



**ROY**  
GROUP

**Meeting of the Colquitz Watershed Stewards**

**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014**



*Prepared by*

**Anne-Marie Daniel - Roy Group**



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## **Executive Summary**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 the Friends of Swan Creek Watershed and Peninsula Streams Society hosted a facilitated workshop to discuss the possibility of forming a coalition of environmental stewardship initiatives in the Colquitz River Watershed. Thirty-one people representing eighteen stewardship groups, community associations and ENGOs gathered near the mouth of the Colquitz Watershed to discuss whether forming an umbrella group would enhance and further their individual or group goals.

Each participant spoke about their interest in the watershed and their current projects. They then worked and walked in small groups to answer a series of questions to explore the potential value and concerns related to forming an umbrella group.

After 4 hours of work in small groups in which everyone weighed in with their comments and concerns, the vote was unanimous that an umbrella group should be formed. Sharing information, planning, coordinating and accessing volunteers/ resources were the motivators for this decision.

The majority of representatives favoured the creation of a website as the means for sharing information and getting updates. Communication by email was the second most preferred option.

The concerns that will need to be addressed in forming an umbrella group are related to maintaining local momentum and autonomy, managing time and energy as well as developing the capacity to work together effectively.

Peninsula Streams Society has agreed to assist in organizing a follow-up meeting for the representatives to determine their next steps.



## Summary of Responses

### What are 2-3 ways that an umbrella group could benefit you and your stewardship activities?

#### *Information*

- Sharing ideas of individual groups relative to the watershed as a whole
- Sharing ideas and experiences and information sharing
- Compiling information and data/studies on the watershed and make it easily accessible to all stewardship groups
- Disseminating information: newsletter and sharing info out
- Should be available online

#### *Planning*

- Build synergies amongst stakeholder groups
- Manage and coordinate multiple projects efficiently with a dedicated coordinator
- Focus on the big picture issues and water quality and quantity issues at the watershed level
- Prevent duplication of efforts
- Create a watershed plan (long-term with increased funding)

#### *Coordination*

- Support for funding applications and increasing grant-writing ability
- May require a coordinator to develop a strategic plan and program development (society's act, financing, conflict of interest)
- Networking opportunities
- Increase advocacy when there are issues (working with governments)
- Provide a united front with the academic community
- More clout when advocating

#### *Access*

- Ability to access volunteers
- Improved access to resources and expertise



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### **What are 2-3 concerns you have about creating an umbrella group?**

#### *Time*

- Additional time for meetings
- Taking time away from own group's interests

#### *Working together effectively*

- Who is leading? Who determines the goals?
- Concerns about respecting and hearing others' opinions on a project
- Concerns about a collective voice – concern about the model for a collective voice/governance model
- Maintaining enough energy to keep a large group going
- “The onion effect”: too many layers to move something forward

#### *Maintaining local momentum*

- Competition for same/similar resources
- Broad group focuses on the big issues and not on a small stewardship concern
- Clear vision of umbrella group differs from each organization's goals
- Loss of individual group autonomy

### **What are 2-3 strengths in the way your group currently operates?**

#### *People*

- Volunteer-based: boots on the ground
- Strong ties with other groups: local government, community associations, NGOs, First Nations
- Small, close-knit network
- Strength in numbers

#### *Knowledge*

- Strong knowledge base
- Science-based info and decisions
- Good data used by authorities: citizen science
- Early detection watch dog



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**What are 2-3 strengths in the way your group currently operates? (cont.)**

*Action*

- Low bureaucracy
- Local focus
- Fast and adaptable response
- Committed, passionate for cause
- Non-partisan
- Social and cooperative
- Positive and proactive

**What are 2-3 qualities that would make meeting as an umbrella group worth your time?**

*Strategy*

- Ability to be more strategic
- Organized/limited number meetings

*Collaboration*

- Sharing experiences/ideas
- Continuing/creating networks – effective collaboration
- Building complimentary skill sets
- Central clearing house for information
- Rapid response through collaboration

