

Gabriola Streamkeepers (GSK) Minutes and Notices of Meetings 2014

Note that in these early meetings, minutes were not always taken, and minutes when taken, were not formally adopted.

Meeting notices have been included when they include meeting agendas not otherwise available.

December 2014: Meeting notice

No meeting.

November 19, 2014: Minutes

Hello Keepers of our Streams!

I am sad to say that that these are the last minutes I (Melanie) will be sending for our active stream keepers team. Well to be honest, I will not miss the minutes but I will miss the meetings. They truly are the most productive and efficient meetings I have ever attended! As you may be aware, I have been entrusted by our community with the role of Islands Trustee for the next four years so I'm going to step down from my role on the stream keepers committee. But I leave you in great hands with the wonderful Tawny Capon taking over as liaison with GaLTT/chair of the meetings and with all the dedicated members that keep me inspired - thanks especially to Chris Hill, Carrie Culbard, Tawny Capon, Kyle Clifford, Christy Wilson, Deb Ferrens, and Nick Doe. I look forward to following your work at arms length.

As usual, the last meetings was busy. Here are my notes and the follow-up actions that resulted:

1. Pacific Salmon Foundation Funding for Winthuysen Creek Assessment and Community Outreach:

- We were the recipient of \$4,078 to fund the first phase of our Winthuysen Creek project which involves a full habitat assessment and community outreach. The money is broken down as follows:
 - \$1232.95 for Streamkeepers Kits
 - \$1,200 for a project sign
 - \$900 for a project display board
 - \$165 to rent a bus to bring students to the site for stream keeping demo.
 - \$500 for a event tent.
 - \$80 to rent a room and provide refreshments for an educational event.
- So far we have spent approximately \$1,796.80 as follows:
 - \$752.14 for streamkeepers kits.
 - \$160 on stream signs for street crossings (another approx. \$500 to come for installation).
 - \$46.71 for project display material
 - \$18.76 on refreshments for a stream side event with the Gabriola Elementary School.
 - \$319.80 for a tent.
- A report and the receipts for the project must be submitted to the Pacific Salmon Foundation by **March 31, 2015**.

Action: Discuss use of remaining funds at next meeting.

2. Installation of Street Signs (Lead - Kyle Clifford)

- Signs have been purchased and installation approved by RCMP, RDN, EMCON and MOTI.
- EMCON has the steel posts and will assist with installation at cost (approximately \$500).

- An article will be written for the Sounder prior to installation to give the community a heads up.

Action: Write an article for the Sounder about the signs coming soon to a stream near you (Nick Doe, Jenni Gehlbach, Jethro Baker and Tawny Capon).

3. Stream monitoring

- We now have 3 complete water quality kits thanks to the PSF funding.
- We discussed where to store the kits - one will be located at Arbutus for use and the other two can be left with members actively monitoring streams (to be determined at next meeting).
- Fall water quality sampling was completed at Mallett Creek; awaiting flow in Winthuysen for fall monitoring.

Action: Monitor water quality at Winthuysen Creek for fall sampling (Mel, Carrie and Tawny).

- Discussed beginning to monitor water quality at additional streams: Dick Brook, Castell Creek and Goodhue Creek. These are longer creeks that could benefit from multiple monitoring sites.

Action: Establish water quality monitoring sites at Dick Brook, Castell Creek and Goodhue Creek. Chris volunteered to take the lead on Castell Creek, Nick volunteered to take the lead on Dick Brook and Carrie volunteered to take the lead on Goodhue Creek.

- All streams began flowing almost at once and Nick Doe noted that they kept flowing over the dry spell. This may indicate that they are groundwater fed.
- The outflow for Castell Creek at Sandwell park continues to be blocked off from connecting with the ocean by the gravel deposits. Jethro and Chris will continue to monitor to see when the gravel blows out this year.
- Chris found a chum salmon at the mouth of Castell Creek looking to spawn. Pictures were taken. Chum salmon can spawn in the intertidal area at a stream outflow in the salt water. Last year chum fry were found in the stream under the log jam.

