

**COLUMBIA LAKE  
STEWARDSHIP  
SOCIETY  
March 13, 2015  
Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 13, 2015  
Time: 19:30  
Place: Columbia Ridge

Participants	Org.		Participants	Org.	
Tracy Flynn	Co-Pres	P			
Donna Wunderlich	Notes	P			
Anne Murphy	Member	P			
Ken Croasdale	Co-Pres	P			
Mary McGovern	Member	P			
Bill Thompson	Member	P			
David Hubbard	Guest	P			
Donna Rae	Member	P			
Megan Peloso	Guest	P			
Cathy Coombe	Member	R			
Marie Delorme	Member	R			
Gilbert Delorme	Member	R			
Dave Rae	Member	R			
<i>P – Present, R – Regrets</i>					

**1. Introductions and Round Table**

Megan of the Lake Windermere Ambassadors was introduced to the CLSS members present and provided information regarding her background and her interest in our work

**2. Grants and Financial Position**

- CVLCF \$12,035
- Columere Marina (Rae's) \$500
- Columbia Ridge Community Association \$100
- Canal Flats \$500
- Timbers Community- wanting to understand what the role and plans of CLSS are and what the current financial resources will be used for. Bill is communicating with.
- Also awaiting response from Spirits Reach and Columere communities

**3. Out Reach and Collaboration**

### 3.1 Jolene Raggett/ Ministry of Environment:

Bill's report has garnered a lot of interest from a variety of individuals.

Jolene is based out of Nelson and working with the Ministry of the Environment. If funding is received she plans to conduct water monitoring on CL collecting spring and fall data. The overall plan is to develop a network of lakes throughout BC and collect spring and fall data for chlorophyll a, nutrients, ions and metals as well as field measurements (DO, specific conductance, temperature, pH, secchi depth) to develop a long term data set. CL was recommended for inclusion due to its size and location in the Columbia Headwaters, potential for further development, and also because CLSS is active in lake monitoring.

Tracy will connect with her about joining in our spring monitoring.

### 3.2 Aquatic Invasive Species Project

The Columbia Basin Trust has recently initiated a collaborative project with the four regional invasive plant committees in the Columbia Basin to develop a coordinated aquatic invasive species (AIS) program. The aim is to design a program that includes coordination, education and outreach, monitoring and response, and watercraft inspection/decontamination. The program is presently at the research and info gathering phase.

Khaylish of the Central Kootenay Invasive Plant Council has asked if CLSS would be willing to provide "in kind" support for their program; specifically to assist with signage. Tracy indicated there is basic signage already in Columere and Canal Flats but improvements could be made at these locations. We could also look at signage for Provincial Park and potentially community water access point(s).

It was agreed that we support this work and that it fits with our goals for 2015. Canal flats is interested in this type of focus and will be organizing a washing station June 6<sup>th</sup> at community center, plus one other on a busy weekend - date to be determined. June 6<sup>th</sup> is the weekend of Canal Flats days and they are planning to run an information session on invasive species with the help of the CLSS and the Invasive Plant Council.

Donna Rae indicated that Katie of the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council had done some sampling by the Columere Marina last year, looking for milfoil. Katie indicated that it didn't appear to be present but laboratory test would be required in order to confirm her observations. Since then Todd Larsen of the EKIPC has informed us that "As far as I know, EKIPC's AIS outreach crew (Cathy and Linda) keyed out the samples and ID'd them to be Northern (native) milfoil. We will do another more rigorous inventory of Columbia Lake this summer."

## 4.0 Water quality Sampling

### 4.1 Year over year improvements/learning:

Tracy indicated that we do need to make some modifications to our water monitoring plan for this year based on feedback we have received. Plan to look for the deepest portion of the lake.

It was agreed that Dave Hubbard will use his GPS to mark the new testing location, possibly by connecting with Cathy and Jim Coombe with their boat and depth meter.

### 4.2. Water Keepers Course:

Tracy is attending a waterkeepers course in Victoria at the end of the month. Megan will investigate the potential of having the course offered in our area, as a few CLSS members indicated their interest in attending.

#### 4.3 Other sources of monitoring/quality reports:

Bill indicated that he will contact the water utilities to obtain water sampling data.

Dave Rae is reaching out to the MoE to access data on past water testing, which occurred about 10 years ago. It was agreed that this information should be added to our data base.

#### 4.4 Ice Off:

**\*\*Post meeting note: Ice off was officially the day after this meeting- March 14, 2015 in am.**

#### 5.0 Canal Flats Update

June 6<sup>th</sup> weekend will be Canal Flats Days. They will run a boat washing station at the Community Grounds and the AIS group intends to have an information booth.

There are also plans to run a second boat washing weekend this summer at the boat launch. Date has yet to be determined. We have the opportunity for our summer student to participate in the boat wash event with education and outreach.

#### 6.0 Summer Student

We will hear back from the summer grants program in May. We have asked for one student at 30 hours per week at \$15 per hour, to work for 2 months on Columbia Lake. Dollars were included to enable Megan to provide some supervision. LWA have asked for one student for 4 months. Thanks to Megan for putting the request/proposal together.

Canal flats boat launch hires two students as well. As they provide supervision already, Tracy has begun discussions on having them provide supervision when our student is working in the boat launch area.

