updates**

**Elk/Beaver Lake** Update from Lisa Rodgers:

- Monthly storm water and deep lake sampling:
  - Lake was not beginning to stratify as of Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> uniform temperature below average at 3.2°C;
  - Phosphorus levels were also uniform at ~25 µg/L – Good!
  - Incoming stormwater phosphorus is highest from north entry point from Brookleigh and Batu Roads (143 µg/L), and O’Donnell Creek phosphorus was high (136 µg/L) in January but much lower (57 µg/L) in February;
  - Incoming fecals and *E. coli* are very low;
  - Monthly sampling will continue through 2017.

- Student Projects near completion – will be part of Integrated Watershed Management Plan (2018):
  - Beaver Beach swale and rain garden runoff control;
  - Haliburton Brook bank stabilization.
- Fishery inventory to be completed in August 2017; there are many invasive fish
- In-lake remediation options still under consideration. (maybe Phoslock but looking more seriously at aeration)
- Hope to have some funding proposals by the fall
- A couple of closures at the lake over the fall and winter due to blue green algae

**VCKC:** Kayaking program has 1-day and 2 day courses in April, June; introduction to currents, dragon boats course March 18, April 4, voyageur program; 37<sup>th</sup> Paddle for the Kids happening soon, outrigger course “Wake up the Gorge”; 20<sup>th</sup> clean-up of the Gorge on April 23<sup>rd</sup>

**Dorothy:** Derelict boats – May 13, SeaTow and Ralmax and John Roe, will tow the boats out of Oak Bay – the 6 that are on the shore

**WFT:** Next to no herring this year, not sure why, maybe 20 fish, normal window – late Jan to early March; still monitoring; could be something keeping them in the lower area of the harbour, but no evidence that they were there either; last year: estimate they saw 1000s, no real cycle to their abundance, in strong years they may spawn several times; rather than a distinct population, may be an overflow population; Strait of Georgia stock has been strong this year, but West Coast has been low for several years; when Craigflower Bridge went in there was an invasion of Dungeness crabs, they weren't here earlier in such numbers, but coincidentally with bridge construction, they showed up; will put out some crab traps in next few weeks

**Jacques:** Display will be set up at Bateman Centre about Sanctuary Project, Brant migration is on; new bird for the region: Purple Sandpiper at Kitty Islets, big event in BC, normally an east coast bird, may have come around with the Rock Sandpipers; first boat tour of the Vic Hbr MBS was held Feb 19 with Eagle Wing Tours, may be another tour on May 14<sup>th</sup>, on International Migratory Bird Day

**CoV:** Environmental report of all reports that have been done of the Gorge has been compiled Jas Paul will send to Kitty

**GWAS:** Gorge Waterway Nature House grand opening this weekend, open each Sat and Sun through spring, every day in summer, please send any outreach materials

**Gorge Swim Fest:** July 30<sup>th</sup>, trying to get stand up paddling race or tour organized for that day

**SISKA:** Very active, speakers and paddle events organized, none involving the Gorge at this point; working on a paddling best practices code

**Other business:**

- Have there been any changes in the plans for the sewer line at Elk Beaver Lake?
  - Kitty heard from Ben that the work will now be done during the summer fisheries window (later than initially planned)

**ACTION:** Kitty will ask Ben Martin for an update on this project

**Adjournment: 9:30pm**