

## **Qualicum Beach Streamkeepers Society - Board Meeting Minutes**

May 31st, 2023, start at 10:00 am, adjourned 11:45 am, boardroom at MLA Adam Walker's office

**Present:** David James, Ray Woroniak, Pat Jacobson, Gord Almond, Ed Wasiuk, Neil Worboys, Tom Whitfield, Louella MacVicar, Linnea Saltel

- 1) **Approval of Agenda** - Approved, with addition of ministerial climate change meeting.
- 2) **Approval of March 13th Minutes** - Motioned by Neil, seconded by Tom.
- 3) **Financial Update and Memberships** - see financial attachment.
- 4) **Project Activity**

### **Little Qualicum River**

- Plant inventory- deciduous plants doing better than expected with more recoveries than expected (some of this vegetation is from the past 8 years); we will continue to irrigate this area.
- Plan to do more planting after river bank is built up again.
- Signage - QBSK to plan to do initial work to make signage more clear at the estuary.
- RDN review - we have been contacting them regularly and not much progress has happened; will continue to contact regularly. RDN also has a new operations coordinator, which may help with progress.
- Louella mentioned it may be helpful to have a representative from RDN attend QBSK meetings; David stated he will ask RDN about this.
- Soil testing - two samples have been done; BCCEF and Streamside to do more soil testing and plantings with funding from PSF.
- Raymond James Project support - we currently have \$5500 in the bank from them.

### **Memorial Golf Club**

- Pat talked to Peter; QBSK to follow up with the town.

### **Faye Smith Pavillion**

- Vegetation is thriving again; we may need to arrange another work party there. The area that was cleared by us in March has filled in again.
- The town was supposed to take responsibility for this area - QBSK to communicate with town again about pavilion responsibility.
- QBSK to organize another weeding work party.

### **MABRI Tire Chemical Monitoring**

- No recent action since there hasn't been any rain.

### **Level Logger and Water Flow Monitoring**

- Ed stated we could aim for bi-weekly monitoring.

- On April 19th - BCCEF met at Grandon creek and three benchmarks were installed.
- Flowtracking was also done that day, though the results were skewed due to having hail and rain that day; flowtracking was also completed upstream at Grandon creek.
- May 26th - we reactivated "bucket brigade" - the results this day were within margin of 0.5% error.
- It was found that Grandon was flowing 5 L/s, and Beach Creek was 3 L/s.
- Beach creek flowing fast but low - increased velocity but not volume; 4 cm lower; this is likely due to increased logging in the area.
- Mark took computer to do level logger downloading.
- Allie and QBSK could potentially use data to do a presentation on climate change; we could report the peaks and lows of flowtracking to illustrate climate change effects.

### **Ministerial Meeting**

- Louella and Pat met with Adam Walker to discuss shipbreaking and coastal marine strategy, which we learned is largely up to the provincial government. Also discussed local watersheds and implications for town water supply.
- Parksville is especially at risk of running out of water during a drought (also due to town growing in population); in this case water may need to be supplied on an emergency basis. Loss of snowpack also affecting watersheds.
- There is supposedly funds being built for possibly building water reservoirs.
- Adam couldn't answer all questions, as many have to do with other ministries. There is supposed to be a report put together in the future.
- Broombusters- maybe provincial government could be partly responsible as well as BC Hydro.

### **Forage Fish Monitoring**

- We haven't found anything; may try other areas, such as the mouth of Beach Creek and Grandon Creek.
- We may need to find areas where there's more tree overhang. Milner Gardens section may be a good area for monitoring.

### **Beach Creek Gravel Project**

- We haven't heard back about grant that QBSK had applied for
- Tom talked about planting different types of trees, including willow and red osier; in September we could plant hemlock and grande fir.
- Tom inquired about coco matting - when we obtain some, we would need to be able to store it somewhere.
- Gord said he may have some coco mat - he will check into this.
- Golf course stretch has English ivy and holly; we may do a project in September to remove invasives. There are also two blown-over alder, which we could cut.

## **Beach Creek Bank Slippage**

- Losing golf course fairway due to bank slippage, particularly the fourth fairway. The golf course is concerned.
- This slippage is where the extra silt in creek could be coming from.
- Tom emailed Anne at golf course about this, but we haven't heard much back.
- The culvert under crescent road needs to be replaced - this will be a huge and expensive project. Discussing from perspective of roadwork/repair (rather than salmon spawning) might be what gets the town's attention.

## **Policy**

- Wetland monitoring - we could connect with data from Grandon.
- Proposal from Weaver Technical - can we find out if they would be receptive if other groups came?
- Brainstorming: we want aquifer to be healthy - is it our responsibility to make project happen? Can the golf course take the lead on this? Can RDN fund watershed project? Would the DFO benefit from this data?
- QB town is supposed to be working on climate strategy.

## **Outreach and Communication**

- Brant Children's Festival in March, organized by Ray and Sacha, was very successful with good turnout from both kids and parents.
- Family Day on May 28- was busy; may not be the best use of our time given the nature of the event
- The River Never Sleeps Festival on May 7th was well attended, and excellent networking opportunity with other mid-island groups
- Beach Day - July 16th - we could incorporate bullfrog tadpoles, bullfrog display.
- Streamkeeper Vests - Pat to order 20 vests, order small vest for Sacha.

## **Website, Mailchimp, Facebook**

- MailChimp - we plan to use for managing membership as well as communications to members, Daryl, Patrick James, and Pat to meet on June 7th to review status.
- Ray to put up volunteer job description for facebook.
- We could use more pictures for Facebook and website.