



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Victoria Canoe and Kayak Club

Present: Dorothy Chambers, Angela Hanes, Sara Stallard, Vicki Blogg, George Blogg, Bill Thomas, Bruce Bevan, Doug Critchley, Morley Eldridge, Yogi Carolsfeld, Don Monroe, Natalie Bandringa, Kitty Lloyd, Ann Klein, Pam Loadman (GTCA), Brad Proctor, Craig Elder, Brianne Czypyha, Brian Koval

Guest: Jill Robinson, Elk/Beaver Lake Coordinator

DECISIONS				
1	Make a name card for Bill Thomas, Bruce Bevan, Doug Critchley			
Next Meeting: 20 March 2019				
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Send link to research on effects of road runoff on coho salmon by Washington researchers	Natalie	(done)	
2	Contact Bill Thomas if interested in helping clip fish fins at Goldstream hatchery	Kitty/All	Early June	
3	Send comments to Kitty RE McKenzie Interchange project, to put together and send to Joann Letkeman for her to answer in future meeting	All	ASAP	
4	send link to the Saanich survey RE Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan update	Ann/Kitty	(done)	
5	Send updated 2019 work plan	Kitty	(done)	
6	Send out the results of the satellite imagery survey of eelgrass by UVic student	Kitty	ASAP	
7	Make a presentation to GWI on salmon and road runoff	Sara (?)	Spring	
8	Let Kitty know if interested in a spring field trip to clip fins on out-migrating salmon at Goldstream Hatchery and Bill Thomas will get us involved	All	Winter	

INFORMATION

Agenda change:

- No MoTI staff presentation, update via email (below):
- Add: Discussion RE: BC wild salmon policy meeting

Review of action items from November meeting:

- Discussion – re effect of road runoff on coho (Washington research)
- **ACTION:** Natalie will send link to research
- Bill Thomas: Re fish fin clipping – would happen in June or so; we pick a date and Bill will make arrangements, meet at CRD office near Sooke; carpool from there, do the work in 2 groups, can do a couple of hours, or do certain number of fish, end of June, start of July best time

McKenzie Interchange:

Update via email from Joann Letkeman, MoTI staff, received Jan. 15, 2019:

- [Stormwater outfall improvements](#)
- Sean Wong and his team continue to develop plans for enhancements at the cloverleaf outfall and the east culvert outfall for consideration by Saanich. Because Sean has not met with Saanich since he last updated the group, I suggested that he wait until after meeting with Saanich to provide his next update.
- [Rough and loose expansion](#)
- This is another topic that we will be discussing with Saanich. They seem receptive and we are optimistic that we can accommodate more rough and loose treatment on the berm.
- [Offsetting opportunities](#)
- Sean mentioned that the group has some ideas for offsetting projects within the park and offsite. Sean will discuss opportunities in the park with Saanich. If the group has additional updates regarding this topic, please let me know.
- [Ecosystem Mitigation Options Analysis report](#)
- We expect to be releasing this report soon, which will allow us to plan for future meetings with interested parties about the options.
- [Automated Turbidity Monitoring Data Report](#)
- Results of turbidity monitoring between January 31, 2017 and June 27, 2018 have been summarized in a report that will be ready for release soon. As we discussed, I will talk to the project manager about having Lee Nikl from Golder present his findings to the group.
- [Recent turbid releases](#)
- The Ministry has responded to enquiries from the media and from local residents about these events. Since excavation of Highway 1 began, the stormwater conveyance through the site has been changing to adapt to the new site conditions, which has been very challenging for the contractor.
- As you are likely aware, the region experienced significant rainfall during the first week of January. Unfortunately, the heavy rainfall was combined with a pump malfunction at the site. This combination created some water pooling for portions of the work area. The project contractor has since drained the water. The drainage occurred during daylight hours only so that the water quality of the site discharge could be safely and accurately monitored. Environmental staff were on site to confirm turbidity levels at the outlet to the nearby Colquitz River were within federal and provincial guidelines and in compliance

with the strict environmental conditions agreed upon. Data provided by the contractor for the period of January 3 to 6, showed that turbidity measured at the outfall from the project was within federal/provincial guidelines. There were three instances on Saturday, January 5, when turbidity levels briefly exceeded contract agreements. When this occurred, the outfall drainage rate was immediately adjusted to comply with project guidelines. During the entire process, environmental monitors were on-site to oversee the proceedings. Guidelines allow for turbid water (within limits) to be discharged when there is more than 25 mm of rain in 24 hours. According to Environment Canada, the storm on January 3 saw 57.6 mm of rain in 24 hours.

