



DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

Steering Committee
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

MS Teams virtual call

Present: Thomas Munson, Dan Henderson, Brianne Czypyha, Mick Collins, Sara Stallard, Katie Turner, Alaina Dowling, Dorothy Chambers, Angela Hanes, Jen Tyler, Lindsey McCrank

Guests: Theresa Fresco, Fraser Basin Council
Jamie Disbrow and Susan Zedel, Beaver Elk Environmental Stewards (BEES)

Next Meeting: July 21, 2021			
ACTIONS		ACTION BY	DUE
1.	Point Ellice House wants to restart its restoration program and is seeking volunteers. Please contact Kelly Black at kelly@PointElliceHouse.com if you are interested in volunteering.	Anyone interested	ASAP
2.	Contact Dorothy Chambers to join a tour of the McKenzie Interchange project with BC Transit staff	Anyone interested	ASAP
3.	Lindsey will invite a CRD representative to update the group on stormwater monitoring at a future GWI meeting.	Lindsey	2021
4.	Greenshores Demonstration Restoration sites: If you have any thoughts on restoration sites you wish to have considered by the municipalities and the Stewardship Centre of BC please contact Jen Tyler.	All	ASAP
5.	Lindsey will coordinate sharing of information between BC Transit and interested GWI members.	Lindsey	As needed

Presentation: Salmon Safe BC, Presented by Theresa Fresco, Fraser Basin Council

- Theresa provided an overview of the Salmon Safe BC program:
https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1p_klyK_E9zMCRnkdZWOyFnyrLfJAqq6A3kaS0_Db6FE/edit?usp=sharing
- Theresa provided the following resources:
 - **Salmon Safe Urban Standards:** https://0fd424e2-87be-41bf-81b5-376132028127.filesusr.com/ugd/59f3c3_6ddecf8be22041a38f03bace7217e4bc.pdf
 - **Salmon Safe BC YouTube playlist:**
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEWiJif_KOwvStmzCn6aAeo1yYblwRsS
- Please contact Theresa at tfresco@fraserbasin.bc.ca for further information about the Salmon Safe BC program.

Presentation: Jamie Disbrow and Susan Zedel, Beaver Elk Environmental Stewards

- Jamie and Susan discussed the work of the Beaver Elk Environmental Stewards (BEES), established in 2018 and currently with 150 members. Their activities include:
 - Invasive plant removal,
 - Improvements to nesting sites for Western painted turtles,
 - 4 year partnership agreement with CRD to improve the quality of Haliburton Brook (e.g. tackling blockages, decompacting trails, improving riffles),
 - Water quality monitoring.
- The BEES are already connected with numerous GWI members, and are welcome to attend future GWI meetings if interested.

Partner Updates

Sara Stallard, SIASS

- There have been recent high sediment flows into Cecilia Creek. The City of Victoria has been investigating and it looks like the source has been located.
- If GWI members see high sediment again, please contact the City of Victoria and EMBC.
- Point Ellice House wants to restart its restoration program and is seeking volunteers.

Action: Please contact Kelly Black at kelly@PointElliceHouse.com if you are interested in volunteering with this restoration project.

Katie Turner, Saanich Parks

Katie provided several links of interest:

- Saanich's Natural Intelligence program <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/natural-intelligence.html>
- The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/parks/natural-areas/un-decade-on-ecosystem-restoration.html#:~:text=In%20support%20of%20this%20global,of%20Saanich%20Parks'%20special%20places>
- Brochure: Plants and Animals in Saanich Parks:
<https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Parks~Recreation~and~Community~Services/Documents/Saanich-Plants-Animals-Field-Guide.pdf>

Katie also presented an update on behalf of Becky Goodall, Saanich Parks:

Curtis Point (Gorge Park)

- Minimal split rail fencing will be installed this spring to protect vegetation and soil currently subject to foot traffic and erosion.
- Underwater survey completed courtesy of Yogi Carolsfeld (and revealed no concern of negative impact if access provided in vicinity of existing concrete platform).
- Investigation regarding how to provide safe, easy access to the water continues.

Cuthbert Holmes Park – trail relocation, and river and riparian area improvement project near SilverCity Theatre

- First stage of riparian restoration on the theatre side of the river is complete.
- Working on hiring a Qualified Environmental Expert (QEP) to plan and detail in-stream restoration work in the Colquitz. This work is anticipated to be done in this year's Fisheries window for cutthroat trout (Aug 15 – Sept 15). Parks will come back to GWI with the in-stream work plan and detail when it is available.
- English hawthorn has been cut down in the corridor where the new granular pathway will be located. Hawthorn will be left in place until after bird-nesting season, and then used elsewhere in the park to close unwanted trails, and to add structure and habitat where needed (primarily on new berms associated with the interchange project). Excess English hawthorn will be removed from site.

For questions about either of these projects please contact Becky Goodall at Becky.Goodall@saanich.ca.

Angela Hanes, View Royal representative

- Fuel was dumped into a storm drain in Angela's neighbourhood recently. The Town of View Royal is aware. There was not an obvious direct impact to the creek.

