

Colquitz Coalition (CC) Annual Meeting - February 13, 2019 - 6:30-9:30pm - Pearkes Rec Centre - Hosted by Peninsula Streams Society (PSS)

Attendees (37)

- Wayne Zaccarelli, Victoria Fish & Game Protective Assoc., Amalgamated Conservation Soc.
- Julian Anderson, Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park
- Jamie Disbrow, BEES (Beaver & Elk Lake Environmental Stewards)
- Kiersen Brooks, BEES, Teacher at Strawberry Vale Elementary
- George Harper, Peninsula Streams Society & Friends of Colquitz Mainstem
- Craig Elder, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
- Pam Delaney, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
- Anne Topp, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
- John Coates, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
- Ben Kerr, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
- Dorothy Chambers, Salmon in the City
- Paul Boughen, Friends of Colquitz Mainstem
- Julia Day, Friends of Colquitz Mainstem
- Brian Koval, Peninsula Streams Society
- Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society
- Francesca Loro, Peninsula Streams Society
- Heather Wright, World Fisheries Trust
- Yogi Carolsfeld, World Fisheries Trust
- Kevin Simpson, CRD - WWTP Project
- Evan Southern, CRD- WWTP Project
- Carly Palmer, QEP, Current Environmental- WWTP Project
- Colleen Sinnott, PSS Volunteer - Lochside Meadow Project
- Thomas Munson, District of Saanich
- Graeme Weir, North Quadra Community Association
- Evan Melnyk, PSS Volunteer
- Bill Thomas, Golden Rods and Reels
- Angela Hanes, View Royal Resident
- Bill Fee, lives on Colquitz mainstem
- Kevin Brown, Saanich Environmental Advisory Committee
- David Merner, Green Party of Canada
- Harald Wolf, Gabo Creek
- Zev Fisher
- Michelle Morton
- Rich Ketchen, PSS Board of Directors
- Heidi Dyck, Gr. 11 Teacher at Spectrum High School
- Jeff Davies, Media consultant & film maker
- Dean Rebneris, Layritz Planning Area (Goward Springs)

Regrets

- Jill Robinson, CRD, Elk/Beaver Lake Initiatives Coordinator
- Lynn Husted, Goward Springs Watershed Stewards
- Margaret Greenway, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association

- Mick Collins, Golden Rods and Reels
- Rebecca Mersereau, District of Saanich Councillor
- Natalie Chambers, District of Saanich Councillor

1) Welcome – Ian Bruce (Peninsula Streams Society)

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.

2) Presentations by Groups

Kevin Simpson (CRD), Carly Palmer (QEP Current Environmental), Evan Southern (CRD) - Presentation about Wastewater pipeline stream crossings in Colquitz Watershed

Presentation Deck Available on website <http://peninsulastreams.ca/archives/colquitz-coalition-annual-meeting-feb-13-2019>

Kevin and Carly presented on the CRD Wastewater pipeline project. The pipeline will have 23 waterway crossings and be in proximity to wetlands and other water features. ½ of these crossings are of fish-bearing streams. Some of the crossings of concern to tonight’s audience:

- near Swan/Colquitz confluence - pipeline will be installed 1 m under stream, immediately downstream of Marigold bridge. Will be “open-cut” crossing.
- Goward Springs A -
- Peers Creek - current culvert is undersized and will be replaced with box culvert to meet Fish Passage regs. embedded by 30%. Pipeline will be installed under culvert.

CRD will hold themselves and contractors to high standards of accountability. “Monitoring is key.” Contractors include Don Mann. Engineering consulting company McElhanney will ensure conformance. Current Environmental is QEP.

1 week prior to streamwork, stream will be isolated using nets and fish trapped and moved.

Evan Southern (CRD) - There is a 24/7 information phone line and also email contact. You will receive a response within 5 days. Call 1-844-815-6132 or email wastewater@crd.bc.ca

Dorothy Chambers - Fines for non-compliance must be included in the contractors contract so that there are actual repercussions for infractions. Saanich’s SCADA System (Supervisory control and data acquisition) doesn’t work. I know of two occasions at least where it failed and there was no action taken by authorities for many hours.

Ian - CRD Environmental Assessment document for pipeline should be public document.

Beaver & Elk Lake Environmental Stewards (BEES) - Jamie Disbrow

Made up of group of citizens who are concerned about the degradation of Beaver and Elk Lake. Formed in 2018, now have 40 members. Most live near the lake, includes many user groups and all age groups. Concerned about safety of the lake, WQ is focus, but also plants, fish, etc. Jill

Robinson (CRD Elk/Beaver Lake Initiative coordinator) will present to them next month. They are looking to Quamichan Lake for ideas as it has similar issues.

