

Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy

CLASS notes for July 29, 2015

Date: July 29/15 9:30 a.m., DFO research lab complex, 4222 Columbia Valley Highway Cultus Lake, BC

Present: Taryn Dixon (Area H director FVRD), Chris Skonberg, Darcy Bauer (CL parks board), Ian Stephen (Water Wealth), Dave Lamson, Lauren Spilsbury, Christina Toth (recorder/chair, Fraser Basin Council)

Guest: Wayne Froese, Marketing in the Moment, website designer for CLASS

1. Verify July agenda, any changes; accept June notes

2. Ongoing Business:

a. Pikeminnow derby transition update: Chris S. Robert Prinse met with CLASS members at the end of June; planning info was shared. Chilliwack Lions will meet with regional clubs on Aug. 29 to discuss take over of Cultus Lake Pikeminnow Derby. Rob will provide update following this meeting.

b. Pikeminnow research – One of our members (Rosemary) noticed buoys at Needle Point in July. Lucas Pon, & Dan Selbie, DFO research lab report there is a pygmy sculpin study underway at Needle Point and other locales.

- DFO lab staff members are doing a field study on the threatened Cultus Lake Pygmy Sculpin as part of the SARA (Species At Risk Act) recovery effort. While some are caught during annual juvenile salmon evaluation, in this study they focus on PS. Series of PS traps are set around the lake with the floats and weighted at the bottom. Traps are checked the following day, Pygmy Sculpin are counted and released live.
- The field study will create data on PS seasonal distribution in the lake in order to be able to better assess their habitat use and to determine seasonal variations in their distribution. DFO will trap in the fall, winter and in the following spring. Researchers will later produce a report that they can share with CLASS.

c. Invasive species, update:

- CLASS volunteers met July 2 for yellow flag iris seed pod gathering. Three to four garbage bags were collected, Dave C. took them to burning site at landfill. Thank you to all the volunteers and guests who came to splash in the creek.
- Jeanne of Invasive Species Council of BC verified w. Dave C. her group has funding from CLParks to treat knotweed from the west side of Sweltzer Creek later this summer, fall. She will give us the dates in the future.

d. Website: Wayne Froese explained development of the CLASS website to date. He engaged group in a discussion on topics such as member groups, news posting, main page focus, external links, and a map of lake & communities. Explore input from Soowahlie First Nation (Taryn will discuss & provide a report back to group.) Possible workshop on how to navigate or administer website once it's complete. Include thanks to media in news section preamble.

ACTION: Send Wayne links of eutrophication study, continue to provide him with photos of CLASS events, activities, *relevant* articles about Cultus Lake.

ACTION: Taryn will speak to Soowahlie chief about contributing to website material, CLASS involvement.

- e. **Brochure:** Material should define CLASS, its activities and projects, and provide ideas for public on what can they do to help the lake and watershed. Facts on fish, watershed.
ACTION – Obtain previous brochure – Lewis? Dave? Design brochure.
- f. **Bear signs:** Consensus was that signs should be promoted judiciously, and may not be needed, except when there is a bear alert in area. Taryn is exploring options where a sign would go, with advice from WildSafeBC (Rebecca McMurray). Encourage BC Parks or CL Parks to place signs. **ACTION:** Contact Joanne
- g. **Interpretive signs:** CLASS will contact Gidney Signs for prices, specifications. We can continue this in September.
- h. **Lake levels:** Update – on July 23, lake levels were at about 44.46. Lindell Beach not flooding at this height. (44.48 is high, ideal is 44.40)

3. New business

- a. **Discussion, drinking water:** Darcy noted drinking water is drawn from aquifer, not lake itself. FVRD is in process of taking over responsibility of water licence from CL, with plans to install new, more effective water reservoir. He may have report in September.
- b. **October 28 evening meeting:** CLASS plans to bring a keynote speaker for evening. DFO was invited to talk about hydro-acoustic work on milfoil, but DFO staff may not be able to attend. Plan B: Darcy &/or Dave could talk about milfoil pilot project update. Invasive species could be another topic. Other ideas for speakers welcome.
- c. **Lauren S.** confirmed she is moving from the community. She brought her papier maché pygmy sculpin to the DFO office, along with other CLASS papers & thank you cards she passed along to Christina. Lauren also noted Langley Divers have video and photos of pygmy sculpin, would require permission to include these on CLASS website.
ACTION: Christina will purchase some storage bins for CLASS materials now at the DFO office. Still need a permanent safe, dry home for Mr. Sculpy.

Adjourn. Next meeting is at **9:30 a.m., Sept. 30, 2015** at the DFO research complex, 4222 Columbia Valley Highway Cultus Lake, BC.