Alaina Dowling, GWAS

- GWAS wrapped up their Youth Community Partnership program
- Summer students are now hired

Brianne Czypyha, City of Victoria

- Victoria council recently received a report on successes in the restoration of Bowker Creek, and subsequently asked staff to develop feasibility studies for the possible daylighting of other urban creeks, including Cecilia, Ross Bay and Humbolt creeks.
- Staff are developing a Green Stormwater Infrastructure plan to look at opportunities for green stormwater management on city ROWs.
- The Songhees Park expansion's design phase is 95% complete and will incorporate onsite stormwater management.

Dan Henderson, Township of Esquimalt

- The Pavillion at Gorge Park is on track to open in the early fall. A donor program will be rolled out, as well as a community engagement effort to find out how the building should be used.
- A community member donated 2 barred owl boxes for used at Sax Point Park
- Esquimalt is providing a 2 hour training program to volunteers to remove invasive species in parks. Once trained, people can volunteer at their convenience, using tools on site.

Dorothy Chambers, Salmon in the City

- Dorothy was approached by BC Transit to tour the McKenzie interchange/Cuthbert Holmes projects in order to share lessons learned that may be of use to the HandyDART project. Please contact Dorothy if you are interested in joining this tour.
- Some trees on the berm have died due to lack of watering
- Dorothy is meeting with the DFO to discuss a possible counting camera for salmon.

Action: Any interested GWI member should contact Dorothy Chambers to join a tour of the McKenzie Interchange project with BC Transit staff

Mick Collins, Golden Rods and Reels

- In partnership with WFT and PSS, Mick's group has hired 4 interns to participate in training and restoration plans for Haliburton farm, Craigflower, Colquitz, and possibly Gorge Creek.
- Mick is involved in fundraising efforts to raise money for a fishing dock at Elk Lake.
- Mick would like to have a presentation about CRD stormwater monitoring at a future GWI meeting

Action: Lindsey will invite a CRD representative to update the group on stormwater monitoring at a future meeting.

Thomas Munson, Saanich Environmental Services

- The public consultation for Resilient Saanich has wrapped up, with 150 responses.
- The next phase includes 2 major consultant-led studies:
 1. State of Biodiversity Report
 2. Biodiversity Conservation Strategy

CRD Harbours and Watersheds Program Update:

Jen Tyler

1. *Green Shores Demonstration Restoration Sites*

- The Stewardship Centre of BC has potentially secured funding through the Federal Climate Action and Awareness Fund with the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Peninsula Streams is an additional partner. The grant includes funds for Green Shores Demonstration Restoration sites in the capital region.
- In the past, the GWI identified municipally owned road end sites which may be armoured, over run by invasive species and used by neighbours as garden waste dumping sites were as potential Green Shores restoration opportunities. Once the funding is confirmed, these sites will be the focus of a feasibility study. Although the road end sites are planned to be the focus of the feasibility study, other shoreline restoration sites can be considered as well. Note that restoration includes the shoreline and the backshore zone so private properties may be more challenging but can be considered.

Action: If you have any thoughts on restoration sites you wish to have considered by the municipalities and the Stewardship Centre of BC please contact Jen Tyler.

2. *Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating*

- In the process of evaluating proposals for the Harbours Ecological Inventory and Rating project.

3. *Stronger BC Invasive Species Funding*

- Stronger BC funding was provided by the province for training, job creation and invasive species removal. An Action Team managed by the Invasive Species Council of BC will be working in the capital region between May and August on invasive species sites that the CRD invasive species coordinator compiled in partnership with the municipalities and first nations. Approximately 70 sites were proposed for invasive species removal in the capital region.

Lindsey McCrank

1. *Biodiversity Challenge*

- The CRD's Biodiversity Challenge using iNaturalist starts in one month. It runs May 21-24 in celebration of the International Day for Biological Diversity.
- We hope to get people using iNaturalist across the capital region over the 4 days to build awareness about local biodiversity
- Lindsey will send out an email with more information closer to the start of the Biodiversity Challenge that can be shared with your networks

2. *Growing Canada's Forests Program*

- In 2020 the federal government launched a program to plant 1 billion trees over the next 10 years through a grant program called Growing Canada's Forests.
- The CRD aims to eventually submit a regional application and is in discussion with local governments and community partners right now to better understand how to focus future funding applications, in order to submit a response to the Request for Information by May 27, 2021.
- If you are interested in being part of the conversation, please contact Jody Watson at jwatson@crd.bc.ca

3. *HandyDART update*

Update from Katie Hamilton, BC Transit:

- Phase two of the public engagement process is now complete
- The Neighbourhood Working Group is meeting today to hear the results
- Katie will share the What We Heard report as well as a few more technical reports with the GWI over the next few weeks
- Katie will be inviting GWI members who are involved in the Craigflower creek watershed to provide further information about their projects and priorities to BC Transit.
- BC Transit has offered to present the results at a future meeting, and we are going to propose a sub-committee to meet outside of the July 21 GWI meeting.

Action: Lindsey will coordinate sharing of information between BC Transit and interested GWI members.

Adjournment: 9:00 pm

Next meeting, July 21, 2021 7-9 pm