4. Reports:

- Several reports will be required early in 2015:
 - Pacific Salmon Foundation **March 31**
 - Regional District of Nanaimo **March 31** (for Park Use Permit for Winthuysen Creek Project associated with Pacific Salmon Foundation funding).
 - Fish Trapping Permit **March 31** (report of fish trapped on Gabriola for Fisheries and Oceans Canada).

5. Aquatic Life Guide:

- At the last meeting, Jethro suggested creating an aquatic life guide of the fish found so far on the island.
- Nick Doe suggested expanding the guide to include all animals found in and around streams.

Action: Nick and Jethro will work together to create a guide.

6. Next Gabriola Lands and Trails Chair for Streamkeepers

- Tawny Capon volunteered to replace Melanie Mamoser as the stream keepers chair on the GaLTT board.

Action: Tawny will contact GaLTT president John Peirce to put her name forward for a position not the board.

Action: Melanie will develop a checklist of things to do in preparation for the Streamkeepers and GaLTT meetings to pass on to the next chair.

Next meeting **January 15, 2015.** ◇

October 16, 2014: Minutes

Here are the minutes from tonights meeting:

Attendance: Carrie, Tawny, Jethro, Chris, Rosalie and Melanie

Regrets: Kyle

1. Pacific Salmon Federation Grant:

- Tawny purchased a 10x10 red tent.
- Kyle has received permission from MOTI to instal stream signs along the roads of Gabriola and has ordered the signs.

Action Item: Tawny will coordinate with Kyle for a press release prior to installing the signs and a press release after the signs are installed.

2. Stream monitoring:

- Flow:
 - Descanso - None
 - Goodhue - None
 - Castel - None
 - Dick - None
 - Shipyard - None
 - Mallett - Yes, flowed through the summer.
 - Winthuysen - unknown
 - Wagg - unknown
- Over the next month we should be monitoring for salmon spawning. It is recommended you get to your streams as frequently as possible during a high tide to see if there is any evidence of spawning.

Action Item: Everyone - Monitor for salmon spawning at high tides. Please send an email to me reporting results (e.g., date, time, stream, tide, salmon - yes or no)

3. Field Trip:

- We are planning a field trip to Departure Bay Creek in Woodstream Park and the Nanaimo River hatchery.

Action Item: Jethro will contact Harbour City Stewards for a tour of the work done on the stream.

Action Item: Christy will contact the Nanaimo River Hatchery for possible dates for a tour.

4. Fauna Field Guide:

- Jethro is coordinating with Nick Doe to create a booklet with descriptions of the fish and other animals found on Gabriola.
- It was suggested we may want to get Growls involved in this initiative.

Action Item: Jethro will follow-up with Nick Doe and GROWLS.

Meeting ended at 7:40!

Next Meeting November 20, 2014, 7pm at the Women's Institute. ◇

September 18, 2014: Minutes

September 18, 2014
Women's Institute
19-20h00

Present: Jet: Christy: Carrie: Deb: Tawny: David: Mel

1. Pacific Salmon Foundation Funding

- \$ was spent buying two new water quality kits, clipboards and first aid kits.
- **Tawny** will purchase a 10x10 tent for events for a maximum of \$500.
- **Kyle** is moving forward with the purchase and installation of road crossing signs.

