



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

- Present:** Morley Eldridge, Brad Proctor, Dorothy Chambers, Don Monroe, Doug Critchley, George and Vicki Blogg, Jody Watson, Kitty Lloyd, Brianne Czypyha, Mick Collins, Craig Elder, Yogi Carolsfeld, Cathy Carolsfeld, Melissa Huston, Mick Collins, Brian Koval, Julian Anderson
- Guests:** Ben Chow, Rachel Wang

| DECISIONS | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|----------------|-------------|
| 1 | GWI members would like a View Royal representative to sit on steering committee | | | |
| Next Meeting: 21 March 2018 | | | | |
| ACTIONS | | | ACTION BY | DUE |
| 1 | Send link to McKenzie Interchange Mitigation Plan now on Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure website | | Julian/Kitty | ASAP (done) |
| 2 | Update Terms of Reference document, re-send to group | | Kitty | March |
| 3 | Send a letter to View Royal mayor and council requesting a representative from their municipality | | Kitty | March |
| 4 | Check with Bruce Bevan about flow monitoring on Craigflower Creek, and possible presentation at GWI meeting | | Morley | March |
| 5 | Look into event to celebrate herring run, at Craigflower Bridge | | Cathy, Dorothy | For March |
| 6 | Send link to Colquitz Coalition event in Feb | | Brian | ASAP |

INFORMATION

Approval of Agenda – with the following changes:

Facilitator: Jody Watson

Refreshments: Mick Collins

Addition: Julian – McKenzie interchange project mitigation plan

Review of action items from November 2017:

- Tour of the Craigflower Manor waterfront area regarding proposed Scottish cultural centre:

- Jack Meredith, Tom Morrison and Kitty met with Jim Maxwell and Ian Booth at Craigflower Manor on Nov. 28 to discuss plans
- Lots of brush clearing, mostly blackberry, has been done by Highland Games Society, now caretaking the site
- Manor house exterior looks great, well kept up and newly repainted
- Kitty suggested moving the proposed building to the parking lot, which is several feet below the height of the manor and could accommodate a 2 storey building without obscuring the view of the manor from across the water
- Jim and Ian seemed amenable to idea of moving the building, plans still at the concept stage
- They have permission to create more parking closer to the SE corner of the lot
- Green Shores concepts were discussed, and possible collaboration with groups like Greater Victoria Green Team to help with invasive plant removal and replanting with native shrubs
- Tom [who does shoreline restoration for a living] offered to help with planning and re-designing the foreshore area using Green Shores principles
- Boats anchored in the Gorge, CoV injunction:
 - Jody spoke with Chris Coates, no court decision yet, expected by end of January; thinks that the judge will be lenient with length of time that people have to move out;
- Craig has asked GTCA to provide a new representative for GWI, no decision yet as to who they have appointed

McKenzie Interchange Project – Julian Anderson

- MoTI has been promising to release mitigation plan [dated Dec. 2016], first part finally released today, Julian has sent the link to Kitty for distribution
- ACTION** – forward link to the group
- Re trembling aspen stand and Garry oaks near Spectrum School - Julian has not had a chance to review in detail, but noted that the Appraised Tree Value presented for the Trembling Aspen forest was the lowest plausible valuation of the tree canopy
 - 2 Oregon ash were part of the Trembling Aspen forest, critically imperiled species in BC
 - Plan claims that the site layout is amenable to preservation of the aspen and ash, but these trees have all since been obliterated
 - MoTI promised a bioswale outside the 30m setback, needs to be pointed out that they have to stay out of the 30m setback from high water mark of Colquitz
 - Dorothy: Flooding was seen in a huge area in the park in December, blew out the perimeter sediment curtain
 - Monitors are supposed to be walking the perimeter every day, but the curtain is still lying flat where tsunami of water knocked it over
 - Corvidae is monitoring the contractor, Golder is monitoring Corvidae
 - MoTI offered to make the setback 35m from the Colquitz, but PISCES and Saanich were satisfied with a 30m setback

Swans in the Gorge Update – Dorothy Chambers

- A trumpeter and mute adult pair are now seen together regularly, and recently a juvenile trumpeter has joined the group

Elk Beaver Lake Initiative Update – Jody Watson

- Lisa Rodgers has left the coordinator position, EBLI has come under the Harbours Program following a re-organization in 2017 at the CRD
- Jody has been getting up to speed on this project and reviewing data collected so far
- Baseline water sampling was conducted through 2017 in the lakes, as well as stormwater entering the lakes, and sampling in Haliburton Brook
- Ongoing phosphorus inputs, some of the largest inputs are from Haliburton Br
- When a watershed management plan is developed, will focus on Haliburton and inputs from there

