

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy

CLASS June 24, 2015 meeting notes
Held at 9:30 a.m. at Legends Restaurant, Cultus Lake

1. **In attendance:** Owen and Chris Skonberg, Darcy Bauer, Lauren Spilsbury, Christina Toth [Chair], Dave Clyne [Recorder]; Regrets: Lewis Kirkness, Rodney Philippon

2. **Accept Agenda** – add knotweed, Vedder Mountain Association; move website up

3. Ongoing Business

a. **Pikeminnow Derby** – Chris & Owen S, Lauren S., David C. [and walk by Darcy B.] met with Chilliwack Lions member Robert Prinse on Saturday, June 20/15. Prinse will present oral and written info to Lions Club, at August AGM. There are 250 Lions members in Clubs from Chilliwack to Boston Bar. Prinse invited CLASS to a September executive meeting. Important for Lions to adapt: education of fishers, regarding identification of fish, humane killing (with a bonker).

ACTION: Chris S. and Christina T. will update a planning list and summary document in July to forward to Lions. (they already have this list from Dave.C.)

b. **Evening meetings** – May 27 meeting was extremely successful. It was appreciated by those who attended. (Total 28 people, including 8 CLASS, five from FVRD; the others were locals who usually can't make day meetings.) Suggestions for future evening meetings ranged from 2 a year, to all evening meetings. Guest speakers provided added value for those attending evening meetings. This also fits with CLASS plan to expand outreach. Meeting notices & agendas could be broadcast around community in future.

ACTION: Next evening will be October 28. Dave C. will contact Dan Selbie (DFO researcher) re: presentation of Cultus hydro-acoustic work on Oct. 28.

ACTION: Dave C. will talk to Gord Spencer re: connect to RRS feed for Lindell Beach.

c. **Cultus Days** – a very good response to CLASS. People took photos of Mr. Sculpy (papier maché Pygmy Sculpin) during parade. Many stopped at booth; CLASS distributed dozens of badges, had lots of conversations. CLASS collected 12 names from residents who want to receive minutes, reports. Lake levels and fuel spills from jerry cans were common topics.

(Ideally, a local business should provide gas sales to eliminate or reduce use of jerry cans, which currently leads to countless tiny gas spills. Business has not gone through environmental approval to sell gas; if so, CL Park Board may allow gas sales. CL Park Board has offered to do the required preliminary environmental study. Alternative is for CLPB to open a gas outlet. Discussion on this issue is ongoing: report expected at CLPB August 23 meeting.)

Experience at Cultus Days event underscores need for a CLASS brochure.

ACTION: Christina T. will start brochure outline. Identify CLASS and provide ideas for public on what can they do to help the lake and watershed.

Look into getting local sponsors for cash and/or in-kind. Brochure would tie in well with development of website. Website could also be a place for people to donate.

d. Invasive Species

1. **Yellow Flag Iris** – **ACTION**: dead-heading work party is July 2, 7 p.m. in Sweltzer Creek. Bring garden pruners, plastic bags, pails with string, rubber gloves.

2. **Japanese knotweed** – **ACTION**: Dave C. alert Jeanne Hughes that there is still knotweed on Sweltzer Creek and to get update on planned work project.

3. **Zebra/ quaga mussels** – spread from Great Lakes in US and Canada to Manitoba. Not yet seen in the western Canada and US. BC and Alberta have a joint effort of 3 travelling teams to monitor boats. Zebra mussels are small, hard to detect, spawn attaches to boats. Can clog pipes, infrastructure, boats very quickly; can kill a lake: waste nutrients boost algae; prefer to be in high calcium water [West Coast is low calcium]. Lake Winnipeg is infested: in a test project, a silt screen near a dock was filled with liquid potash & mussels in control cage died. Mussels can live 30 days out of the water. Boat owners must clean, dry boat bottoms, fully drain and flush & wash any water ballasts or water containers before moving to next body of water.

3. **Butterfly bush** – currently blooming, several seen along roadsides in area.

e.] **Lake Levels** – for past 2 weeks levels kept at 44.48 m, which is a little higher than the 44.40 recommended. Concern about the low water run-off from Vedder Mountain watershed, International Ridge due to drought. Lake levels may not be lowered given dry weather as a precaution, may drop naturally due to evaporation. Levels are closely monitored by CLPB.

f.] **Website update** – Christina T. is obtaining quotes from designers that range from \$1,500 to \$5,000. Timeline: have website done by October. Darcy B. suggested Bryant Lake, and Christina Lake websites. Need to update old CLASS website for now, and later eliminate or link old url to new site.

