

Minutes from Columbia Lake Stewardship Society AGM 2015

Date and Time Convened: Friday, October 23, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Event Location: Columbia Ridge Community Centre

Persons in Attendance: Tracy F

Ken Croasdale
Bill Thompson
Anne Murphy
Donna Rae
Pat Guenther
Ernie Guenther

Financial Report: The financial report was delivered by Tracy Flynn and is attached to the minutes. The report indicated the society had total assets of \$8500 made up of a combination of grants (RDEK and CVLCF), business donations (Columere Park Marina) and community donations (Canal Flats, Timber Springs, Spirits Reach, Columbia Ridge Estates). At the time of the meeting, there were some additional bills totaling \$1700 that required submission from Bill Thompson before the final report could be submitted.

Summary of 2015 Activities: Tracy Flynn summarized the activities of the Columbia Lake Stewardship Society in 2015. These included 13 water quality sampling events on the lake, lake level and lake inflow measurements, presentations at 4 community AGMs, installation of brochure holders filled with educational materials at Columere, Spirits Reach and Columbia Ridge community lakefront locations, an open house held August 15th in Canal Flats and Columbia Ridge and a plant sampling boating expedition in conjunction with the East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council.

It was also noted that our grant application for a summer student was not approved but LWA shared their student with us and contributed their volunteer assistance with our initiatives.

Report by Bill Thompson on Water Level Monitoring:

Bill reported that considerable effort has been expended and work has been completed on the installation of four water level gauges. Their locations are: Columbia Lake Headwaters Park near Canal Flats, Columere Park Marina, Dutch Creek and Columbia River. Data loggers calculate and store water level and water temperature at each gauge site. Data was collected on an hourly basis with these gauges throughout the summer. He hopes that this information can be compared with historical data and recorded over an extensive period of time to determine any

changes in the water balance in the Watershed. Bill hopes to add an additional data logger as a backup and also procure a current meter to measure flow rates.

Plans for 2016.

1. It was noted that significant concern was voiced by community residents at all AGMs regarding the perceived increase of milfoil growth at certain points along Columbia Lake. To address these concerns, the society hopes to accomplish the following initiatives in 2016:
 - a) request the contractor complete the design of the Columbia Lake map and submit for fabrication before January 2016
 - b) identify the aquatic plants in Columbia Lake and map areas of emergent vegetation (support is required from Ministry of Environment and/or EKIPC)
 - c) map the low water areas and red zones in the lake for the protection of areas with high ecological values and work on communicating these areas to boaters
 - d) explore the costs associated with acquiring satellite data and aerial photography of the lake for more accurate mapping of aquatic plants to record changes over time.
 - e) continue to work with EKIPC on monitoring and sampling plants on the lake
2. Anne suggested the possibility of producing a short video about Columbia Lake, its aquatic plants, fish and waterfowl, the threats to the lake from invasive plants and zebra mussels and steps we can take to protect our lake and continue to enjoy its many benefits. This video can be presented at local AGMs around the lake and also distributed to interested community members via internet.
3. Tracy volunteered to work on targeting young people in our communities and getting them involved in protecting the lake. She suggested preparing some presentations that could be offered to the students in Canal Flats and Invermere.
4. We agreed that we would try to put in a grant application again this year for a student to assist with all our programs including assisting Bill in the water level monitoring work. It was suggested that perhaps a joint application could be considered with Canal Flats.
5. Tracy also agreed to volunteer some time working with Wendy Booth at RDEK on safe rafting/boating practices along Columbia River.
6. It was determined that we would work to provide signage and information to contribute to an information kiosk at Canal Flats.
7. It was also decided that we should continue to record and perhaps enhance information regarding ice thickness, ice formation and ice break up dates on the lake.

8. It was agreed that water quality and water level testing were successful last year and the information useful and should be continued in 2016.

Budget: The budget for 2015 was presented by Tracy and reviewed by all and is attached. Bill Thompson noted that his budget submission for 2015 included a sum for surveying which was promised to be provided pro bono. He requested that these allocated funds be transferred to the purchase of the data logger and current meter.

Election of Officers: Those in attendance at the meeting were surveyed to determine if there were any motions for the addition of new officers to the society. It was unanimously decided to retain the current board of officers.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.