2. Fall Field Work

- Water quality samples are needed from Mallett Creek and Winthuysen Creek.(Mallett Creek was subsequently sampled on Wednesday September 24).
- **Christy** will email ZoAnn Morten of the Pacific Streamkeepers Foundation to find out when the best time to take a fall sample from seasonal streams. Fall sampling is designed to correspond with the first rains so that it captures worst case scenario for water quality as the rains wash any pollutants accumulating in the watershed into the stream.
- Need to follow-up on how to collect habitat assessment information so that it can easily be transferred to the database. (I subsequently checked my old emails and ZoAnn suggests using the forms). **To Do: Purchase water proof 8.5x11 paper for habitat assessments.**
- We need to create a secure system for storing field data. Currently we have notebooks for each stream for master information and a separate water quality field notebook. When water quality assessment is completed for a stream, the calculation and results are included in the master notebook.
- **Everyone:** Teams are needed to observe when streams start flowing. Please select a day of your choice once a week to check the stream. If you have not yet signed up for a creek, please feel free to check on any of the creeks below on a day of your choice (doesn't hurt to check more often) or a stream that has not been included.
 - Goodhue: **Carrie**
 - Winthuysen: **Deb**
 - Wagg: **Christy**
 - Grey Farm Creek: **Christy**
 - Dick: **Jethro**
 - Castell: **Jethro**
 - Descanso Bay Creek: **Tawny**
- Spawner surveys will begin in mid-October.

3. Anniversary Party

- For this years party, we are going to organize a field trip to the Nanaimo River hatchery and Holland Creek when the salmon begin to run. Holland Creek is a small creek in Ladysmith that has been the focus on a sister stream keepers group. **Jethro will organize.**

4. Forage Fish Survey:

- **Deb** will follow-up with Ramona deGraff regarding the forage fish spawning beach survey.

Next Meeting Thursday October 16, 7pm Women's Institute. ◇

August 28, 2014: Minutes

It was a small gathering of stream keepers tonight for our first meeting back from summer. Deb, Chris and I discussed our Pacific Salmon Federation grant, fall field work, River's Day event and forage fish.

Pacific Salmon Federation Grant

- Purchase event tent for no more than \$500 (Tawny)
- Purchase two more water quality kits and first aid kits (Melanie)
- Purchase stream crossing signs with approximately \$2000 (Kyle)

Fall Field Work

- Jethro will coordinate the fall field work.
- Water quality at both Mallett Creek and Winthuysen Creek as soon as the first rains appear.
- Melanie will contact Phyllis to coordinate a plant inventory of both streams.
- Teams will be needed for salmon watch duty once salmon begin to spans again.

River's Day

- River's Day is the last Sunday of September 28.
- We will need volunteers to help organize the event.
- It will either take place at Winthuysen Creek or Robert's Silva Bay in conjunction with a Salish Sea event.

Forage Fish

- Deb will follow-up with Ramona de Graff regarding identifying potential forage fish beaches. Although Streamkeepers will not take on this activity, we will help where we can.

Next Meeting Thursday September 18, 7pm at the Women's Institute.

If you are interested in helping organize the River's Day event, please let me know.

July 2014: Meeting notices

No meeting.

June 19, 2014: Meeting notices

At the June meeting we discussed what is left to do with respect to our commitments under the Pacific Salmon Foundation grant. Here are the action items:

1. Tawny will look into purchasing a tent for events with a budget of \$500.
2. Kyle will continue to move forward with road signs with a budget of \$2,100.
3. Melanie will purchase items for a second water quality kit and first aid kits with a budget of \$1,000.
4. Melanie will organize a plant inventory of Winthuysen and Mallett Creek.
5. Melanie will contact the provincial Ministry of Environment to inquire about fall water quality samples.
6. Tawny will contact Growls to find out about the species of native turtles on Gabriola.

We will not have a streamkeepers meeting in July and we will postpone our August meeting by a week.

The next meeting is August 28, 2014, at 7pm at the Women's Institute. We will be planning an event for Rivers Day on September 28 and start planning the fall water quality sampling events.

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May 15, 2014: Meeting notices

Agenda

Thursday, May 15, 2014. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00. Gabriola Women's Institute

Regrets: Tawny, Ernie

Review Action Items From Previous Meeting

1. Water quality and invertebrate survey tutorial (Carrie and Jethro)
2. Mallett Creek water quality survey (Jethro)
3. Commons covenant program (Deb)
4. Pics to Steve Baillie to identify fish (Christy)
5. Give fish to DFO to identify stock (Jethro)
6. Enter data into SK database (Howie)
7. Budget to GaLTT (Laurie and Mel.)
8. Forage fish update (Deb)
9. GaLTT Saturday walks info on Winthuysen (Melanie)

Agenda Item: Winthuysen Creek Project (all)

- review funding application and discuss spending the money
- stream survey scheduled for June (Module 1&2).