- Cyanobacteria bloom in lakes since July, beaches closed to swimming, blooms have not gone toxic although protocol is in place with Island Health and CRD Parks staff; they do checks twice/week, sampling is done when bloom dies off or is indicated
- Also algal samples have been collected, 100% of species seen have ability to produce toxins, but have not been doing so
- Island Health makes the call about beach closures, as this is health related
- Lake has been clear for 2 weeks, so will go out and sample again, could become toxic as the algae decompose
- Hope to be able to remove postings, if clear
- Starting to get a good data set, intense sampling for a year, prior to that specific sampling
- Water quality technician at CRD Water Services is expert at identifying lake samples
- 2017 - Lisa did research on different options for improving water quality, reducing phosphorus
- Phoslock was initially considered, bentonite clay product that would bind phosphorus at bottom of lake
- Lisa reviewed the literature, provided a summary report to Technical Advisory Group (MoE, DFO, muni's); made recommendations, now looking at other options rather than Phoslock
- Jody is new to this, reviewing all the data as well, wants to send data out for expert panel review; agreement at senior management level that this is a good approach, get experts to review data, and make recommendations
- Also looking at business case for different options, then will go to politicians with different proposals
- Part of that process – public events, develop educational resources; chemistry is complicated, likely will mean that have to treat Beaver and Elk Lakes differently
- There's been a slowdown with Lisa leaving, they are looking for new coordinator, external competition hopefully by end of the week
- Also did 5 in 30 water quality sampling in Colquitz in 2017, good synergy with work going on in EBL. Data will be available in spring 2018 [Kitty confirmed this after the meeting with stormwater staff at CRD]
- When we start remediating in the lakes, it will start removing phosphorus from the water, will need to have a good baseline of water quality in lower reaches of the creek
- Hope to get a reasonable solution for swimming beach in Beaver Lake
- No one in the public has heard of any alternatives to the Phoslock suggestion, so will be good to get out to the public with the new info
- **Fish study:** inventory was completed in November, will be posted on Colquitz Coalition website along with all other technical reports
- Surprises in fish report: yellow perch are all over the lakes in great quantity, predominant fish species in the lake, 18,000 rainbow trout are put in each year
- Bass are introduced, carp have been there a long time, some are huge
- Mick: Lisa was there for 16 months, did thorough research on technical aspects of this,
- Lots of interest in the health of this lake; things will pick up again when a new coordinator is hired; frustration that things have been moving slowly from the public point of view
- Attention on Beaver Lake as an initial strategy is good, that's where most recreation takes place
- Looking at aeration as an alternative to Phoslock
- Huge body of data on the fish, and state of the lake and water quality there
- Need to keep on top of the algae in the lake,
- Good to see the emphasis on the water quality in Colquitz; hydrology is important
- Parks is installing a flow meter just downstream of the dam, ensuring that we have temperature and pH gauges
- Is CRD obliged to maintain certain level of flow for fish downstream?
- Yogi - no native fish were caught in the fish survey
- O₂ is very low below 2m depth, hence fish are not found in the lower parts of the lake
- Lisa concluded that we can't just look at the phosphorus levels in the lake, need to address invasive species, weeds, milfoil (hybrid of native and Eurasian)
- Q about blooms - algal blooms in Elk Lake seem to happen in winter, in Beaver mostly in summer

- Doug: toxic to dogs and humans? A: Toxic to both, this is posted
- Yogi – Haliburton, need to do a survey with Dave Clough
- Watershed model of Haliburton Brook is being built
- Phosphorus is released in an annual cycle from sediments
- In Haliburton – phosphorus source is runoff from watershed, most of the year there's no water flowing there
- Raises questions such as did they harvest peat from there in the past? Fecals from livestock?

Discussion: Review of GWI Terms of Reference

- Can individuals become members of GWI?
- Purpose (page 1) states "...bring together organizations and individuals..."
- Have to keep control of numbers in the group
- We've expanded from mainly Gorge waterfront to the entire watershed, several new groups have joined since ToR was drawn up
- Jody - wouldn't want to see a situation where a bunch of individuals band together and change the focus of the group
- There's an advantage to have a variety of groups represented
- Generally all individuals are members of a group with an interest in the waterway or watershed
- An individual is accountable to the group they represent
- Individuals can come and if interested, can join one of the groups at the table and be the rep
- List of members needs to be updated in the Terms of Reference
- Meeting dates/times needs updating too

ACTION: Update ToR document, re-send to group

- Jacques, Jody, Yogi, and a few others met with the mayor of View Royal, mentioned to him that VR has not had a member at the GWI table for quite a while (since Deb Becelaere left last year)
- Doug – the mayor recently stated that VR municipality will not send a rep, but would refer it to the Environment Advisory Committee
- There was an Advisory Committee rep for a few years (Brian); no one has replaced him; Deb Becelaere was the staff rep, but was always too busy to attend meetings or provide updates
- View Royal has 7 districts, there is a View Royal Community Association. Doug Critchley is a member, comes here as a rep

ACTION – send a letter to View Royal mayor and council to request a rep

Went around the table to get people's input about whether individuals or rep's from larger groups should be considered for membership:

