

CLSS meeting - Oct 22/16

4pm CRCC

In Attendance: Bill, Tracy, Tom, Nancy, Ed, Peggy, Donna R (no secretary)

1. Update on monitoring activities:

Water Quantity (Bill)

- Four stations operated throughout season
- Current meter purchased and discharge measurements made toward end of season when water levels receded.
- Runoff started early due to warm spring, peak occurred about one week earlier and below normal. Fall has been wet with flows above normal.
  - Results of monitoring activities
    - seepage from Kootenay River may be less than previously estimated
    - Columbia Lake Management Strategy may need review

Water Quality (Tom and Nancy)

- About 10 water sampling events held with varying levels of quality of monitoring results
- Quality of data varied due to lake conditions, timing of sampling events and submission of results to the lab
- Large number of volunteer samplers and difficulty getting all members trained sufficiently
- Results pretty much the same as prior years Ph near neutral but slightly more basic during the summer, turbidity and electrical conductance increased during high lake use months and dissolved oxygen concentrations decline over the summer (not at levels that affect fish habitat)
- Total phosphorous not at concentrations that would be considered harmful but this year we deleted nitrate and added dissolved phosphorous -experts from the lake keepers alliance suggest that dissolved phosphorous a more useful indicator of lake health
- Ratio to total phosphorous to dissolved phosphorous varies significantly from place to place and over the summer - not sure if that change is a significant finding.

Considerations for next year:

1. Keep the program the same but reduce volunteer samplers to improve data quality
2. Acquire a dedicated water sampler (summer student) to improve data collection accuracy and reproducibility
3. Change the program to monitor for water quality at fewer times (say early spring and late fall) but for more chemical parameters.

## 2. Activities and Updates

- Application has been made to CBT for a grant for a feasibility study to identify areas of upwelling at south end of Lake and data sources suitable to conduct a study to estimate inflow.
- Application was also made to CBT for an Education program for EMES at Canal Flats
- Presentation to CVLCF members and local politicians by Donna R in conjunction with LWA's
- Bill and Tracy had informal meeting with Wendy Booth related to current public perception related to CLSS (good) and future direction/activities for CLSS. Wendy suggested contracting of a planner to formulate a long range Plan for the CLSS (DGIA funds may be available)
- Fairmont and Columbia Lake OCP -Higher Density Lakeside development- Possible area of concern in draft OCP. Columbia Lake Management Strategy- WMA boating speed restrictions need to be posted. RDEK is the responsible agent. They will have to add to RDEK work plan and prioritize (may not be a high priority)
- CBWN Geo-mapping funding - still no progress
- Columbia Lake Provincial Park update. Road into park will be closed while BC parks upgrades it, establishes parking lot at end of road, blocks off access to lot 48 and to lake. Further road access and parking lot beside lake will be considered next year.

## 3. For discussion - Forthcoming Activities

- Application to CVLCF for grant to purchase additional water quantity monitoring equipment and admin support as well as ongoing costs associated with quality/quantity monitoring program due Oct 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Need to schedule AGM, file year end for Society, and add to current slate of directors
- Other possible grant applications - ie. Fish and Wildlife
- Bill to write article on impact of reduction of monitoring services by senior governments
- Feasibility of hiring a summer student for 2017
- Report preparations
- Involvement with LWA's - Tracy to resign as formal director of LWA but to keep lines of communication open re possible collaborative projects
- CR Rafting Education and Infrastructure Project - nearing completion.
- Education at Tilley Memorial Park - more can be done next year
- Educational Boat tours summer 2017 - effective way to engage the public but relies on donation of pontoon boat/gas
- Educational Material for info boxes, Newsletters - can we develop this material over the winter season so it is ready for the spring?

### **Outstanding Action items (as of Nov 30<sup>th</sup>):**

- Record Freeze up Date of Columbia Lake (All observe and let me know please)
- Organize December 10<sup>th</sup> AGM (Tracy, Donna W. Nancy) December 7th
- Preparing year end monitoring report (Tom, Bill, Nancy) December 15<sup>th</sup>
- File year end Societies report, transition to new Societies Act requirements and complete year end financials (Tracy) December 2016,
- Filing final CBT and CVLCF reports (Tracy, Bill, Tom) January 2017
- Look into feasibility of hiring summer student? (Tracy with input from all) Feb/2017
- Formulate educational articles/newsletters for summer 2017 - (Anne?) May 15/2017
- Investigate Lake related educational programs for youth (Tracy) March/2017
- Arrange boat tours for summer 2017? (Donna R?) June 2017
- Organize a fun lake related event for 2017 (Volunteers?)
- Contracting of a planner to formulate a long range Plan for the CLSS? All- for discussion
- Keep in contact with RDEK re WMA boating speed restrictions that need to be posted. (Tracy)