Agenda Item: Mallett Creek (Jethro)

- is it too late for a water quality survey and invertebrate survey?

Agenda Item: Outreach team

- school field trip to Winthuysen Creek on April 17
- Oceans Day – June 8
- market table volunteers
- 2nd year party in August? Or coincide with Rivers Day on September 28.

Agenda Item: Fundraising team

- PSF Grant - \$4,078
- Look for funding sources to cover cost of road signs (**ACTION**).

Agenda Item: Display Team

- Kyle: 8 aluminum signs for \$500 from Fastsigns in Vancouver – does not cover posts and installation. Next step – talk to MOT and Emcon about installation.
- Kyle to talk to MOT and Emcon about road sign installation (**ACTION**).

Agenda Item: Fun Team

— field trip to VIWWC Water Forum (Saturday May 24 in Comox) and DFO Talk on Future of Fisheries Act (Friday May 30 in Parksville).

Next meeting June 20, 2014. ◇

April 17, 2014: Meeting minutes

Gabriola Streamkeepers Meeting
April 17, 2014

In attendance: Mel, Carrie, Deb, Howie, Christy, Laurie, Chris, Rosalie

1. PSF Grant Update – we were approved! Time to start thinking of ways to spend the money! Maybe signage on Winthusyen Creek, replanting? Ideas to come!

2. GES Jr Streamkeepers Event overview

- Winthusyen was a great location, Deb and Jim set up a tarp and we had a fire and hot chocolate to round out a fantastic field day with the kids.
- use water quality and invert info as part of our habitat assessment for our recent survey!
- Write-ups; bring materials to class (= notes from Mel)

3. Stream Day Review

- March 30^h, Winthusyen at Descanso Campground
- kids and families = main attendees (approx. 6 kids and 15-20 adults)
- we looked really good! Great first go!
- Nick came and helped with water quality kit and we did an actual water quality survey (including Q values)
- Idea : we can get a water quality index (baseline) for all our streams
- **ACTION** – Carrie will set up a tutorial for all....she will discuss this and plan this with Jethro
- the kit lives at Arbutus so members can grab and do some sampling whenever they please

4. Mallett Creek Invert and Water Quality

- we had planned to do this earlier in April and have not had time
- **ACTION** – Jethro will pick a date and we can plan to do this in the next few weeks

5. Commons Covenant Program – Deb suggested that in the process of setting up a covenant at the Commons, perhaps we can partner with them to get some baseline data?

- **ACTION** – Deb will look into this (i.e. who to be in touch with, timing)

6. Fish Finding and ID update:

- Jethro found fry at Sandwell (in the log jam) but none up in the saltwater marsh. This might be an important refuge.
- Jethro accidentally killed one fry recently and it has been sent to PBS Fish Health Biologist for DNA testing (we will soon know species!)
- **ACTION** – Christy to send pics from outing with Jethro (fry from Dick Brook and Wagg Creek) to Steve Baillie (drop box) so we can confirm chum vs cutthroat
- Jethro found fry at Camp Miriam (Berry Point) recently
- the fish we found earlier in the season that were not yet buttoned up are more conclusive (spawned here for sure) so we should try to go out for more early season fish sampling next year
- Jethro has completed the permitting process for fish sampling
- IDEA – use VIU students to do fish biology studies on Gabriola

- **ACTION** – we should contact VIU geography and resource restoration contacts to see if there is any interest

- Jethro found pumpkinseed fish in Mallett Creek and in the wetland above the ferry going into (likely introduced though there are some native stocks....do compete with salmon)

7. RAR- Fish Discussion

- this is a sensitive issue for the community

- so far, we have stayed out of it

- our focus is on bottom-up voluntary stewardship not top-down regulations

- that said, what is our duty re: reporting our finding salmon in streams that were not identified by RAR as fish-bearing?

