



## DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

**Steering Committee**  
*Tuesday, January 21, 2020*

Esquimalt Anglers Clubhouse  
Fleming Beach

**Present:** Brian Koval, Jacques Sirois, Dorothy Chambers, Julian Anderson, Marian McCoy, George and Vicki Blogg, Bruce Bevan, Brianne Czyzyha, Rick Daykin, Angela Hanes, Phil Lancaster, Ben Chow, Gary Caton, Sara Stallard, Yogi Carolsfeld, Kitty Lloyd

**Guests:** Bob Newman (Harbour Ferries)  
Brian Wilkes (Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Glanford & Marigold)

DECISIONS				
<b>Next Meeting:</b>		<b>March 18, 2020</b>		
ACTIONS			ACTION BY	DUE
1	Make available Transport Canada reports re: Gorge	Kitty	ASAP	
2	Harbours Speakers Series topic: Stormwater monitoring throughout our harbour systems	Kitty/Barri Rudolph	Winter/Spring	
3	Send Sean Wong's contact info to Rick Daykin		Done	
4	Let Rick Daykin know if interested in having a booth at Esquimalt's Earth Day event at High Rock Park	All	ASAP	
5	Check into Johnson St bridge lighting (are Christmas lights still on at night?)	Brianne	ASAP	
5	Check with CoV Parks about restoration site at 508 Selkirk, do they know it's a city park?	Brianne	Next meeting	

### INFORMATION

Thanks to Esquimalt Anglers for offering the use of their clubhouse for our meeting tonight (after last week's meeting was cancelled due to snow).

#### Review of action items from November 2019 meeting:

Stormwater quality monitoring at Gorge access sites: Sara got the requested information from the CRD, and sent it to Jack Meredith. Sara will send out to others if there's interest.

Ecosystem mitigation at McKenzie Interchange: Dorothy took some of the Ministry of Transportation staff through Cuthbert Holmes Park, there will be a cash exchange for trees with Saanich Parks, for trembling aspen ecosystem mitigation

Forage fish monitoring in Oak Bay: Get in touch with Jacques Sirois if you're interested in helping with this Bill Thomas sent out dates for forage fish sampling, Esquimalt Lagoon will be sampled soon

### **Update about McKenzie interchange** – Dorothy Chambers

- Contractors encroached into Cuthbert Holmes Park, dug a 15ft deep hole for a huge highway sign. There were excavators on site, and when Dorothy reported this, there was an immediate stop work order; this is on hold now, project manager says there are a couple of options: can do a restoration compensation, will get Sean Wong back again to do more restoration work in the park

Question: When the new underpass flooded, where did it flood to?

A: (Dorothy): They managed to pump it out and into the Baker tanks; all water came through the flocculators before discharge, Dorothy was there frequently to watch the efforts

- There's now traffic using the partial cloverleaf, but there are no barriers at the side of the steep bank, streetlights not installed yet; pedestrian path is right below, very dangerous situation

### **Oil Spill into Gorge Creek:**

- Major oil spill, still searching for a source [we now know it was a leaking home heating oil tank]
- The jurisdictional overlap in the Gorge has become very apparent, MoE, DFO, Env CA, Victoria bylaw and police, Esquimalt managers of engineering all have been on site this week – still a mess and there's no resolution
- Initially, Emergency Management BC thought that the hydrocarbons were coming from a sunken boat at the Selkirk trestle, but Dorothy found no sign of any hydrocarbons at the boat site, very unlikely that this could be the source
- Not marine based, it's land based, smells very like furnace oil; creek is very contaminated
- As a result Dorothy and Jacques have made good connections with Canadian Wildlife Service, and their enforcement officers

### **Discussion: HandyDart Centre Working Group** - Angela Hanes

- Working group: BC Transit is definitely moving forward on building the bus depot at the proposed site on Craigflower Creek
- Information was mailed out to the community requesting volunteers to join their working group
- Ideally want to be proactive in the planning rather than reactionary after facility is built
- Want to make sure they pay attention to water quality, set the benchmark high, do an environmental assessment
- Hopes to have Dorothy at the next meeting, use her expertise to ensure things are done right
- VR has no say in this project since it's provincial
- Riparian Areas Regulation does not apply since this is an institutional property
- Staff from the province said that although RAR does not apply, the water sustainability act does apply
- Dorothy's advice: in final analysis the compensation agreement is invaluable, mitigation will happen as it has for the McKenzie Interchange
- This seems to be the only place where a facility like this has not been located in an industrial area
- Have you gone to the minister and MLA?
  - Yes, VR climate coalition met with MLA Mitzi Dean,
  - Also have been in touch with local media
- Cycling Coalition saw no conflict with the design

- There will be 90 buses leaving between 7 – 9 every morning, rush hour around the hospital, very clustered in that area, Galloping Goose is very close by too
- Still not sure of the final design (1 or 2 entrances, other details)
- Designation of a sensitive stream: who makes this designation?
  - In theory they all have the same sensitivity, should be subject to same RAR protection;
  - Did an RAR assessment at the beginning, though they didn't have to, it was pretty rigorous, Sara saw no glaring errors, but Sara did not go on the site
- Who do they answer to?
  - Province, proposal was originally subject to the town approval, but then there were in camera negotiation sessions,
  - There was no rezoning since VR was taken out of the loop, and project became a provincial one, not requiring VR approval
- A lot of the “successes” of the highway interchange project stemmed from holding the ministry to the agreements that were made
- Make sure statements and commitments are documented

### Partner Updates

**Victoria:** Peter Pollen Park (at Laurel Pt) survey is still up for redesigning that park following the clean up of contaminated soils there; City is interested to use Green Shores approach; hoping that there will be lots of support for providing access to the water; Songhees Park is in design phase, thinking about an osprey perching platform; hoping to incorporate lots of habitat; CoV has joined Trees in the City challenge to increase number of trees in the urban centre; local areas plans are being renewed for many catchments that drain into the Gorge; landscape planning guidelines have been released for food bearing and native pollinator plants; wanting to convert all city owned lands to be planted with native plants only; Q re lighting on the Johnson St bridge; at Christmas blue lights were turned on, and they're still on.

