

**Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society - Board Minutes**  
**February 24th, 2022 - 10:00AM, Boardroom at MLA Adam Walkers Office**

Present: David James (Chair), Pat Jacobson, Neil Worboys, Neil Carruthers, Gord Almond, Ray Woroniak, Tom Whitfield, Louella MacVicar, Daryl Erickson, Peter Drummond

Guest: Bertrand Girard

**Items of Business:**

1. Approval of Minutes, September 14, 2021 - Moved by Neil C. seconded by Tom that the minutes be approved. Carried.

2. Financial/ Membership Update - Daryl advised that as of Feb. 21, 2022 there are currently 66 paid members. A preliminary Financial Summary for 2021/2022 is attached. Our auditors are currently preparing the financial statements for the last fiscal year.

3. Project Activity

**Little Qualicum River Estuary**

- Feb. 19 work party was successful in the final removal of a large patch of blackberries. We were pleasantly surprised by the quality and the depth of the soil on that site. Details will be posted to the website.
- The RDN is providing a 5K donation annually to BCCF for the LQR estuary planning, it is expected that representatives from all the groups will meet in the near future to start preparation of the next 5 year plan.
- Tom advises that Sitka Spruce, Maple (big leaf), and Nootka Rose are particularly successful on the spit.
- Next work could include maintenance on the plants in x-closures.
- Approx. \$600 is left from the Sawers family donation.

**Grandon Creek**

- Tom suggests planting Cedar and Hemlock in gaps along the trail where there are pockets of sunlight, this will likely be a fall project.
- Tom will give official notice to the Province regarding the 6 Great Blue Heron nests next to the lower part of the trail.
- David to contact Luke to see if the Town can provide some assistance (short of a formal survey) as to where the public land is along the trail.

- In general, the knowledge that private property owners own most of the land in the ravine has consequences with respect to future activity. We need to determine what our insurance covers in terms of working on these private lands.
- Peter to send a reminder to Luke that the sediment and stones need to be cleared out of the first caisson at the foot of the trail.
- At some point we need to better understand the responsibility of the private property owners for the riparian areas which they own.
- 377 Parker Road - Peter advises that this property ( longtime home to hundreds of derelict cars) is to be cleared of the cars by summer. If not, FLNRO will step in and make it happen.
- Hoy Lake Road Plantings. Streamkeepers will not be involved in any re-vegetation on the road above Grandon Creek, other than providing some advice on native plant selection.

### **Beach Creek**

- Peter reported that a beaver had recently taken up residence in the creek and that a trap had been set to catch the animal. The Town was contacted and the trap was removed. Relocation of the beaver at this point in winter would have led to its demise. The beaver however, has since moved on.
- The GC also removed a Beaver dam, Peter advised them that this is not allowed under the 2010 Beach Creek Management Plan.
- The GC still uses pesticides. Getting an "Audubon" Rating at some point in the future would be a good strategy.

### **Seaside Nature Park/Faye Smith Pavilion**

- The Town has been keeping the plantings in good shape, a work crew of about 8 folks were there a week or so ago. Pat to send a thank you note.
- Peter suggested to the Town that they put in a porta potty or two for the summer.
- The Town has been advised that Streamkeepers wouldn't be fund raising for a second phase of the park, as it is mostly infrastructure related and is outside of our mandate. However, if plantings were involved we could provide some volunteers.

### **MABRII Wetland Monitoring**

- Ray and David have been working with MABRII. There is one site currently, off Laburnum, and another test area planned. This monitoring happens once every season. There are two other helpers, and this activity is extremely interesting. We should advise our members when the next one is planned, in case anyone wants to tag along as an observer.

## **Level-Logger Downloads and Flowtracker monitoring on Beach and Grandon Creeks.**

- Ray is working with Thea Rodgers of BCCF, we will soon have one year of data on Beach Creek. Ray also advises that there is a KSS student that has volunteered to help with process.

## **Forage Fish Monitoring**

- Daryl, Ray & others are monitoring sites around the Little Qualicum Estuary every month. Ray advises that VIU may take out some KSS students to a downtown beach. There is a need to do monitoring around Milner Gardens. (If you need more volunteers, just ask, we can send out a request to our members)

## **Habitat Assessment and Streamkeeper Course**

- There is no need at this time to do a habitat assessment.  
- David to advise Barb Riordan to keep us informed of any upcoming SK courses taking place in our general area.

## **Yellow Fish**

- Peter is going to keep 50 for future use at events and/or finding new homes on brown lawns. We agreed that it would be good to have our name and website address affixed to the fish.

## 4. Outreach and Communication

### **Beach Day Display - Sunday July 17th**

- Tom is the chair of this committee, with David and Peter active participants. Some suggestions for this years display included shark dissection, and micro critters.

## **Schools Outreach**

- Ray is working with SD69, Nanaimo Area Land Trust, VIU, MABRII, Qualicum First Nation and others to come up with a curriculum for KSS students - revolving around Salmon and Beach Creek. This is based on 5 Learning Ideas:

1. Learning through raising and releasing salmon.
2. Gathering data for DFO, BCCF & MABRII. Building the UBC and Aquarius Data Bases.
3. Learning through caring for Beach Creek/stream and salmon stewardship
4. Learning with focus on Beach Creek -history and ecosystems.

5. Stream and habitat restoration projects for salmon and water filtration.

- There will be a presentation at an MABR Roundtable on March 4th.

- Timing is for a start in 2025, but could be sooner?

Pat moved, and Neil C seconded a motion to support the development of the KSS Salmon Stewardship Curriculum Program as outlined by Ray Woroniak. Carried.

### **Brant Festival**

- The Streamkeepers Tour is slated for 1PM on Saturday, April 2nd. David will conduct the tour if available, or line-up others. We will include bird watching, Bertrand to lead this activity, Pat will provide contact info to Bertrand for Arrowsmith Naturalist participant. They will have scopes and binoculars. The bird watching can be done near the end of the tour. (Note- we should tell the story of the geese, and why they are not welcome)

### **Beach Creek Spit Signage**

- Does not appear feasible at this time, but there could be an opportunity for interpretive signage on the waterfront even if the walkway and viewing platform are not constructed.

### **ROAMS class KSS - Possible volunteer project**

- Ray to contact KSS re a forage fish sampling project, Daryl to assist.

### **MABR II Open House - March 16th**

- We will participate with a display, and Ray is to request a 12 foot table. We will not participate in the presentations.

- Timing is from 2-8 pm at the QB Civic Centre

- We will put together a display with monitoring equipment and program information, along with other signage and display material that we have.

More details will be sent out in the next few days.

We note the passing of Bob Drew Brook, a founding member of QB Streamkeepers, and will be sending a card to his family, as well as updating our website.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:15

Prepared by Pat Jacobson  
February 24th, 2022

## QBSK Preliminary Financial Summary For 2021/2022

Opening Equity			\$8,509
Income			
Membership	\$650		
General Donations	\$301		
Revenue from LQRE Dor	<u>\$356</u>		
		\$1,225	
Expenses			
QBSK Administration	\$760		
Donation to Others	\$100		
Project Costs	<u>\$1,287</u>		
		<u>\$2,147</u>	
Change for Fiscal Year 2022			<u>-\$922</u>
Closing Equity (Cash and Assets minus Liabilities)			\$7,587

As of Feb. 21, 2022 there are currently 66 paid members  
By end of March, eighteen memberships will be due for renewal.