- When environmental releases exceed accepted guidelines, regulatory agencies have the power to levy fines for non-compliance with legislation. The ministry is not aware of any active investigations concerning the contractor or any fines that have been issued. Ministry staff continue to monitor the site to ensure all environmental conditions are being met. This includes auditing of the contractors' environmental performance.
- As of this week, the site drainage has been reconfigured so that the contractor does not have to rely so heavily on pumps to move water through the site, which significantly reduces the risk of future accidental turbid releases.

Discussion:

- Natalie reported that CRD board chair Colin Plant has sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting that MoTI meet its obligations regarding environmental protection during construction. Letter was also sent to the media.
- Comments:
 - This contractor is irresponsible; not meeting requirements. Contractor is not there all the time, despite MoTI saying they are there 24/7
 - What about fines for breach of contract
 - Maybe we should be responding to MoE and DFO as well as MoTI, hand written letters require answers, so that's another avenue
- **ACTION:** get your comments to Kitty to put together and send to Joann for her to answer in future meeting
- Natalie – sent info to Sean Wong about alternative method of treating stormwater outfalls through horizontal terraces; Sean wants to pursue idea of using oyster shells to absorb pollutants
- **ACTION:** Natalie will forward info on this (done)

Presentation – Elk/Beaver Lake Jill Robinson, EBLI Coordinator (see presentation sent separately)

- Popular recreation site, many activities
- Main problems in the lake system:
 - Blue green algae that can be very toxic (75 – 100% of plankton is blue green algae (=cyanobacteria)
 - Eurasian milfoil covers large areas of lake
 - Fish populations – mostly introduced, some intentional introductions(rainbow trout) others “accidental”
 - Invasive species include American bullfrogs
 - Low invertebrate diversity
 - In summer, very low O₂ in deep waters, causes release of phosphorus from the sediments, thermocline prevents mixing of water layers

- In winter, mixing of the water brings phosphorus to the surface, which fuels the blooms of blue green algae

Questions/comments:

- Is this a general regional problem?
 - Yes, worldwide phenomenon; across urban areas, causing problems all across North America and elsewhere
 - Jill is part of a technical team across North America to look into solutions for this widespread problem
 - Every fix is unique to each lake, not one thing that will work for every lake
 - Will probably a staged solution, just adding oxygen will likely not be the solution, need to look at internal and external loading of nutrients; hard to do a pilot of a small area
 - Weed harvester – only addresses recreation values, as soon as you cut, it regrows, get dense thicker mats; innovative ideas in other areas of BC; e.g. Christina Lake, teams of divers go out and pull weeds
 - Need to reduce the nutrients entering the water; need to shift the system to have lower phosphorus
 - Weed harvester removes fair amount of phosphorus with the plant material
- Do other organisms get sucked up with the weeds being harvests?
 - Great question, probably yes
- Will be reaching out soon to engage the public in consultations about options for the lake

CRD Harbours Program Updates – Natalie Bandringa

Water quality Monitoring by CRD stormwater staff (Report from Barri Rudolph)

- “Last year we completed sampling 10 times in Victoria Harbour, the Gorge and Portage Inlet (5 in 30 sampling: 5 weekly samples in summer and 5 in winter). We sampled bacteria, metals and physical parameters like pH, temperature, oxygen and salinity. Some caffeine and PPCP (pharmaceutical and personal care products) like anti-depressants)-sampling was also done.
- We completed 5 in 30 sampling in Cecelia Creek (and Millstream). In addition to many water quality parameters similar to above, we also collected benthic invertebrates.
- We sampled approximately 35 of the 145 stormwater flows that discharge into Gorge Waterway and Portage Inlet.
- We rated 9 stormwater discharges as high-public health concern.
- In the upcoming year, we will be assessing and reporting on the 2018 data collected, sampling approximately 35 stormwater flows and working with municipalities to find contaminant sources. “
- Q: What happens with high rated discharges?
 - A: work with municipalities to identify problems, and hopefully fix; often due to aging infrastructure;
 - Brianne – private property is a real challenge, if problem is on private land, not much city can do; could enact a bylaw for failed infrastructure then act on that
- Natalie – Regional Parks completed a regional land use evaluation, emphasis on land west of Sooke, looking at valuation of natural assets:
- <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/regional-parks-landscape-evaluation-project>