ACTION: (update) Christina T. contacted Wayne Froese, estimate is \$1,500; will meet in July to review details. Emails distributed regarding sample sites, ideas requested for website, branding. Obtain new url/ website name. Contact Shelley Walsh to access current website to update.

g.] **Interpretive signs** – Include signs/ outreach as regular items on agendas (vs having a sign committee.) Lauren provided topic ideas: Identify Pikeminnow, pygmy sculpin, Cultus Lake sockeye, water shrew, etc.; ways to support native species; identify knotweed & other invasive species; reminder to clean, dry and drain your boats. Apply new logo to signs, include QRS codes on signs.

Connect with Joel Gidney to produce signs. Explore costs, in-kind and cash funders.

ACTION: Dave C. will talk to Gidney Signs to get sign details (UV protected, aluminum, installed).

h.] **Cultus Lake Liquid Waste Water Management** – Next meeting Tuesday, June 30, noon – 4 p.m. Cultus Lake Community Hall, Cultus Lake. CLASS will attend. Chris S. mentioned the omni processor: can nitrates and phosphates be removed from waste water and then removed from Cultus Lake watershed? (UPDATE: there are technologies that do that. Explore www.kemira.com)

i.] **Vedder Mountain Association** – Conditions are very dry, yet lots of motorsport activity. Drivers take spark inhibitors off the exhaust to make more noise, fire hazard. Ask association, FVRD to make signs that spark inhibitors.

ACTION: Lauren will contact FVRD to install signs that say that motorsport vehicles need to have spark inhibitors on them. (UPDATE: Effective noon Saturday June 27, Cultus Lake Park and Sunnyside Campground are under a fully enforced fire ban. Only CSA-rated or ULC-rated cooking stoves **approved for use** are permitted.)

The following are prohibited from use during a fire ban:

- All open flames including candles, tiki torches, wood fires, decorative propane fires and any other open flame not used for cooking. The use of hibachis, charcoal, coal, briquettes and any type of container is prohibited.)

j.] Bear Awareness – need some kind of bear/cougar signs for visitors. Some signs were in Sunnyside washrooms.

ACTION: Darcy will ask Christine W. to post info on RRS feed and about the bear trap at the end of Mountain View. Also talk to Megan to put info on bulletin boards at Sunnyside store, and community boards. UPDATE: WildSafeBC has done some door-to-door outreach in Cultus area last week; working with CLASS to arrange for signs in appropriate areas; local governments like FVRD, CLPark usually pay for signs.

4 New Business

a. **Pot Luck supper** July 2, 5:30 p.m. at Dave and Andrea's place (#2 Lakeshore Dr., Cultus Lake); and then to decapitate yellow iris flowers at 7 p.m.

b. **Report: Dr. Shabtai Bittman** – Christina T. gave a summary of Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition lecture presentation by Dr. Bittman on dairy and berry forage management in the Fraser Valley to reduce importation of chemical nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus, and ways to reduce their leaching into the local watershed and aquifers. He's a nutrient management specialist at the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada research farm in Agassiz. The summary is attached with this email. Studies in his field can be found at farmwest.com

c. Long term plan for CLASS

Discussion: A long-term plan for action and direction for CLASS needs to be formally deliberated, to maintain its mission and provide clear focus for its activities. Begin consideration for fall discussion. Some ideas that came up in discussion:

- Refine plan into 5 main aspects [eg. physical, digital, policy, events, connecting, outreach, communications]
- continue to address issues, disseminate scientific findings, outreach, public education.
- Build volunteers, engagement

5. Next meeting: CLASS normally adjourns for August. CLASS members will meet informally for a potluck and invasive plant clearing on July 2, starting at 5:30 p.m. at #2 Lakeshore Drive, Cultus Lake. Yellow flag iris dead-heading begins in Sweltzer Creek at 7 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be **July 29, 9:30 a.m. at the DFO research lab complex, 4222 Columbia Valley Hwy., Cultus Lake.**