

Columbia Lake Stewardship Society

April 21, 7pm, 2014

Attendees: Ted, Tracy, Anne, Pat

Unable to Attend: Mary, Bill, Cathy, Ken, Donna W, Dave & Donna R

1. Meeting was called to order at 7 pm and guests Claudia, Fred and Ken Becker were welcomed. Sometime was spent discussing Becker's concerns and addressing their questions regarding:
 - Why has the CLSS formed and are we not duplicating efforts of several other groups? It was explained that the CLSS is unique in that they are the only group currently in existence whose main concern and focus is Columbia Lake. It was explained that CLSS is in contact with and receiving support and guidance from several other groups including Lake Windermere Ambassadors - LWA, Living Lakes Canada, Columbia Basin Watershed Network and BC Lake Stewardship Society. This approach fits in with one of CLSS's mission statements: Communicate and network with others, as required to achieve our goals.
 - Why are there so few people at the table? We explained that we have a core group of approximately 10 members and that these members are in constant phone and email contact yet not always able to physically attend meetings. Our larger, interested group that we provide email updates to, and who are also invited to any of our open meetings, numbers around 50. Attendance at our meetings has fluctuated between 5-25 but lack of attendance at any one meeting is not to be construed as a lack of interest.
 - Concern was expressed over the diverting of Dutch Creek in the past and the resultant perceived drop in water levels in Columbia Lake. There was a suggestion that the water in Dutch Creek be reverted back to its original course: This matter is outside the scope of our mandate and our authority and we lacked the historical background to provide any comment on the original event.
2. Tracy provided a review of some past and upcoming events:
 - April 20: The first Columbia Lake water test of season completed! We are awaiting test results - more to follow.
 - April 22: water testing with LWA on Windermere Lake scheduled (and since completed). It will be interesting to compare the results to Columbia Lake's, once in.
 - April 23: Tracy to attend/has attended LWA board meeting to update them on our progress, to thank them for their support and to discuss ongoing collaboration efforts.

- May 4: Columere Park Board meeting - We discussed the possibility of Ted asking the board for sponsorship of our funding request that we are proposing to submit to Wendy Booth for Grant in Aid (DGIA).
 - May 8th 7-9pm: Course - free two hour session thru College of the Rockies. Registration required. Topic: “liability traps for non-profit groups”. Description: the presenter will discuss the legal duties and potential personal liability of directors of clubs, associations and other societies. Attendance at this course is encouraged as we are exploring the option of becoming a not-for-profit society.
 - May 12 or 26th, 6:30 pm: CLSS representative to attend Canal Flats Council Meeting to update them on our mission, vision and planned activities and to ask for their support.
 - May 17th: AGM’s and information meetings - Columere (Ted), Timber Springs (Bill), Spirits Reach (Mary), Columbia Ridge (?). We will be attending to explain the goals and objectives of the Columbia Lake Stewardship group and to invite participation from a broad base of individuals.
 - July: Schedule open house as per grant specifications/Combine with Boat Washing station?
 - October - November: Present the outcome of the summer’s work during an open house meeting at a local Community Hall (Canal Flats or Fairmont Hot Springs?).
3. In preparation for CLSS presentations at upcoming community AGM's, information meetings and council meetings we discussed development of presentation material based on the power point presentation Ken authored.
 - Some presenters would prefer a paper copy of the information
 - We need to add in a section that highlights and thanks our grant providers - Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund and the support of the Columbia Ridge Community Association in the grant application process.
 4. Discussion on forming a not-for-profit society - the Pros and cons. Donation of the funds required to incorporate was offered. Since many of the core members were not in attendance we will be continuing the discussion via email.
 5. Anne offered to draft a budget for DGIA
 6. Tracy provided the attached outline for setting up a lake monitoring program
 7. Meeting adjourned at 8:10

Lake Monitoring Outline

Grant Criteria:

January - March 2014 - Develop a water testing schedule that will encourage community involvement.

April 2014 - Take one sample at each test point immediately after ice-off and analyze for phosphorus levels.

June - September 2014 - Sample water weekly at 2 test points on Columbia Lake (the two historic sites: North End, off Armstrong Bay and South End, just north of Canal Flats). Record and store results for future reference in a database.

Grant Measuring Success Criteria:

- Number of water quality monitoring events (target = 5 events to collect lab samples, more events as volunteer time and interest allows)
- Number of volunteers per event (target = 2 per event, more as space on boat allows)
- Diversity of volunteers involved in water monitoring (target = one from each Community Association, as well as from the Village of Canal Flats)
- Establishment of a water quality results database

Grant Financing

- \$700 water testing budget: Estimated expenses -5 months at 150/month = \$750
- \$125 shipping: 5 months estimated at 25/month = \$125

Recommendations:

- Bill to provide technical advice in conjunction with Suzanne Bailey and Kirsten
- Monitor from 3 test sites: 2 historic sites plus new site near Columere
- All volunteers must read and sign the Volunteer Procedure document as per BCSS guidelines - <http://www.bclss.org/images/stories/insurance/2012/Safety%20waiver%202012.pdf>
- All volunteers encouraged to view LWA online training <http://www.lakeambassadors.ca/stewardship/science-water-quality-in-lake-windermere/>
- We want to engage volunteers from each community in targeted bi-weekly sampling. These volunteers need to be trained before their start date. In addition to the online training provided by LWA, physical hands-on training is necessary. Potential training opportunities include accompanying Kirsten (while sampling Lake Windermere) or Tracy (while sampling

Columbia Lake in May). We also hope to have a core group of trained samplers - Pat, Mary, Donna W - available to help with training community members for the months of June-August.

- Proposed Water testing Schedule:
 - May - Tracy/Pat/Mary/Donna W(open to volunteers from other communities)
 - June - Canal Flats (?)
 - July - Columere (Ted)
 - August - Columbia Ridge (Cathy?)
 - September - Tracy/Pat/Mary/Donna? (open to volunteers from other communities)
- Bill has volunteered to construct a water quality data base and input results