



**NATURE AND HABITAT FUND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2013 AT 7:00 PM

YIOUBOU COMMUNITY HALL – 8550 HEMLOCK STREET

AGENDA

- | | PAGES |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <u>APPROVAL OF AGENDA:</u> | 1 |
| 2. <u>ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR AND RECORDING SECRETARY:</u> | |
| 3. <u>REPORTS:</u> | |
| R1 Proposal by TimberWest for Expenditure from Area I To Be
(Youbou/Meade Creek) – Nature and Habitat Fund Distributed
Establishment Bylaw No. 3384 | |
| R2 Proposal by Cowichan Lake & River Stewardship Society for
Expenditure from Area I (Youbou/Meade Creek) – Nature and
Habitat Fund Establishment Bylaw No. 3384 | 2-3 |
| 4. <u>NEW BUSINESS:</u> | |
| 5. <u>CLOSED SESSION:</u> | |
| Motion that the meeting be closed to the public in accordance with the
<i>Community Charter</i> Part 4, Division 3, Section 90, subsections as noted in
accordance with each agenda item. | |
| 6. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> | |

The next Regular meeting of the Nature and Habitat Fund Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held at the call of the Chair.

Nature and Habitat Fund Advisory Committee
Director P. Weaver, Chair

Floyd Augustine
George deLure
Pat Foster
Lorne Scheffer



**Cowichan Lake & River
Stewardship Society**

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Application for funds from Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds

CLRSS is a grassroots volunteer group of caring neighbours dedicated to the protection and health of the Cowichan Watershed. Our involvement in four critical habitat studies has highlighted the ecological value of the Cowichan Lake shoreline which is 92% privately owned. Although 70% of this shoreline still in a natural state it is seriously threatened by development. Through our recent strategic planning process our members have committed to protecting and enhancing the Cowichan Lake shoreline as our primary focus.

Over the next three years CLRSS will:

- 1) Host a Lakeshore Habitat Management Workshop in April 2013 at The Cowichan Lake Education Centre (CLEC) in Lake Cowichan. This workshop, facilitated and paid for by DFO, will engage all stakeholders to develop an action plan to protect and enhance our critical shoreline habitat.
- 2) Educate our volunteers on riparian stewardship with a RAR workshop taught by Michelle Jones. This will be followed by a best practices program conducted by Peter Law which will include a shoreline tour.
- 3) Continue our Riparian Protection and Stewardship Program (45 visits in 2012) by consulting with 100 lakeshore landowners each year to instil riparian values. (See attached "Riparian Insights" brochure.)
- 4) Collaborate with the Cowichan Water Board, local government and Cowichan First Nations to meet with and engage F-1 landowners, including forest companies, in an effort to permanently protect their intact riparian areas.
- 5) Work with all levels of government to develop a positive incentive program to reward Lakeshore Stewards for their commitment to protect and enhance sensitive riparian habitat on private land.
- 6) Develop and create a public riparian restoration project with Dave Polster to demonstrate a healthy balance between recreation and riparian function.
- 7) Collaborate with DFO and MOE to identify and support ongoing research priorities on Cowichan Lake.
- 8) Engage youth as Lake Stewards through a Lake Studies Program with Lake Cowichan schools. We will include "Junior CLRSS Members" in the work-plan and field activities listed above.
- 9) Initiate a Lake Ambassadors Program which will employ summer students to increase public awareness, work on research priorities, and assist with rehabilitation projects on Cowichan Lake.
- 10) Continue our work to identify and permanently protect, through acquisition, areas of critical habitat. These areas have been identified in recent studies and an acquisition plan will be developed through the Lakeshore Habitat Management Workshop to be held in April, 2013.

To begin the tasks listed above, CLRSS requests \$10 000 from the Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds for the 2013 calendar year. (See the breakdown below.)

Contributor	Item Description	Estimated Value
Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds	RAR Introduction Course – Michelle Jones	1 000.00
	Best Practices for Lakeshore Development Course	1 000.00
	Lake Studies Course – development and implementation with Cowichan Land Trust and local schools	5 000.00
	Lakeshore Riparian Restoration Program – demonstration site	3 000.00
Total funds requested in 2013		\$10 000.00
Matching funds		
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Lakeshore Habitat Management Workshop (confirmed)	9 700.00
CLRSS	500 hours volunteer labour	6 500.00
Town of Lake Cowichan	Saywell Park signage (installation and machine time)	2 000.00
	CLEC workshop use	2 000.00
Pacific Salmon Foundation	Stream signage program (confirmed)	5 860.00
	Cowichan Lakeshore Stewardship Project (pending)	4 950.00
Public Involvement Program	Restoration and public awareness materials (pending)	6 500.00
Total matching funds		\$37 510.00
Total project value		\$47 510.00

As shown above, the Youbou Nature and Habitat Funds can be leveraged. We hope in future years that these funds will also provide seed money for critical habitat acquisition and a student Lake Ambassadors Program. The workshop referred to in point 1 will help us determine future funding requirements. CLRSS has proven itself to be collaborative and fiscally responsible and we feel these funds are crucial for the protection and enhancement of Cowichan Lake.

Sincerely,



Gerald Thom
President, CLRSS