- Craig – better to have people here who are reps from a group, rather than those who are just acting on their own; can get one very focused and energetic person who is only there for themselves, it is disruptive
- Morley – if a particular individual wants to come, it would be easy for them to join one of the existing member groups
- Don – people should be reps for a group
- Yogi and Cathy – good to be a member of a group
- Brian – yes, but it would be good to get more individuals
- Brad – keep as a group of groups, easy to get to the table if that's what someone wants
- Melissa – agree
- Brianne – yes
- Dorothy – yes;
 - VR councilor John Rogers came to the Millstream fishway event, is on board about conservation efforts, Dorothy talked with him about a VR rep, he thought that was a great idea to have one
 - New VR councilor, Damian Kowalewich [whose name we couldn't recall in the meeting] is very environmentally minded, excited about Portage Inlet and the Migratory Bird Sanctuary

- Doug – Page 1 - geographic area – should add Hospital Creek
- Yogi – this is a community group, what if there are criticisms of the CRD, who do we provide those kinds of opinions to?; at one point the CRD was going to shut this group down but community put a stop to it. It would be hard to run this organization without support of the CRD, but want to maintain independence
 - Jody has to navigate this issue carefully; CRD should not be a spokesperson for this group
- Role of spokesperson was discussed, can be awkward if CRD is seen as speaking for the group
- CRD acts as “secretariat” for the GWI, a messenger or conduit; maybe we need to reword the role of CRD in the GWI
- Could add a caveat that “views expressed here may not reflect those of the CRD board” or similar
- Re-organization at CRD Environmental Protection will align Harbours Program with Climate Action, Water Conservation and Outreach and Education. One of the key positions just filled is the communications coordinator.
- Across the board at the CRD, senior managers are only ones that speak to the media; we provide speaking notes

Coordinator updates:

2018 work plan

- New items include partnership with Greater Victoria Green Team, we plan to formalize this role and enter a funding agreement that will provide support for a set number of events/year
 - Dorothy – lots of interest in citizen science, she gets lots of emails from people with salmon stories,
 - King Tides: used to be provincial initiative, now done by muni's; CRD climate action program is talking with the IT department to set up an app similar to what Vancouver and Cowichan Valley regional districts have; hope to have this in place for next year
 - WFT has looked at getting a student to identify where herring are spawning; has tried citizen science for monitoring water quality with mixed results
 - WFT – has data loggers for temp and salinity, very expensive; has been monitoring and results are extreme between tides; suggest that CRD explore installing more of these about \$600 each; some are tied into UVic weather station at Nature House, and at the marina next to Banfield Park
- ACTION** – check with Bruce Bevan about flow monitoring on Craigflower Creek
- Morley will ask Bruce about giving a presentation about Craigflower fish fence and flow monitoring

Postpone the following items to next meeting:

- Events in 2018:
- Update on abandoned boats:

Suggestion from Cathy – presentation on herring with First Nations on Craigflower Bridge like last year in March

ACTION – Dorothy and Cathy will look into this

Partner Updates

Peninsula Streams: Colquitz River Coalition – annual meeting in Feb, Brian will send link

VGR&R: Encourage everyone to sign this petition to Minister of Fisheries & Oceans regarding support for conservation programs: (In part:) “...We, the undersigned, *Citizens of Canada and watershed based organizations*, call upon the *Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard* to continue funding support for existing conservation programs such as the RFCPP, and to continue to commit to being a full partner to this important initiative by providing freshwater habitat funding and expertise to this program.”

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-1312>

SISKA: talked with his employee who is on Surfrider Foundation board, they have cancelled all clean ups on the Gorge because of all the needles they found last time, too great a risk for volunteers; behind Gorge Hospital was worst site

VCKC: found 60 needles under Admirals Bridge during their cleanup last year; working with marine trail network since 2009, identified 2001 potential campsites along BC coast, Sea to Sky trail, Salish Sea trail; March 26 will be 36th paddle for the kids to support Camp Shawnigan – hoping they will open again; April 28, 21st Clean up the Gorge, from Tillicum to Portage Inlet and up the creeks; celebrating 50th anniversary of the club this year, have had the use of this club house for 36 years

Swan Creek: planting this fall/winter; counted 6 + 2 coho that came up Swan Creek during fall spawning season

WFT: herring are showing up, working with WWF, doing a creel survey again; interviews with fishers and getting counts; last year went to March 3, then a whole other group of fish showed up, run is unpredictable; will try and get DNA samples; oyster spawning in 2017 was 2x the year before; dove at Christie Pt oyster reefs, they are mostly buried in mud from upstream developments, e.g. land clearing near hospital; going again this week to try and survey again; The reef areas above the mud have lots of native oysters

World Wildlife Fund: interesting to hear that GWI is planning to engage with FNs, also interested in herring and Naturehood; Rachel's main focus at WWF is forage fish, so herring is the main intersection with GWI interests

GWAS: focus is operating the Nature House, opening mid-March for spring break, will start volunteer drive to get enough to run through spring session; then apply for funding for summer students

PIPS: Christie Pt re-development is delayed, likely at least 2 years before any demo would occur there; VR Councillor John Rogers agrees that we should promote increased protection for Portage Inlet, carry this message to VR, groups get together and get a plan to submit to VR council; promote bigger setbacks for example; like to see GWI get involved in this;

BGCA: AGM Feb 26, presentation TBD, all are welcome

CoV Vic West neighbourhood draft plan is has been released for public review; 2 new managers in sustainability and asset management; and climate action

Adjournment: 9:50pm