

Colquitz Coalition Meeting – January 25th, 2017

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

Attendees (28)

Krittika Chaurasia, Greater Victoria Green Team
Amanda Evans, Greater Victoria Green Team
Harald Wolf, Gabo Creek
Wayne Zaccarelli, Victoria Fish & Game Protective Assoc., Amalgamated Conservation Society
George Harper, Peninsula Streams Society
Graeme Weir, North Quadra CA
Jeff Skinner, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
Fred Beinbauer, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Laura Kravac, World Fisheries Trust
Lynn Husted, Goward Springs Stewards
Sarah Hudson-Gray, Goward Springs Stewards
Lucy Bashford, Goward Springs Stewards
Ben Kerr, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Mick Collins, Golden Rods and Reels
Robert McConnell, Golden Rods and Reels
Shawn Newby, Quadra Cedar Hill CA
Renee Cenerini, Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary
Debbie Oostland, Friends of Swan Creek, Mount View Colquitz CA
John Coates, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Craig Elder, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Jessica Hrechka Fee
Margaret Greenway, Haig-Brown Fly Fishing Association
David Larsen, Friends of Swan Creek Watershed
Mike MacFarlane, Goward Springs Stewards
Purnima Govindarajulu, Haliburton Watershed UBER Project
Ian Bruce, Peninsula Streams Society
Francesca Loro, Peninsula Streams Society
Brian Koval, Peninsula Streams Society Society

1) Welcome, Background of Colquitz Coalition and Introductions – Ian Bruce

- Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.
- Round room introductions made (name and group)
- Great turnout. Last annual meeting (Nov. 10th, 2015) had 21 attendees.

- Reminder that one function of Colquitz Coalition website <http://colquitzcoalition.com/> is to serve as archive for reports and data on Colquitz Watershed. So much research, project-work, etc. has been done (and is at risk of being lost or forgotten) in the watershed, so this is our effort to preserve and log it for the benefit of the community and our own groups. If you have reports, etc. to archive, please send to PeninsulaStreams@gmail.com

2) Presentations by Groups

Friends of Swan Creek Watershed – Ben Ker

- Presentation on Swan Creek Water Quality findings in 2016
- Swan is the furthest downstream group (other than the counting fence group)
- salmon-bearing stream
- group has been collecting WQ data since 2013, total of 53 days of sampling
- 11 sites regularly sampled
- Parameters measured include dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, water temp.
- Thanks to WQ volunteers John Coates and Mike Besler!

Victoria Golden Rods and Reels – Mick Collins

- Heavily involved with Goldstream Hatchery
- Involved recently with helping at Colquitz Fish counting fence
- also have Learn to Fish program
- For past 3 years, have been lead group with Elk/Beaver Lake rehabilitation. 1-2 million \$ worth of rehabilitation needed.
- were honoured by Saanich in 2016 for their achievements in supporting water quality research and stewardship at Elk/Beaver Lake.
- Current concerns: spill of sediment from McKenzie interchange into Colquitz River. Reporting protocols for sediment not well-documented.

Goward Springs Stewards – Sarah Hudson-Gray

- Planted 60 Garry Oaks and 15 Douglas Fir in corridor
- 90% survival rate due to plant protection, volunteers watering in the summer and invasive species removal
- Also have WQ program, at 8 sites – currently collecting baseline data

Gabo Creek – Harald Wolf

- Still hoping to get group going and will be holding a meeting soon. Need people and volunteers to deal with jurisdictional issues. Started almost 20 years ago.
- Gabo spans from Royal Oak Burial Park in the north to Christmas Hill in the south
- South of Rithet's Bog, Gabo becomes a mess of ditches and pipes

Haig Brown Fly Fishing Association – Margaret Greenway

- 50 members strong
- Recent initiatives include Cowichan Road signage and helping with Colquitz fish counting fence this year

World Fisheries Trust – Laura Kravac

- Currently doing salmon otolith studies. Would be interesting to compare Colquitz to Goldstream fish. Copper affects ability of salmon to evade predators and homing ability

Greater Victoria Green Team – Amanda Evans

- Collaborated with 44 groups in 2016
- Group started in lower mainland, now one of the largest conservation groups in BC

Peninsula Streams Society – Ian Bruce

- Started stewardship and restoration activities in Colquitz Watershed in 2012
- Would like to work with Friends of Swan Creek Watershed to have plaque installed (on “CRD Bridge” on Swan Creek) in memory of former Colquitz Coalition Chair and Friends of Swan Creek watershed Chair, Bob Cox. Bob passed away in late 2015.
- Partnered with and supported many Colquitz Coalition groups in 2016, including many of the groups present today.
- if anybody wants to help build/fix watershed models, let us know.

Haliburton Watershed UBER Project – Purnima Govindarajulu

- Recently submitted funding application with PSS to National Wetland Conservation Fund (NWCF), funding ends 2019
- also applied to Loblaw Water Fund with World Fisheries Trust (WFT)
- No private land issues on proposed Haliburton Project (though multiple jurisdictions would be involved)
- Would like to build Haliburton watershed model with WFT

Unaffiliated – Jessica Hreckha

- recently purchased home on Colquitz mainstem, and is partnering with Camosun College to offer wattle fence building course put on by Dave Polster, Feb 15-16 (see poster for details)

Craigflower Creek – Wayne Zaccarelli

- gave summary of fish returns on Craigflower

3) Website Updates

- Peninsula Streams continues to maintain the website. Please send us contact and content updates as desired, event notices, and also WQ data, fish count data etc.

Website Goals for 2017:

- a) Complete all Group profiles.
- b) Enlist one group/month to write a blog post highlighting their activities or a current project. Article to be posted to Colquitz Coalition blog. Pictorial stories are great too! Sarah HG from Goward Springs Stewards has volunteered to write first post.
- c) Keep ‘Publications and Data’ page updated.

4) New/Other Business

Hydrological modeling of Swan Creek – RFP underway

5) Next Steps

Continue to hold annual meetings.

6) Date for next meeting

To be determined via email.