

# Colquitz Coalition (CC) Meeting – November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Hosted by Peninsula Streams Society at Pearkes Recreation Centre, 7-9pm

## Attendees

Debbie Oostland, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed, Mount View Colquitz CA  
Lynn Husted, Goward Springs Stewards  
Margaret Greenway, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association  
James Tepoorten, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association  
Dave Lock, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association  
Robert McConnell, Victoria Golden Rods and Reels  
John Coates, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed  
David Larsen, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed  
Yogi Carolsfeld, World Fisheries Trust  
Harold Wolf, Gabo Creek  
Francesca Loro, Peninsula Streams Society (PSS)  
Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society  
John Schmuck, Quadra Cedar Hill Community Association  
Craig Elder, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed  
Anne Topp, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed  
Bruce Bevan, Esquimalt Anglers Association  
Fred Beinhauer, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed  
Graeme Weir, North Quadra Community Association  
Dean Rebneris, Goward Springs Stewards  
Jill Robinson, Habitat Acquisition Trust  
Michael Besler, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed

## **1. Welcome and Intros**

## **2. New Members**

Victoria Natural History Society. Darren Copley submitted the request via email. Reps unable to attend the meeting tonight.

## **3. Group Presentations**

### **Peninsula Streams Society – Ian Bruce**

- PSS has initiated a new stewardship group for the Colquitz mainstem. Two community meetings and fieldtrips have already been held. Group will participate in plantings and invasive species removal beside proposed trail and stream enhancement project concurrent with Wilkinson Road Bridge replacement in 2016. Group may also undertake restoration of heavily trampled section of Copley Park (possibly in 2017), including spawning gravel additions, construction of rock structures and replanting. KWL completed stream restoration design work for Copley Park project.

- Capital City Allotment Gardens (CCAG) Swan Creek project is now complete. ~50 people attended the planting workparty on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

- If any groups need support, PSS can help coordinate letters of support, etc. from the other Coalition members.

### **Gabo Creek – Harald Wolf**

- Gabo is Saanich's "lost or forgotten watershed." After the weir, it is largely ignored. Some large sections of the creek are in pipes. The Ian Fatt development will provide some compensation money for creek restoration work. Harald will make presentation to Saanich Environmental Committee in a couple weeks.

To Do

- 1) Form stewardship group
- 2) Get Saanich on board
- 3) Sort out jurisdiction with MoTH (MoTH owns the land)
- 4) Form partnerships
- 5) Get to work!

### **Friends of Swan Creek Watershed – Craig Elder**

- Founder and chair of the group, Bob Cox, passed away recently. Bob was a founder of the Colquitz Coalition and the Friends of Swan Creek Watershed, and the group remembers him fondly.

- Group received Saanich's Environmental award for contribution from Volunteer Organization in 2015

- 5-6 riffles built over last year, as well as riffle repair and maintenance undertaken

- Group undertook adult counting last fall

- Smolt counting in the spring (550+ smolts counted)

- plantings along Daisy Ave section

- Monthly 'Pulling Together' workparties

- attended outreach events in the summertime with the watershed model (borrowed from CRD)

- last month, constructed almost 100 feet of split rail fencing alongside the creek in several areas, to discourage people and dogs entering the creek and immediate riparian zone

- CCAG project – participated in planting and mulching workparty

### **Golden Rods and Reels (GRR) – Robert McConnell**

- group has ~15 members

- Elk is headwaters of the Colquitz watershed

- group noticed that WQ of Elk Lake was deteriorating rapidly, so began Elk Lake Initiative

- CRD adopted a bylaw 20 years ago to improve WQ, but hasn't done a thing since

- collected WQ data on the Lake and O'Donnell Creek, with support from PSS. Provided data to Province and CRD.