*Advocacy*

- Watershed alerts
- Increased lobbying base for approvals/funding (power in numbers)
- Provide alternative voice on issues in addition to government



## Questions for Walkabout

### 1. What are your most common challenges in getting a stewardship project accomplished?

#### *Resources*

- Consistent sources of funding and financing
- Volunteers and man-power (sometimes groups require insurance)
- Lack of information sharing
- Land use

#### *Competing Interests*

- Competing interests (farming, fishing, etc.)
- Jurisdictional debates – Saanich / MOT
- Cooperation from different groups and local government with different objectives

#### *Engagement*

- Assigning people to activities that best fit their interests – make them feel useful
- Institutional engagement and support (e.g., Saanich, Shopping Mall, Developers) recognition of environmental issues and corporate ethics
- NGO collaboration
- Lack of focus/project
- Organizational building
- Getting people interested – photos and history draws people in
- Getting people interested in the work and maintaining the interest

#### *Process*

- Getting appropriate approvals to carry out work
- Multiple permits
- Legislation and policies



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### **2. Identify partnerships that would help you achieve your goals in restoring watershed health?**

#### *Funding*

- Funding agencies – Ways to deal with funding challenges; resolve funding conflicts → build synergies

#### *Government*

- Various government ministries
- Local/ regional governments and schools

#### *Community*

- Partnerships for resources and people; volunteer partnerships; tools for continuity
- Ecosystem approach partnerships
- Neighbourhood associations
- Volunteer organizations
- NGOs
- Community associations
- Peninsula Streams Society
- Better stewardship organizations

#### *Other*

- Fishing clubs
- Private land owners
- Educational/ scientific institutions
  - Credibility
  - Engineering



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### **3. Is there information that you have trouble getting access to and do you have any ideas for improving access?**

#### *Archival*

- Access to archival info
- Integrated watershed information update: habitat with ecosystem based; historical info as well.
- Human history, especially conservation work that has been done
- Past data from scientific studies and “in the cloud”
- Storm water survey
- Colquitz river study/ F.E. Neate
- A central place to access studies and literature etc. that other groups have collected

#### *Current*

- What projects require support or doing?
- Public education/ celebrations
- Information scattered
- Centralize information via web
- Information sharing amongst all stakeholders
- Sharing of project info, websites/ F.BK
- Coordinating access to information
  - Cloud computing
- One website for access to all information – everyone knows where to go
- Pulling together calendar

#### *Resources*

- Financial information



#### **4. What are the watershed-wide issues that need to be addressed?**

- Integrated watershed information update: habitat with ecosystem based; historical info as well
  - Overall management plan
  - Unified administration
- Consensus with municipalities on pathways, etc.
- Storm water management including contaminants
- Preparation for and management of pollution events
- Preparation for and management of extreme weather events
- Developing solutions for water quality and quantity
- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- Riparian management
- Forest Cover
- Opening up “daylighting” sections of the creek
- Collective/enhancement of stream restoration coordinated activities
- Oil Spills
- Enhancing educational opportunities
- Dogs
- Policies that don’t support conservation
- People: Trained in appropriate profession – fish biologists – stream keepers – vegetation, etc.
- Advocacy: More people attending council meetings to back each other up

#### **5. What kind of involvement from the public and various levels of government would be helpful for watershed stewardship?**

- Promoting and supporting conservation groups
- Working together and sharing expertise
- Reporting environmental issues – e.g., bank stabilization, oil spills
- A SCAN type of organization for exchange of information
- Send out message along many broad levels



# ROY GROUP

The numbers in the “Tag” column correspond to the colored arrows on the map images in the pages following. These are the locations of the projects, interests and dynamics described in the table below.

