

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy

CLASS **January 28** Meeting (first meeting since Nov.26/2014. No meeting in December)

Present: Marion Robinson (Chair, FB) & Christina Toth (FBC), Dave Lamson, Owen and Chris Skonberg, Darcy Bauer, Rodney Philipppson, Lauren Spilsbury, Taryn Dixon (Area H, FVRD), Dave Clyne (recording); Ian Stephen (Water Wealth)

Regrets from: Bruce Clark, Lewis Kirkness, Angela Manweiller

1. Introductions
2. Previous minutes etc accepted – Action items were completed except for waste water management tour at UBC (was cancelled) (*Notes: notes from Rodney P. added later.)

3. OLD BUSINESS

a) Terms of reference

Marion: reiterate that CLASS is guided by values we put on community. Even during disagreement common concern of welfare of the lake is paramount; non-adversarial approach to get things done.

CLASS provides a 'safe table' environment, sense of belonging, inclusiveness, forward looking, to nurture a sense of autonomy in protecting/managing the watershed. Ie We can do something. Darcy concurs; liaisons.

Note: terms of reference are malleable, can be changed.

ACTION – Marion will distribute document on terms of reference.

b) Jan. 22/15 Selbie talk at Cultus Lake Community School.

Event hosted by CLASS was successful, well-received, culmination of 3 years of effort, could be watershed moment for CLASS. Total of 130 attendees signed in. Several local politicians attended. Informative talk, suggested actions, not blaming. Could provide more impetus to support sewage line; Taryn: FVRD now forming liquid waste management committee, 2 years, \$300K study into matter. News of Selbie study reached M of Agriculture, (David Poon?) contacted Marion post-talk.

Chris S. has videos, also going on DVD. Nothing for publication at this time; Dan Selbie will PPT presentation; he will also edit transcription. Purpose to do this is part of outreach, to share info with broader community.

ACTIONS:

- Gift to go to Dan Selbie. (Dave C. to do honours.) DONE
- Hire transcriber for videos, \$100 honorarium. Chris S. will look into this (with CToth and MRobinson.) Concern about YouTube access. Get work completed by March end.
- Taryn Dixon will meet with Brenda Wallace, Soowahlie FN to discuss Jan. 22 evening with her, since no one from Soowahlie attended. Will report back next meeting.

c) Pikeminnow Derby plans

Neil Smith is not present to report. Would be nice to build on past momentum; CLASS has not committed to organizing event. It occurs Father's Day weekend, BC fishing licences are free; coincides with Cultus community day, so the weekend is a big drain on local volunteer pool. Tabled till next meeting.

d) Lake levels

D. Clyne: lake levels up 6, 7 inches for past 3 years, leads to shore erosion, dock damage. 44.5 m height limit at gauge by river. Need to meet w. Dave Stelmack, Scott McKay for park maintenance, dredging of Sweltzer.

ACTION: David Clyne will meet or set up meeting with park staff to discuss levels, necessary maintenance.
(T. Dixon leaves.)

e) **Invasive species**

Milfoil – Darcy, local experts (Dan. S, Bruce Clark) suggest testing mat covering in small area first to protect habitat. Marion: DFO lab can help with designing strategy. New hydro-acoustic software may be of use. Many locals interested in offering up their water front for clearing. D. Clyne said careful hand weeding also works. Public education also needed.

ACTION: Darcy B and DClyne will talk to DFO lab folks about forming a strategy.

Yellow flag iris – Dave Stelmack will present at Feb 25 CLASS meeting.

ACTION: Darcy B will send him an email. Christina Toth will contact FV Invasive Plants, to invite Jeannie Hughes **DONE**

f) Nutrient management (see above, Jan. 22 talk)

g) **Outreach**

Darcy has two quotes for website development, \$3,000 & \$4,000. Jason Lum suggested FVRD can help pay for this. Marion: other funding sources must be researched.

ACTION: Darcy asked to bring/email details from the two quotes; Marion to distribute to members for further discussion at Feb. 25 meeting.

h) **Billing**

Gidney Signs \$89.60, Dan's Book \$70, Skonbergs = \$13 for cookies and coffee on Jan. 22.

ACTION: Get Lance to reimburse those who paid.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

a) **Plan 2015**

i) Thank you cards

ACTION: Lauren S. will review and have 50 cards with pygmy sculpin printed

Outreach comments: have alternating meetings on evenings, with a guest speaker such as Jeannie Hughes, to speak on invasive plants; DFO. Send notices to local print, radio media, newsletters. Free announcements. D. Lamson: promote CLASS as a science-based task group.

ACTION: Marion R and Christina T will create rough outreach plan to discuss at Feb. 25 meeting.

Dave C. to ask about Cultus Lake school availability for an April evening meeting. **DONE** Feb 5/15.

5) **Events**

a) FV Invasive Plant group meets Feb. 18 at FVRD in the afternoon.

b) **Promontory** Rodney P. reports Promontory development destroyed, diverted fish-bearing Lefferson (?) creek, had Ernie Victor up to take photos, called Mike Pearson. He's writing letters trying to get official response, action on this. We advise contacting media to draw attention to this.

c) **Plan Cultus** – Darcy presented draft copy to Marion. Document is available on Cultus Lake Park website, comments are being taken now.

ACTION: Marion will (and CLASS members will endeavour to) read doc, bring comments on Feb. 25. (Marion leaves.)

e) UBC waste water tour – Lauren will revisit arrangements for tour at UBC waste water management site (which was cancelled due to facility break-down in January). For perhaps March or April. Trip participants' fee must pay for transportation.

f) Water Wealth – Ian Stephen reports group has received training and is now starting a 'stream keepers' volunteer team, hopes to do work once a month. First spot is Peach Creek, pH testing, dissolved O2 levels, water depth, width.
Water Wealth also working on environment assessment for Ts'elqweyeqx (?)

Adjourned. **Next meeting is 9 a.m. February 25, 2015, at DFO lab house.**

* Notes from Rodney Philippon – addition to January 2015 CLASS minutes, (entered into record after the February meeting for approval at the next meeting in March 2015).

Concerns regarding the breaking of (federal) fisheries and provincial regulations in the extension of Sylvan Drive on Promontory Heights at Walters Creek.

This creek is one of the feeder creeks supplying nutrients and oxygenated water, and which controls the water temperature for the survival of the spawning process of coho salmon the (Fraser) valley floor.

This is all located on First Nation land. Rodney described what he observed as total destruction of salmon habitat. He also observed large volumes of silt deposited in the (Walters) creek further down the hillside. This can and will destroy by smothering the salmon eggs deposited in the gravel.

He also observed no riparian areas. The Walters Creek had moved over approximately 200 feet, which is strictly against the Waters Act of British Columbia (sic).

The (federal) fisheries, B.C. Environment (ministry) and City of Chilliwack have all signed off on the project. Rodney's letters of December 18 and 23, 2014, have gone unanswered from all three sources in regards to this subject. Lauren suggested an environmental fine should be promoted for habitat destruction as the project is almost completed. The meeting advised that Rodney should work with Tara Friesen, environmental services at the City of Chilliwack.