Victoria Golden Rods & Reels (GRR) - Bill Thomas

Financed Camosun study on Elk Lake. Would like to do a hands-on restoration project this year. Ian spoke to Dave Cooke (GRR President) tonight. They work a lot with Goldstream Hatchery. If you'd like to help clip coho salmon and have tour of hatchery, contact Bill. Will be fascinating day. Also involved with PICI project. **Bill will choose a couple dates (June/July) and send to PSS to share with CC.**

Peninsula Streams Society (PSS) - Ian Bruce

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- In 2018 we did restoration on Swan (Columbine section) with Saanich.
- Goward-Viaduct - potential project with Golden Rods and Reels by Bob Langford's place
- Goward Springs A-old riffles from ~20 years ago reconstructed on private property-PSS/PICI
- Blenkinsop - Lochside Meadow. With initial support from Harald Wolf , Haji (NQCA). Project site was remnant Garry Oak meadow. All machine work donated by Don Mann (value \$20K). Brought in weed-free topsoil. Seeded and replanted in 3 hours by lots of volunteers.
- In 2019 we will do project on Colquitz mainstem - Eastridge Crescent - build riffles this summer. Riparian area is completely compacted and trampled; it has been "loved to death." Will be decompacted and fenced off with Saanich Parks and SW group.
- Rain gardens - will be installed at Spectrum/Marigold Schools and or McKenzie Elementary.
- BEACH program - forage fish sampling and monitoring

- WQ Equipment - PSS can help set you up with monitoring equipment if your group wants to do WQ. PSS can also help with calibration, maintenance, etc.

- In non-Colquitz news, Millstream Fishway Project will likely happen in 2020. Project costs doubled. PSS is applying for more funding.

Friends of Colquitz Mainstem (FoCM) - Julia Daly

Presentation Deck Available on website <http://peninsulastreams.ca/archives/colquitz-coalition-annual-meeting-feb-13-2019>

Julia has been member of FoCM since 2015. Ecology background and Streamkeepers training. Did survey re: fish presence in 2018. Set 2 gee traps @ 11 sites. Captured coho, cutthroat, sculpin and crayfish. Discovered big blockage in creek - huge walnut tree. Saanich has committed to dealing with blockage this year. **Thomas Munson, can you please follow up with Adrienne Pollard re: creek blockage?**

Friends of Swan Creek Watershed (FoSCW) - Craig Elder, Ben Kerr

Presentation Deck Available on website <http://peninsulastreams.ca/archives/colquitz-coalition-annual-meeting-feb-13-2019>

390 volunteer hours in 2018 of WQ, stream restoration, salmon counting, planting, meetings. In terms of riparian work, removing English ivy on big trees was focus in 2018.

Ben Kerr - Water Quality on Swan - Did “5 in 30” program. This is 5 observations over 30 days. Provides snapshot of variability. Have collected WQ on Swan for 5-6 years, have 1000s of observations. This summer/fall will do condensed intensive program during dry season and first flush. Measured Dissolved Oxygen (DO), temperature, specific conductivity. **Would be great to do this focused sampling this year, synchronized across watershed by many groups. Let's chat about this.**

Ian Bruce - all watersheds need ISMPs - encouraging Saanich to do so. There will probably be a spike in conductivity with all the road salt due to snow. Flow will also go up with the snow melt.

World Fisheries Trust (WFT) - Heather Wright

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Engaged in Portage Inlet Cutthroat Initiative (PICI) Project, spearheaded by Mick Collins of GRR. Will assess and monitor cutthroat trout and other salmonids.

Removed 3 barriers in Colquitz River. Mapping eelgrass beds in Portage Inlet. In 2019 plan to hold 1-2 stakeholder meetings, and undertake habitat, stock, invertebrate assessments.

Salmon in the City (Colquitz Fish Fence) - Dorothy Chambers

In Mid-November, had loss of 11 adult salmon. Dorothy and Yogi took water samples, did necropsy of fish, sent samples to lab. No huge red flags, nothing definitive discovered. DO was ~ 2mg/L. temp of 14 degrees C. 218 salmon counted returning in 2018.

Had meeting with MOTI and municipalities. Many incidents of contamination in interchange project, and no accountability of contractors. RioCan doesn't own mall any more. Now owned by Crestpoint Real Estate Investments and Anthem Properties Group, who took over on February 1st.

CRD does 5 in 30 at the fence too.

Dorothy will send Ian a lot of info on Hospital Creek.

Esquimalt Anglers - Wayne Zaccarelli

Craigflower - had low fish returns this year. Fish returns in Colquitz and Craigflower Creeks generally parallel each other; when one is high the other is too. Craigflower also had problems with otters. There is a beaver dam at outlet of Pike Lake, with pipe installed through beaver dam to control flow. 320 coho counted returning to Craigflower, with ~40% jacks. Expect higher return in 2019; this will be 2016 year fry.

Low water flow in summer is biggest problem. Spawning habitat is also limiting factor. **Ian will follow up with Wayne re: putting some spawning gravel in Craigflower this year, with help from GRR members. Angela knows lots of the creekfront property owners, so this can help us with creek access. -further note -WFT has applied for funding for restoration/assessment work on Craigflower Creek after the meeting.**

Kiersten Brooks (Teacher at Strawberry Vale Elementary School)

We have a pond beside our school that used to have tree frogs in it. They were deafening for ~15 years. Then suddenly not. **Follow-up with Yogi and Ian, they can help. Kiersten would like to do an invertebrate survey in the spring. WFT can help.**

Gabo - **Ian, Harald, Thomas and Graeme to talk offline about this. There is funding available.**

3) Website Updates

Peninsula Streams continues to maintain the website. Please send us contact and content updates, event notices, and also WQ data, fish count data etc. <http://colquitzcoalition.com/>

4) New/Other Business - All business discussed during meeting

5) Next Steps - Continue to hold annual meetings. Date of next meeting will be determined by poll via email.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.