#### 7.0 Lake Windermere Ambassadors Update by Megan

Lake Windermere Ambassadors will be working through their mission and focus during a strategic planning session April 7-8th. One of the goals in their current work plan is to work towards collaborative watershed governance, in the Upper Columbia River and they are in the midst of evaluating their progress and setting new directions towards this goal. Lake Windermere health and enhanced community engagement and involvement will likely remain of primary focus as well. Results from the strategic planning session will help inform key areas of collaboration between our groups.

The Ambassadors also act as the Lake Management Committee which means the RDEK or District of Invermere can reach out to the Ambassadors board for input on development and plans that may impact the lake. Further Wendy Booth (RDEK) and Al Miller (District of Invermere) act as advisors to the board and participate in meetings which keeps the board informed of related happenings and events.

The Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners group was briefly discussed. It was indicated that their focus is on the wetlands from Invermere north. (A correction was made after the meeting - CWSPs also consider wetland areas south towards Columbia Lake in their programs; not

including Lake Windermere). The group is mentioned in the Fairmont Hot Springs Official Community Plan - “this plan supports the Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Partners in managing the Columbia River Wetlands.”

A brief discussion was held regarding the number of organizations with parallel interests and the potential for the organizations to be linked/coordinated in some way...as Anne suggested- a mothership. Megan identified that CBT are a great source of funding for watershed stewardship groups but to her knowledge they are mainly focused on collaboration, communication and networking rather than governance.

## 8.0 Annual General Meeting

We are required to hold an AGM this year as a requirement in holding society status. The group agree that it would make sense to combine a meeting with a CLSS open house. Discussions focused around potentially gearing the open house events and information towards families/ children in order to draw participation and interest. It was further agreed that we hold our open house in August, when we will have our student on board and when the members at the table indicated greater ability for planning and participation. It was further suggested that we could also invite other like-minded organizations to participate in the open house in order to broaden the information available to the adult audience.

Rachel Darvill formerly with CBWN, currently with Wildsight, has agreed to come and speak to our group about aquatic plants and other biological inventories happening around CL (i.e. Lewis’s Woodpeckers, Columbia Wetlands Waterbirds surveys).

Separate from the CLSS AGM, it was agreed that we seek an opportunity to present at each of the community AGMs again this year. We would be able to provide an update of work to date and announce the future AGM and open house as well as other events planned for the year.

## 9.0 East Kootenay Integrated Lake Management Partnership

Has produced three reports related to Columbia Lake:

- Columbia Lake Foreshore Inventory and Mapping
- Columbia Lake Sensitive Habitat Inventory and Mapping
  - Indicates no vessels in excess of 10 km/hr within 100 m of any part of shore on the east side (this is part of transport Canada regulations)
  - CPR should be a partner in Columbia Lake management including safety of shipping and development and sharing of an emergency spill response plan
  - Mooring chains be replaced by lines that float
  - Protection of wildlife trees
  - Nodal development of docks with shared access
  - Develop a comprehensive lake management plan

- Columbia Lake Shoreline Management Guidelines for Fish and Wildlife Habitat
  - This document is meant to guide future development on the shores of CL
- Links for these reports: [www.ekilmp.com](http://www.ekilmp.com)

## 10. Fairmont Hot Springs OCP

Documents of interest to the CLSS include the Columbia Lake Management Strategy, and most importantly, to section 9.6 of the Fairmont Hot Springs Area OCP. Both of these documents are available online on the RDEK website by looking under the Planning & Development Services page and under Bylaws, respectively.

Adjustments were made in 2011 to recommendation of Columbia Lake Management Strategy document as a result of the EKILMP documents including:

- Support of a public boat launch on the north end of Columbia Lake
- Allowance for private community moorage subject to conditions
- Docks (ratio 1:4) supported over mooring buoys (ratio 1:10)
- Support of the CWSP in managing Columbia River Wetlands
- Private mooring buoys are not permitted outside areas zoned for that purpose

## 11.0 Bill Thompson Report/Update

Ed Gillmor, hydrogeologist, is moving to Columere and keen to participate on our board.

Bill is meeting with the Water Quality Monitoring Project members on Monday to advise of our decision to be considered a member of the Project. If we are accepted participation carries with it some funding for water quality monitoring and the opportunity to fraternize with other likeminded groups. Post meeting note; Our application was turned down in favor of three other groups, all mainly focused on stream monitoring. However, it was learned that the Columbia Basin Watershed Network was successful in its bid for two Grants. Some funding will be available to attend a Canadian Aquatic Biomonitoring Network (CABIN) workshop and yet to be announced water quality monitoring workshop to be held at Blue Lake)

A CABIN workshop will be held at Golden this coming August. We should have someone attend if possible.

There is a spring conference in Nelson of members of the Columbia Basin Watershed Network. As we are members, would be great to participate. Bill will provide more information.

Plans for this year:

- Water quantity monitoring- add two new stations- Dutch Creek Bridge and one on Columbia River, just south of bridge to monitor of flow into and out of lake, respectively. There will be multiple uses for this data going forward.
- Bill obtained permission from the Canal Flats Village Council to install a water level monitoring device on the bridge in the Source of the Columbia River Park near the Village.

The intent is to obtain an estimate of the inflow seeping through the ground from the adjacent Kootenay River. .

- Bill advised that he will need most of the funds that he budgeted for in our application for the Grant from the Columbia Valley Local Conservation Fund when they become available
- Bill expressed some frustration with his attempts to get approval from the Provincial government to place monitoring stations on Crown Land. The process requires a lot of documentation and may take several weeks for approval to be granted. There is also a 250 dollar application fee that was unexpected. This may result in some the installations falling behind schedule.

## 12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 21:45 pm.

DRAFT