**ACTION:** Brianne will follow up on bridge lighting

Q: Shoreline restoration at 508 Selkirk around 2006; seawall was removed there and small marsh bench established; does anyone at CoV know that it's a city park? The site is a magnet for birds, also lots of native oysters there

**ACTION:** Brianne will see if there's any plan for 508 Selkirk Ave

**Vic Hbr Bird Sanctuary:** Poor winter for wintering birds, well documented by the Christmas bird count, but lots of birds in Portage Inlet, ring necked ducks, and others; lots of interest being generated about the MBS; there was another wolf seen in the MBS, a female at Ten Mile Pt, seen swimming in Cadboro Bay; she is in Blenkinsop Valley now; lots of other great sightings, e.g. a northern goshawk on Yates St;

**Esquimalt Anglers:** quiet for past month, new slate of officers; final salmon counts: 293 fish at Craigflower, 119 at Colquitz

**Peninsula Streams:** Colquitz Coalition meeting on Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 9pm, at Pearkes Rec Centre; there's now a website (<https://colquitzcoalition.com/>), there are many groups with a stake in the Colquitz; what they've been up to last year, plans for upcoming year; learn how we can maximize efforts by working together; Creatures of Habitat – gets grade 6 students removing invasive species from their local parks; Millstream fishway – hoping to get shovels in the ground this July; section 11 notification and scientific permits are in the works, still looking for more funding; at 490 Atkins Rd, huge culvert, \$0.5million total cost; culvert needs to have baffles inside to slow down the water; 800 salmon returned a few years ago;

**PISCES:** The man living aboard in Portage Inlet, rescued several times in one week: VR was more responsive than Saanich, councilor John Rogers got the boat and associated stuff pulled out of the water. Coast Guard said that until owner gives up the boat, they are responsible for any damage incurred; sewage from liveboards is a problem;

**View Royal Advisory Comm:** When 10 fish died at the counting fence, submitted the information to DFO, but it was on the weekend, got a phone # for emergency water quality sampling on a weekend (1-800-663-3456 – EMBC # on CRD fish key chains).

**Esquimalt:** Hired an architect to design the building in Esquimalt Gorge Park; drawings are still very preliminary; green building, will collect rainwater from roof, solar panel on roof; large deck, 800K sq ft of space;

expect drawings by mid Feb; then engineering drawings for infrastructure; Earth Day April 22, 50<sup>th</sup> year, big event, at least 800 students attend;; restoration plans for lots of park areas, including Gorge Creek estuary in Esquimalt Gorge Park

**ACTION:** let Rick know if interested in having a booth or activity at Earth Day event at High Rock Park

**ACTION:** send Sean Wong's contact info to Rick – maybe he can design a restoration for the Gorge Creek

**Salmon in the City:** Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, Barry Zimmerman was rescued 3 times in one day, media took some video footage of the derelicts and floating trash covered docks; Dorothy sent a strongly worded letter to Mayor Helps, one of the boats has since tipped over and sunk; this situation has become completely unacceptable

**Sara:** From SIASS, no report, deciding whether to continue on, but a lot of their former work is now being done by other community groups

**Other:** construction started on Millstream downstream of the Atkins St culvert, on E&N Rail Trail, Swell is the environmental monitor for the CRD, auditing the project's environmental team; ensuring that commitments the CRD requested are being undertaken by the contractor; so far so good;

**Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park:** monitoring the interchange project; management plan for CHP will be reviewed after this project to ensure it still lines up after current state of the park

**Gorge Tillicum Community Assoc:** Some development stress coming to the Gorge – proposal for a 6 storey building with 150 units on Gorge Rd at Admirals; going through the permitting process; trying to work with the developer to get some amenities out of it, adjust the footprint, some climate change adaptation; also a proposal for 36 unit townhome complex on the Gorge 600 block of Gorge Rd across from new pump station; densification and call for easing restrictions on densification, if we can get people living closer to where they work, reduces climate impact

**World Fisheries Trust:** Herring have started going up the Gorge, people are catching them on the bridge; hoping to follow up with a creel survey; boosting attempt to find a spawning site, asking people to watch for signs of spawning; started about 2 weeks ago, it's a bit earlier than usual; oysters – did a survey on the bridge, 5 years after new bridge was completed; only about 10,000 oysters on pilings now; monitoring spatfall; estimate on pilings is about 35K; reef balls – too turbid to look at them;

**Residents Association of Strawberry Vale, Marigold & Glanford** (Brian Wilkes): 7 person board, starting to get going again after a hiatus, new website, <http://www.rasvmg.org/> Want to get a project going, high degree of interest in increasing environmental value of Panama Flats; farming opportunity probably not too good there, want to take on projects to enhance ecological value of the flats; lobby Saanich to create an all season path (flooded in winter at the moment); complete a circular path around the flats; getting the conversation going; Sara - worked on the master plan a few years ago, it's on Saanich website

### CRD Harbours Program and Coordinator Updates

Kitty is retiring at the end of March

**Harbours Speakers Series** – Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, Sea Level Rise and Shoreline Stabilization

**Adjournment: 9:25 pm**