TAG #	NAME	GROUP	CURRENT PROJECT STATUS
1	Wayne Zaccarelli, Bob Macdonald	Victoria Fish and Game Protective Association	Fence: problems: tidal influence, seal predation. Goal: move further upstream
2	Bruce Bevan	Esquimalt Anglers	Interest in Colquitz/Craigflower fish
3	Barry Loucks	Blenkinsop Valley C.A.	Develop stewardship program
4	Lee Johnson	PSS	Integrated storm water management plan. Common values for land use
5	Todd Carnahan	HAT	Species at risk, habitat stewardship, public & private land owners, Craigflower Watershed 2012, school groups, riparian areas, Knockan Hill outreach
6	Harry Lewis	Gorge Tillicum Community Association	Storm water management, oil spills (leaky oil tanks)
7	Julian Anderson	Friends of Cuthbert Holmes, Gorge Watershed Initiative	Terrestrial invasive species
8	Harald Wolf	North Quadra Land Use Protection Association Gabo Creek Stewards	Watershed awareness, opportunities for restoration
9	June Pretzer	Site Manager at Swan Lake	2010 Lake Management Plan: lake AND outreach to local gov. and stewardship groups. Gorge Waterway, restoration of woodland, ivy removal (5 tons). Pt. Ellis house grounds. Website: <a href="http://www.swanlake.bc.ca">www.swanlake.bc.ca</a>
10	Dorothy Chambers	Restoration and protection Cuthbert Holmes	School program 2009
11	Graeme Weir	North Quadra group	Land use protection, zoning, Beckwith Park, music in the park, tree planting with Saanich municipality, Garry Oaks, Blenkinsop
12	Lynn Husted	Goward Springs Watershed Stewards	Colquitz to dominion observatory restoring watershed, understanding fish restoration (Coho/cutthroat), fish get up to Wilkinson but are not seen upstream of that point
13	Carol Milo	Past resident, Friends of Cuthbert Holmes, Friends of Swan Creek	Assisted with restoration project at Cuthbert, split rail fence
14	Margaret Greenway, Ian Holder	Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association	Electro shock fish count, future fish count next 6 months, future restoration plan (location undetermined) <a href="http://www.haigbrown.ca">www.haigbrown.ca</a> notes: fishing in Colquitz used to be great for Coho

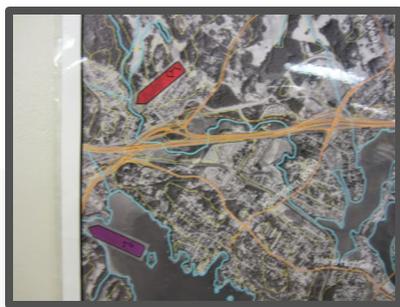
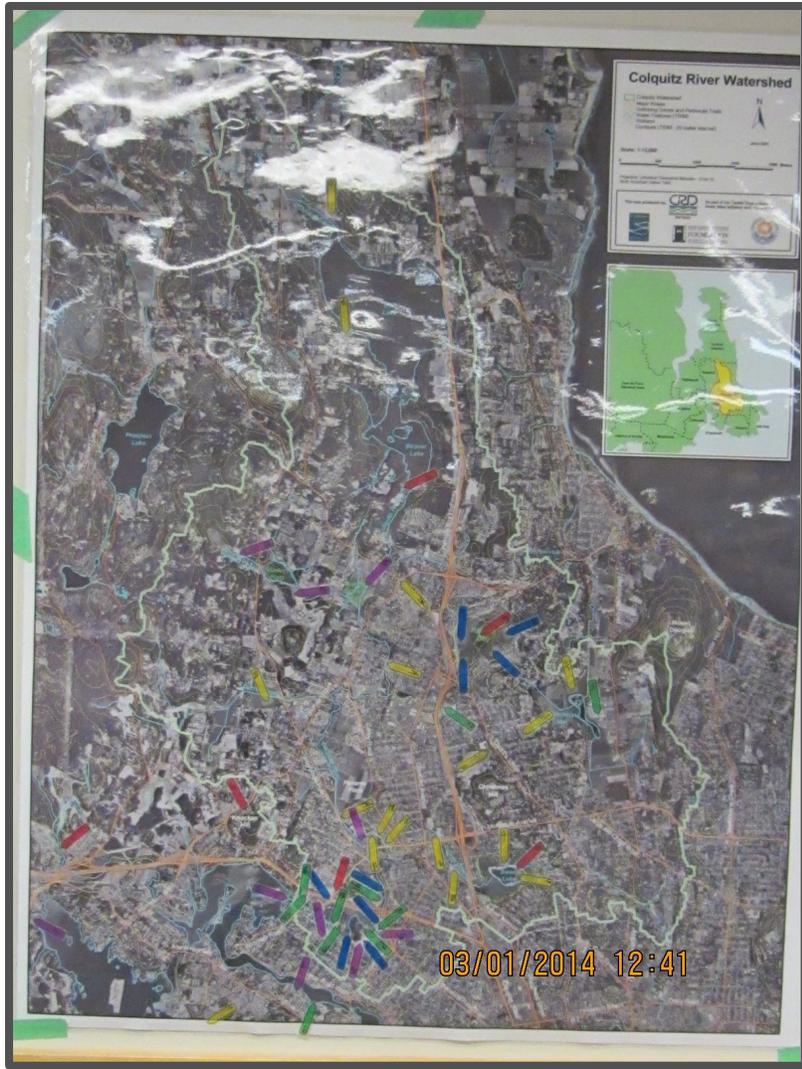