- Lots of support from Rick Nordine and other lake users (including rowers)

- In late Oct., Robert McConnell, Mick Collins and Ian Bruce spoke in support of funding for Elk Lake Initiative at the CRD Parks Commission meeting

- Got funding for WQ analysis and to research rehabilitation options for lake

- Also received funding for weed cutter and coordinator

- Extremely well-attended (~250 people) Elk Lake forum held on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>. Co-sponsored with UVic Law Centre. Speakers included limnologist Rick Nordine, Michelle Hawryluk of MoE, and UVic Law student

To Do

- 1) Once coordinator is hired, GRR will bring that person up to speed
- 2) Continue WQ monitoring
- 3) Deal with carp problem. Lots of carp in Elk Lake, rooting up bottom, etc. Need to find someone who knows how to deal with carp in cold water.
  - maybe organize a carp derby this spring?
- 4) Create a broader-based stewardship group, to add political muscle.
- 5) Update website

### **Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association – James Tepoorten**

- Received Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) funding for project this year
- 6 locations identified for spawning platforms
- However, ran into problems with landowner approvals, and project was cancelled
- hope to do project next year
- have display at Gorge-ous Coffee (Gorge and Tillicum)

### **Habitat Acquisition Trust – Jill Robinson**

- conserving nature on S. Vancouver Island through land acquisitions and covenants
- Good Neighbours project on the Colquitz in the past
- Green Spots outreach and education program

### **Goward Springs Stewards – Lynn Husted**

- informal group, formed a few years ago
- have received PSF funding through PSS to do planting (2014) and invasive plant removal
- building WQ sampling program now
- workparties are held every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday (maybe not in Nov. and Dec.)
- Quicksbottom – reed canary grass and willow grow very thickly, can fish get through??

#### **To Do**

- 1) Sign up more members.
- 2) Enlist bird/butterfly expert – see how habitat can be improved.

### **Esquimalt Anglers – Bruce Bevan**

- salmon can either go up Craigflower or Colquitz; 287 fish counted through fence so far. Fish are really small this year. 1300 counted last year.
- Thetis Lake water license rewritten to support fish purposes. Craigflower now gets water from Thetis to keep creek flowing year-round. However, this summer was so hot, there was not enough water in the lake, and only 2L/sec was let out.
- enhancement undertaken on falls this year
- group hopes for late big runs in December and January

### **Colquitz Fence – Ian Bruce (as CSSES reps not in attendance)**

- counting fence vandalized a couple times this fall, also people fishing off fence recently
- not many females counted through yet; really concerned about coho stocks this year and next

### **Blenkinsop – Ian Bruce**

- restoration project beside Lochside Dr., w/ BC Hydro, still in play. Likely take place 2016-17.
- also prospective project on lower Blenkinsop/SLCHNS property

### **World Fisheries Trust – Yogi Carolsfeld**

- mostly do international programs
- focus on marine component, the Gorge
- research on life history through studying otoliths (can be urban indicators of life in the Gorge)
- data loggers on Colquitz counting fence and Swan smolt fence
- Salmon Education poster – posted at Nature House – “Coho Salmon – Living in your City”
- Seaquaria (including mobile Seaquaria), Nature House, GWI public events, EcoLearning Hive
- often have requests from interns who want to do research – there are opportunities for Colquitz Coalition members to work with them

### **4. Website Updates**

Still require group info from:

- Blenkinsop Valley Community Association
- Friends of Cuthbert Holmes Park
- Colquitz Salmonid Stewardship and Education Society
- Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association

Remember, at any time you can send events or updated member info to PSS and we'll update the CC website. Also if you have information you'd like to share with CC members, send to PSS and we can distribute for you via email.

### **5. New Business**

None

### **6. Next Steps**

Yogi suggested: Have a display at the mall? Tillicum or Hillside?

Should DFO create regs about fishing in the Gorge? Perhaps a letter from the CC to DFO to recommend a review of regs is needed.

### **7. Date for next meeting**

November 2016 – hold a workshop on a Saturday afternoon. Invite members from all groups (not just reps).