

COLUMBIA LAKE STEWARDSHIP SOCIETY (CLSS)
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2014

Attendees:

Ken Croasdale
Anne Murphy
Cathy Coombe
Donna Rae
Dave Rae

Tracy Flynn
John Morrison
Bill Thompson
Paul Roggeman
Judy Roggeman

Norma Grace Scott
Bob Coy
Gerry Power
Donna Wunderlich

1.0 Greetings and Review of agenda

2.0 CLSS Name, Vision and Mission:

Ken Croasdale reviewed a pre-circulated document, providing a brief review of actions and items since July 2012 initial meeting.

2.1 Name:

The name agreed on by the organizational committee was the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society (CLSS). It is recognized that this name would have to be formally applied for and approved if the groups decides to register as a non-profit society.

2.2 Vision:

The group agreed to the following wording for the vision, recognizing the need for a short, clear statement and allowing for more detail to be part of mission.

“Our vision is that the relatively pristine nature and ecological health of Columbia Lake be preserved for the benefit of current and future generations.”

2.3 Mission:

The group agreed that the following mission reflects the position of group:

2.3.1 Act as a citizen -based, water stewardship group for Columbia Lake

2.3.2 Implement activities which monitor and help maintain the ecological health of Columbia Lake

2.3.3 Communicate and network with others, as required, to achieve the above

3.0 CLSS Immediate goals/Activities:

3.1 Communicating, seeking advice and guidance from established groups with similar mandates. Bill was recently appointed to the Steering Committee of Columbia Basin Watershed Network and will be able to provide liaison with that group. The CLSS is in frequent contact with the Lake Windermere ambassadors for advice and guidance. We are exploring partnerships and networking opportunities with many different groups, as outlined more fully in the document Ken drafted, who can provide needed resources and advice.

3.2 Communications with local communities and their representatives: The CLSS has contacted stakeholders around Columbia Lake to invite them to our meetings and provide them with information. To date the following potential participants have been contacted: Canal Flats, Bella Vista, Columere Park, Spirits Reach, Columbia Ridge

Estates, Columbia Lake Estates, Timber Springs and various local residents not residing in communities including Beckers, McKersies, Coys, Moffatts etc.. To date we have committed participation from Columere, Timber Springs, Spirits Reach, and Columbia Ridge Estates (& Canal Flats?)

included
Actions: -Tracy to reach out to Dutch Creek area
-All to contact Tracy/Ken with any other ideas on groups/citizens to be included
-Tracy/Ken are to construct an information package that can be used as a presentation at Community meetings. This presentation will be taken to association groups by Tracy/ Ken and other community volunteers to work to gain formal representation from groups identified in earlier discussion.

3.3 Setting up the organization of the group/ Formal Designation: Tracy proposed that CLSS register as a nonprofit society. Ken and Tracy spoke to benefits associated with application for consideration as a “nonprofit” society including ability to hold a cash reserve, hire resources to support our work such as pamphlet development, etc. as well as to apply for grants. Tracy has experience with several local societies and indicated that the work for our group would not be onerous. The cost of application is \$45 (forty five dollars). Discussions included whether the Society would incur any potential liability by registering as a NFP. It was indicated that the intent is to have a “formal” representative from each community participate in the steering committee of the CLSS.

Action: It was agreed that members of the core group make the decision on this item. (core group members include: Ken/Tracy/Bill/Dave & Donna Rae/Ted Hart
-Tracy/Bill exploring liability issues and to report to the group via email.

3.4 Water Quality Measurements/ Grant announcement:

Tracy Flynn announced that \$3400 has been obtained by grant from the Kootenay Conservation Program. CLSS chose to partner with the Columbia Ridge Community Association for the grant application, simply because this support was able to be garnered quickly.

Actions: Need to set up water testing schedule utilizing the resources and manpower of lake communities. Tracy to contact representatives to get sub-group started.

3.5 Wings over the Rockies May 4th week: Donna Rae shared plan for Wings over the Rockies- tour of water treatment plant, tour on lake to cover aquatic health. A maximum of 10 will be registered for the program. If anyone from this group wishes to participate, we can let Donna Rae know. (We would not be part of the 10 registrants but could act as representatives). Group agreed to the benefit of having a topographic map that shows the lake and various streams, etc. feeding the lake.

Actions: Donna Rae and Donna Wunderlich to locate map
Group members to contact Donna Rae if wishing to join in water treatment and Columbia Lake tour

3.6 Flyer on Invasive Weeds/Boating Information brochure:

Cathy Coombe shared a flyer on invasive weeds presently available online. Discussion on whether to print this document in black and white or color (\$.80 for 2) to have available for spring AGM's.

Cathy also drafted a brochure with key pieces of information from a published *BC Boating Guide* aimed to education of boaters. The intent of the document would be that it can be modified by each community - Columbia Ridge, Columere, Canal Flats etc. to include information that is specific to their community. Tracy indicated that Wendy Booth, thru RDEK may have funds to cover printing costs. Agreed that brochure should include map with “red zones” where boats should not travel. Various ideas for distribution of brochure and maps were discussed, including laminated copies at key boating areas. All agreed to aim to finalize brochure in time for area Annual General Meetings.

Action: All to review the two version of the printed flyer as well as the draft “Boating on Columbia Lake” brochure and provide comments to Cathy Coombe over the next week.

(Cathy’s email: cacoombe@cbe.ab.ca)

-Tracy to contact Wendy Booth to discuss funding.

4.0 Additional Activities being considered:

4.1 Invasive weeds partnered with boat washing station

4.2 Promoting water conservation

4.3 Lake shore and lake bottom clean-up

6.0 Other Business:

-Bill Thompson and Tracy Flynn met with Suzanne Bayley, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta. She is a technical advisor to the EK Conservation Program which is the source of funding for our Grant. In the awarding of the Grant she made some specific comments on monitoring equipment and procedures. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss those comments as well as to seek advice that she might be able to offer on monitoring in general. Dr. Bayley is in the process of moving to the Edgewater area.

Bill has offered to lead the scientific aspect of the monitoring work. Monitoring was conducted intermittently in the past at two sites; one off Armstrong Bay and the second just offshore of Canal Flats. Monitoring will continue at these two sites. It may be necessary to add more locations. It is expected that we will measure water temperature, phosphate levels, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. The schedule is to be determined but we expect measurements will be conducted at two week intervals. It was specified in our Grant submission that boats will be supplied by local communities. We will attempt to borrow monitoring equipment for the Lake Windermere Ambassadors in the initial stages. This will allow us to develop familiarity with the equipment and thereby be more knowledgeable when it comes time to buy. Tracy indicated that a subcommittee will be set up to coordinate and undertake the operational component of the water monitoring program.

Donna and Dave Rae were acknowledged for their time and energy dedicated to water testing in prior years.

Action: Bill to provide technical advice after consultation with Kirsten, to the water testing subcommittee.

- It was suggested that meetings on weekends, when part time residents can participate, would be beneficial.

Action: Tracy will attempt to schedule meetings that will allow for the most participation from full and part-time residents.

-Bob Coy brought up concerns over rumored removal of the berm on the Columbia River between Columere and Fairmont. He feels the removal will drop the lake level, resulting in a variety of problems.

Action: Anyone with further information on this rumored action could provide specifics to the CLSS.