



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, July 19, 2017

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Present: John Mullane, Julian Anderson, Doug Critchley, Yogi Carolsfeld, Jack Meredith, Morley Eldridge, Denise Nadeau, Cathy Carolsfeld, Sara Stallard, Craig Elder, Mick Collins, Brian Koval, Bill Buckley, Adam Steele, Jacques Sirois, Tricia Demacedo, Melissa Huston, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd, Lisa Rodgers

Guests: Bill Brown

DECISIONS				
1	GWI will review Esquimalt Draft OCP when ready in the fall			
Next Meeting: 20 September 2017				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Ask Rick Daykin to provide an update on actions being taken regarding the unsanctioned dock in the Esquimalt park (Yarrow St?)		Kitty	ASAP (done)
2	Resend the GWI letter regarding the MOTI berm to the members for information		Kitty	ASAP (done)
3	Each group should consider writing a letter to the Minister and Saanich expressing concerns about the berm proposal; Julian/Mick to send key contact info		All/Julian and Mick	ASAP
4	Send out links for Elk/Beaver Lake info and Lisa's email to GWI		Lisa/Kitty	ASAP (done)
5	Invite the Victoria Scottish Community Centre Society to attend a GWI meeting to talk about their plans for the Craigflower Manor site		Kitty	Fall
6	Include letter from Tom Morrison regarding Craigflower Manor plans with meeting notes		Kitty	ASAP

INFORMATION

Review of Action Items from last meeting:

- GWI members met with View Royal Mayor Screech to discuss Christie Pt
- Annual report now finalized and posted on GWI website. Copies brought to this meeting

EconoLodge Re-Development Proposal - Bill Brown, Esquimalt Planner

- Jordan Milne is president of the company that now owns this property; they have applied for rezoning from tourist accommodation to Comprehensive Development Zone, with some tourist accommodation; their intent is to convert to 96 market rental units
- Land title plan needs to be resubmitted then rezoning application will be processed
- Planning to convert existing building, no intent to demolish any buildings
- Foreshore has a 20 m set back but some encroachments exist that are legally non-conforming
- If they wanted to build a dock they would have to rezone; not currently planning to but may in the future
- OCP states no new buildings within 20 m of the shoreline

Esquimalt OCP Review Update - Bill Brown

- Preliminary public consultation complete and they are now writing a first draft, most comments were on density, housing stock, traffic, “coach homes” (i.e. garden suites)
- Not likely to be any changes to the aspects that affect the Gorge Waterway
- Draft will ready for review in the fall
- Bylaw adoption process, there will be 1st and 2nd reading followed by a public hearing then final reading and adoption. Anticipate completion and approval by December
- Currently no mention of GreenShores in OCP wording
- There are policy documents currently available on-line that GWI can review

DECISION: GWI will review the OCP draft when available and provide comments

Private dock deployed in Esquimalt parkland:

- Discussion about a dock that someone has installed in a park (maybe at Yarrow St?)
- Federal and provincial staff are not interested in pursuing this, although technically against the law

ACTION: Contact Rick Daykin about this

[NB: 27 July discussion with Rick: the issue of docks attached to parks lots is being dealt with in the OCP review; bylaw dep't waiting to see new OCP policy addressing this and will act accordingly]

McKenzie Interchange Berm Proposal Update – Mick Collins, Julian Anderson

- Concerned about MOTI working outside the designated work zone; and have encroached into the park and protected riparian area
- MOTI have admitted to breaching the 30 m riparian buffer
- Their invasive species management plan is to “not spread seeds around”, there will be no long term monitoring or removal of invasives after project is completed
- The berm is of great concern due to the steep slope and height
- Lack of clarity in their presentation materials
- MOTI misrepresented public comments in their summary to Saanich – i.e. comments were summarized in a positive way that was not necessarily intended by the commentator
- MOTI needs to go to Saanich council to get the berm approved
- Julian is going to speak to council on Monday July 24th, community support will be helpful
- Saanich needs to step up and defend its interests
- The area of the berm at the north bend of the river is of particular concern because of the steepness of the berm

- This is an important issue, the key feature of the park is the Colquitz River
- Golden Rods & Reels have sent 2 letters to MOTI expressing their concerns. The berm was never proposed and never part of the initial public consultation. Only had a 10 day public input period for the berm proposal, they rushed the process then everything was put on hold
- Main concerns: steepness, danger of sediment entering the river, ongoing sedimentation during winter, potential flooding and effect on the toe of the bank, may need to do some buffering, seismic concerns, potential collapse of the berm and blocking off the river
- Mick has talked to the manager of parks, need to stop being reactive with the ministry; actually take some leadership, and get into the driver's seat, will also speak with councilor Dean Murdoch
- What can the GWI do in terms of a letter to MOTI and Saanich to get some support?
- Important for the community to get vocal
- New provincial transportation minister will be contacted, also MLAs Rob Fleming and Lana Popham
- Check Saanich floodplain mapping and their fill bylaw (no fill should be allowed in the floodplain)
- Suggestion that letters to MOTI and Saanich should be specific about what height of berm and how steep (e.g. 2:1 slope) would be acceptable, concerns about close proximity to the river

ACTION: Individual member groups should provide their comments to Saanich about this. Julian to provide contact info; Kitty to re-send the letter GWI submitted to MOTI earlier about this

Elk/Beaver Lake remediation plans update – Lisa Rodgers, EBLI Coordinator

- Reviewed a variety of remedial options to reduce frequency and toxicity of algal blooms in EBL
- Presented options to Regional Parks Committee and they moved the project forward based on the recommendations
- Recommended installing high-efficiency hypolimnetic oxygenation system as the proposed option
- Presented a technical report to intergovernmental committee, came to consensus on the aerator option
- Now they are developing business case for the hypolimnetic oxygenation system
- The main point is the oxygenation system is highly efficient as it will direct 98% oxygen directly to the bottom of the lake
- High oxygen levels will prevent phosphorus from leaving the sediment, which has been happening during low oxygen conditions
- Water quality results show that the phosphorous spikes in June, most of the phosphorous is coming from the lake bottom, not a lot of external inputs from the watershed
- Sediment cores show a spike in phosphorous in the 1960's which corresponds with the building of the Pat Bay Highway
- Elk Lake is usually not toxic until winter, but different situation in Beaver Lake which is basically a flooded marsh
- Beaver Lake is still closed for swimming this summer due to the concern about toxic cyanobacteria blooms
- Planning a series of workshops on lake ecology and blue-green algae
- Q: Could the cyanobacteria travel downstream into Colquitz River?