- Canada Goose problem was brought up at the latest CRISP meeting, where CWS was attending; there is a group dealing with this on southern Vancouver island; Guardians of the Mid-Island Estuaries Society is very active in this;
 - Yogi – Camosun students dove on the eelgrass meadows in Gorge, saw no evidence of devastation by geese on these beds

ACTION – send out the results of the satellite imagery survey of eelgrass by UVic student

- Harbours inventory – Natalie will go to municipalities to see how they use the Harbours Atlas, what key indicators they want there, looking at different technical options for doing the inventory
- link to the Harbours Atlas: <http://viewer.crdatlas.ca/harbours#/Home>

Coordinator Updates – Kitty

- Draft 2019 work plan presented, one change recommended to reflect that GWI will provide advisory support for harbours inventory
- **ACTION:** Send updated 2019 work plan

Partner Updates

View Royal (Angela): Official appointment with VR for being the rep to GWI, Angela would like to report directly to council maybe on a quarterly basis, so council becomes more literate on issues that we discuss

SIASS: Sara: Province is looking for input to draft wild salmon policy, new since last February; went to the Wild Salmon Advisory Council meeting this week; BC wants more input and control regarding salmon rather than all federal; after very little notice (2 days); several GWI members attended and spoke to the council and Premier Horgan, packed room, standing room only at Juan de Fuca Rec Centre; Sara brought up that one of the goals should be protection of habitat and water quality; Sara spoke of the results from WA regarding lethal effects of road runoff on coho; need to have incentives for MoTI for new projects and retrofit old ones – incorporate rain gardens which mitigate road runoff and renders it safer for salmon; this was very well received by the council

ACTION: make a presentation to GWI on salmon and road runoff

Saanich: Development application received for corner of Tillicum and Gorge, re-development of 2 lots, residential and commercial, not the whole site – keeping the coffee shop part; opportunity for public to comment; Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan being updated, open house 26 Jan – in relation to natural areas and parks

ACTION – send link to the survey

GWAS: AGM – Nature House stats for 2018: open 122 days, 3800 visitors, 24 volunteers, 8 board members, 2 students; restoration events: spring – included thorough biophysical inventory of the forest, 41 species found, 8 invasive, dominant species were invasive (ivy, blackberry); restoration – removing ivy and Daphne, 11 volunteers, 2nd event in summer - focused on ivy; restoration in marsh in creek; re-introducing common species – silverweed; will report later on how that is doing; Feb 24 – volunteer open house to recruit for next season; open in March for Spring Break

VCKC: Still celebrating 50th anniversary; have been at this clubhouse 38 years; white water canoeing courses; voyageur canoe – 37th Paddle for the Kids event will happen in spring;

SISKA: Did a harbour cleanup in Beecher Bay, lots of fishing gear on the beach there

Peninsula Streams: Colquitz Coalition meeting next month; groups from all over the watershed get together once/yr; build partnerships; Feb 13th Pearkes Arena; Colquitz mainstem remediation: adding riffles, will plant it, fence it to prevent trampling;; hope that salmon will spawn there;

Victoria: Consulting on the financial plan, there's a forum on Saturday to ask Qs about specific line items; also going to do consultation on draft strategic plan, for next 4 years; on home page of CoV website; priorities: health, wellbeing, accessible shoreline access; climate leadership – mandate Green Shores for shoreline development; strengthening tree protection; renaturalizing all garden beds in the city – using native plants; promote rain gardens – Brianne suggests writing to Mayor and council to point out these ideas are great and support with the research re road runoff; “be the lead”; work with partners to clean the harbour; complete the multi-use harbour trail along upper harbour; should be another opportunity for input;

WFT – continuing monitoring work on oysters, cutthroat trout project

Esquimalt Anglers: Awarded a contract to replace floats at Fleming Beach boat launch, should be in place by next summer, all the floats being replaced; \$200K project; Craigflower Cr – during recent rains, staff gauge read 2.7m above summer low flow; 20.5 cubic m/s flow rate! Fence well under water, generator underwater, putting 30,000 coho into Prior Lake tomorrow.

Adjournment: 9:45pm