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15	Barrie Goodwin, Chris Bos	CSES (Chris is president of South Vancouver Island Anglers' Coalition)	In the '70s counting fence was put in place; has been there for 37 years. Coastal Enterprise Research C. saw to revitalization of fence. Plans to run on a 9-month basis (rather than 3). Coho project (changing plans for more Cutthroat work). Main stem to Colquitz choked off by canary grass (2002). Tom Rutherford (community advisor): initiative "fish based watershed management plan". 2001-2003 South Island aquatic stewardship. Fish fence brought about community education and media engagement (press).
16	Carolyn Knight, Paula Jardine	Artists, community members, Spectrum grad.	Art-based community engagement, want local community to get involved (especially youth), community celebration events, Colquitz middle school program (pebble stone mosaics 240), invasive species with kids with HAT, Cuthbert Holmes Park, want to move upriver, resist the "Call-It-Quits Creek"
17	Michael Besler	Resident Daisy Ave, Friends of Colquitz Creek	Interested in getting more salmon, restoration involvement
NA	Francesca Loro	PSS	Upcoming education program Gr.6 (creatures of Habitat) April 2014 – need volunteers!
18	Bob Cox	Friends of Swan Creek Watershed	Oil spill concerns, first AGM earlier this week. 2014 plan in place: continue water monitoring, smolt count (clip fish survival rate), riffle repairs, site rehab in fall, ongoing maintenance. Site restoration and monitoring, fish trapping in creek, water quality/quantity, looks forward to collaboration with stewardship groups.
19	(Yogi) Joachim Carolsfeld	World Fisheries Trust	Salmon research on Vancouver Island and Fraser in the past and now international offshore. Olympia oysters under bridge. Wants to move back into Canada. Education (school marine aquariums). Nature House Gorge Waterway ecosystem by Gorge Point Pub. Salmon in urban environment. Genetically distinct herring.
NA	Art Crouse	Friends of Swan Creek	
20	Russ Pimm	Rithet's Bog Nature Sanctuary	Invasive species removal: hybrid cattail species very invasive; taken over open water site since 2002. Wetland restoration: concern for invasive species range moving north as climate change and global warming continue.
21	Ian Bruce	PSS	Creek group.

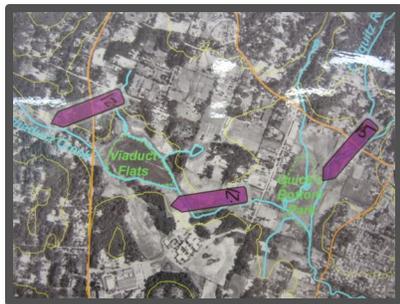


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