

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy

CLASS Feb. 25, 2015 meeting minutes

Present: Dave Clyne (recorder), Lauren Spilsbury, Darcy Bauer (CL park board), Rodney Philipppson, Lewis Kirkness, Gord Spencer (Lindell Beach), Christina Toth acting chair (FBC)

Speakers: David Stelmack, manager community services, Cultus Lake Park.
Jeanne Hughes, coordinator, Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council.

1. **Introductions**
2. **Acceptance** of past minutes, with additions to today's agenda
3. **David Stelmack, Cultus Lake Park:**
 - a. **Invasive plants:** Over past 2 years, park has cleared yellow flag iris from east side of Sweltzer Creek, with remediation and native planting. In partnership with FVIPC, & hopes that will continue. Park is committed to continue work on west side of creek in front of lots 5 & 6, as funding allows. Work is done with machine and manual.
Lauren notes clumps of yellow flag iris remains in the area.
Jeanne said FVIPC received oral approval from DFO staff to hand pick invasive in water o/side regular outside DFO window in summer.
 - b. **Silt removal:** last time was in early 2000s? CL Park aims to remove old weir to help keep water flowing & so reduce silt build-up. Permit to remove in 2007, tried to get permission in last 4 years. Plan is to remove 200 cu/m of sand, silt from Sweltzer Creek. Report last week from Vancouver environmental firm biologist and engineer found work could be done with little impact to fish habitat. Rock 'armour' can be used to protect water line.
This report now goes to DFO, BC MoEnvironment, CL Park board, FVRD etc., to get approvals, then funds. If OK'd, work could be done in July.
Park has a permit to do limited clearing at this point.
 - c. **Lake level:** Optimal level is 44.5 meters in summer, as measured on Cultus Lake south side gauge. Park may drop that slightly this year to 44.4 metres. Levels ranged from 44.9 to 44.13 in past years. Keeping optimal lake level is a balancing act. Level is monitored daily; if level is dropping, outflow must be blocked manually with posts to avoid too low levels in summer.
ACTION: David and/or Darcy will give CLASS an update on DFO etc approval of silt removal plan.
(David S. left. He thanked us for the invitation and said he'd like to come more often, but park meetings are often held on Wednesdays.)

Jeanne Hughes, FV Invasive Plant Council

- a. Jeanne gave history, background of FVIPC, listed funders, partners, types of invasive plants they remove locally. Priority categories of invasive plants: i) *Prevention species* – education, outreach. i.e. while flowering rush has invaded Hatzic Lake, an education/outreach program could prevent it from taking hold in Cultus Lake. **Candidate for Cultus Lake survey.**
 - ii) *Eradicate* – a species such as yellow flag iris that could be eradicated (with enough funding).
 - Contained species* – infestations are contained or limited. Wild chervil, knotweed, Scotch broom. (Scotch broom expels its seeds up to 6 meters, & its seeds can live in the soil for 60 years.)
 - iv) *Control* – a species that requires control, like tansy ragwort, Himalayan blackberry, butterfly bush, English ivy, Eurasian milfoil.

Local work done: FVIPC and FV Watershed Coalition remediation on Sweltzer, holding pond included local groups, students, park: a multi-stakeholder, multi-generational event. FUTURE: She said more community involvement could be possible on the right site. She'd like to see educational signs in the area in the future.

City of Abbotsford provides bags & tools for invasive species volunteer work parties. Is this possible via Chilliwack, FVRD or ?

Gord Spencer noted Lindell Beach has a clean-up day in May; could add weeds to activity? Lauren noted Japanese knotweed near old marina. Whose jurisdiction is this, park or?

ACTION: Dave invited Jeanne to submit article to CL Review's summer edition. Darcy said article could be posted to CL park website.

ACTION: Lauren, Jeanne, will be in touch with each other if there is an opportunity for volunteers for a 'weed pull.'

4. Old Business

a) **Transcription** of Dan Selbie's talk, to put on updated website. Last attempt to have it transcribed fell through. Marion suggested someone in Mission. Dave gave Christina a CD of his video recording of Selbie's talk.

ACTION: Christina will contact Marion's referral to see if she can do it. If that doesn't happen she will attempt transcription.

b) **UBC's Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS) tour**, waste water management tour. Lauren is disheartened by lack of response for the tour set for March 23, and will withdraw from organizing this. She received a 2% response. Dave Clyne suggested FVRD waste water committee members, staff, politicians would like to go on such a tour.

ACTION: Dave will bring it up to WWT committee members. Lauren will speak also to Lance Lilley at FVRD.

c) **Outreach – website.** Darcy is waiting for Christina & Marion to speak to Taryn about a grant in aid funding to pay for website upgrade.

ACTION: Christina will speak to Taryn about a FVRD grant and next steps.

d) **Finances.** Marion submitted bills, requests for reimbursements to Lance Lilley. Darcy reported Protect Our Park party donated \$65 to CLASS at end of municipal campaign.

ACTION: Dave will inquire about the account balance.

e) **Promontory:** development damage to fish-bearing streams.

Rod noted this matter is beyond mandate of CLASS. Developer moved (Walters?) creek, bulldozer tracks in creek, silt washing downstream to coho habitat, hatchery? He sent handwritten letters to City of Chilliwack department heads, DFO, notified three local First Nation chiefs, local reporter, but no one response. Ducks Unlimited is not happy. Rod is frustrated. He said he has health concerns and doesn't feel he can do anymore. Lauren has agreed to go to the site with Rod. Photographs may show impact of work, she said.

f) **Pikeminnow Derby** – Community groups etc should be notified that CLASS is not organizing the PM Derby this year.

ACTION: Dave will email Neil and inform 2 local fishing retailers, to see if they're interested in organizing. Individual CLASS members say they'd volunteer.

New Business

a) **FVRD's new waste water sewer committee** – Dave C., Darcy B. & Lewis K. are on the committee. Lauren is an informal alternate.

b) **Thank you cards** – Lauren will order 50 blank cards with an colour reproduction of the CL pygmy sculpin painting she made. There will be information about the fish and CLASS on the back. Cost is \$50.

ACTION: Lauren will send draft copy to me before ordering printing.

Thank you and card to CL Park admin for giving us access to the community hall – Dave C. had some cards and will sign one on behalf of CLASS, and Lewis Kirkness will say thanks when he presents to the park board later tonight.

c) **Logging on Vedder Mountain** – Dave noted that last time there was logging in 2009, there was a significant amount of mud that came down from log site and forestry roads in Sweltzer Creek. There is a new proposal for logging on the west side of the lake. Actual work could be years away. There is a request for a written submission by March 2, 2015.

ACTION: Dave & Christina will draft a brief response to submit by the date.

ACTION: Dave will invite BC Timber Sales foresters to speak to CLASS at its next meeting in March.

Adjourned 11:30 a.m.

Next meeting is March 25, 2015, 9:30 a.m. at the DFO lab complex.