- Yes it can. They did some testing last year
- Give Kitty the featured watershed link to EBL info to send out to the group
- Will be doing a fish survey in the lakes in the fall, trying to work with the rowing groups, want to get a baseline for fish populations in the system, hope to see an improvement in the overall quality of the entire ecosystem
- The fish survey will be completed in August and results will likely be released in Nov/Dec
- Planning a restoration workshop on Haliburton Brook (flows into Beaver Lake)

ACTION: Send out links to EBL info

Saanich EDPA Update – Tricia DeMacedo

- Sent the link to the new report from Diamond Head Consulting who was retained to study the EDPA bylaw; council will receive the report July 24th, they will schedule a public hearing in August or September, then council will decide if they will adopt the recommendations or if they will want more information
- There were 22 recommendations, including a biodiversity strategy
- There is a temporary suspension of the EDPA on all RS (residential) zones – do not know how long the suspension will last for
- Anyone doing a subdivision and rezoning will still have to apply for a permit in the EDPA

Coordinator/CRD Harbours Program Updates – Kitty and Jody

- **GWI meeting with Mayor Screech:** Jody, Yogi, Mick, Jacques, Vicki and George attended the meeting. Mayor concerned that the developer would walk away if they did not get the density requested; members felt that the mayor did not really understand the difference between impact of development on Christie Point vs Selkirk waters; Jacques will make a presentation about the Bird Sanctuary to VR council in Sept.
- **Craigflower Manor** plans for Scottish Community Centre – letter from Tom Morrison was circulated, expressing concerns to Victoria Scottish Community Centre Society, he has not had a reply as of today. Want to build a 10,000 sq foot community center along the waterfront, somewhat concerned about the plan for the site. A lot of it is meant to be underground.

ACTION: Include Tom's letter with meeting notes; request VSCCS to attend a GWI meeting in the fall to discuss their plans

- **Anchored and Derelict boats** – Harbours program is coordinating discussions with municipal staff regarding a regional approach to dealing with long-term anchored and derelict boats. The working group meets again Aug 2. There is also a non-profit effort by John Roe to submit a coordinated application for funding assistance to the federal Abandoned Boat Program with all southern Vancouver Island regional districts. City of Victoria councilors put forward a motion at the CRD Board meeting today to coordinate with other districts on such an application. There will be a staff report to the Environmental Services Committee on July 26 on this item.

Partner Updates

Golden R&R: – well publicized cutback in DFO salmonid program, opportunity to look at the funding of the Fisheries to have a better say in the priorities of the budget spending

Friends of VicHbrMBS: – funding approved for 3 more years of restoration on Trial Island, event last week at Government House to recognize establishment of Greater Victoria NatureHood by Nature Canada, because of the excellent opportunities here for urban Canadians to connect with nature in their back yard

VWCA – City of Victoria has passed a motion asking Transport Canada to review the operation of the harbour airport and its operational safety

Gorge Swim Fest – Sunday July 30 in Banfield Park, noon to 4; temperature monitoring of the Gorge: have sensors with WFT at Banfield Park, Nature House, Selkirk Waterfront, getting counterintuitive data: ie Banfield park the temperature at surface was going up and 1 meter down the temperature was going down, suspect the current was coming in but the surface water was still draining out; there are monthly swims throughout the year, VIHA continuing their weekly monitoring in the Gorge

CoV – no update

WFT – Nature House is open daily, mostly run by volunteers and students, lots of events where they are manning the GWI display; three reef balls are being put into Gorge tomorrow across from Colquitz Ave., hope that native oyster larvae will settle; reef balls will later be moved to Fishermen's Cove

GTCA – successful Canada Day on the Gorge

Friends of Swan Creek - doing replanting and creek rehabilitation projects planned for the fall

Peninsula Streams – Continue to work with a group on the Colquitz main stem; bus tours of Tod Creek watershed on October 7th and 21st; watershed models of local creeks are moving to Peninsula Streams (from Stream Team), more info will come out soon about how to book models for events

PIPS – were very involved in Christie Point redevelopment proposal, thanked everyone for their support letters, rezoning application was passed after a 6 hour public hearing, everyone was concerned with the height, buildings will be above the trees despite assurances to the contrary. Group is also concerned about the amount of silt being deposited in Portage Inlet since Nov. 2016. Could be from property that was cleared near hospital? Could CRD sample to determine toxicity?

A: CRD does 5 in 30 sampling on creeks including Hospital Cr, including Total Suspended Solids (TSS) monitoring. This does not include testing toxicity, though in 2000 Jody did some sediment sampling that showed very little contamination in Portage Inlet.

SIASS – Sara, Dorothy and Brian attended biennial salmon enhancement program meeting in Quesnel in May; great opportunity to meet and learn from others doing salmon education and fish counting throughout BC

Saanich – 955 Portage Road subdivision application went to council, lots of speakers against it, postponed the decision until the developers have had an opportunity to consider the comments from the community

Adjournment: 10:00pm