- **ACTION** – we need to speak further about this as a group and perhaps include Sheila in this discussion

8. Mallett Creek Upper Reaches – Rooks plans to do assessment of upper reaches of Mallett Creek on his property. He has advised he will share findings with us.

9. Our LOGO

- Melanie showed us the most recent design (thanks to our volunteer graphic designer!)

- Questions from the group re the new design: how many colours is it? We would like to see it in colour. Can we change the lettering so it is easier to read?

- **ACTION** – Mel will bring full colour sample to next meeting so we can discuss this further

- **ACTION** – do we need to revote salmon vs stickleback now that we are finding salmon?

10. BUDGET

– we need to draft our budget for the year

- **ACTION** – Laurie will draft a budget up before the next GALTT meeting

- **ACTION** – Mel will send Laurie PSF grant info to help with draft budget

11. Ratepayers – Earth Day Cleanup

- **ACTION** – Mel will send a message (email and Facebook) to all Streamkeepers encouraging them to clean up the area around their local creek (pick up the Yellow Bags left out by the Ratepayers, take photos and share!)

12. Streamkeepers Manual

- has been reorganized by Mel ☺

13. Forage Fish Update:

- Deb is still trying to connect with Ramona DeGraf

- Could GALTT take this on as part of their increased interest in marine habitat?

- **ACTION** – Deb will help us connect with Ramona and GALTT (David Boehm)

14. Stream Art Project

- Tawny sent info along on email about doing some sort of art installation or stream inspired art project; we will leave this with Tawny to draft more specific ideas

- Tammy Hudgeon has indicated she wants to help us and would be willing to donate some stained glass for fundraising

15. Van Island Waterwatch Coalition

- There is a field trip planned to visit the Nile River restoration (Comox) in May
- **ACTION** – Mel will send info to all members as some may want to attend

16. Oceans Day

- event being planned again for Descanso Bay Campground, Sunday June 8
- **ACTION** – we will plan to have a booth (and maybe stations at Winthusyen)
- more details to be discussed, Deb (on behalf of the RDN) and Christy (DFO) will be organizing the event and keep our group updated

17. GALTT Saturday Walks

- they want to include info on Winthusyen Creek
- **ACTION** – who will get info to them?

18. Streamkeepers Data Entry

- Howie has been trying to input the data we collected on recent survey of Winthusyen into the Streamkeepers website
- the website data format does not match our date recording format, how do we get our data in?
- **ACTION**: Howie will continue trying to sort this out; Christy will ask Dave Clough and Chantal Nessman for advice. ◇

March 20, 2014: Meeting notice

Our next meeting is this Thursday March 20th, 2014, 7pm at the Women's Institute.

We will be focusing the meeting on organizing the public event at Winthuysen Creek at the Descanso Bay Campground on March 30th. If you are interested in helping organize and put on this community event, please join us on Thursday. ◇

February 20, 2014: Meeting minutes

Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2014. 7:00 p.m. to 8:15. Gabriola Women's Institute

Note Taker: Melanie

Attendees: Tawny Capon, Melanie Mamoser, Jethro Baker, Deborah Ferens, Chris Hills, Laurie Jackson, Shawn, Howard Stiff, Carrie Culbard, Anne Pav.

Regrets: Kyle Cliffored, Adrienne Vance.

Review Action Items From Previous Meeting

1. Place DFO funding into bank and dedicate for streamkeeper's kit (Melanie)
— ongoing.
2. Send invitation to DFO Community Advisor Chantelle Nessman to come to Gabriola (Jethro)
— complete.
3. Coordinate with volunteer artist to update logo (Jethro)
— ongoing.
4. Speak with RDN about surveying the campground creek (Deb, Melanie)
— complete.
5. Pacific Salmon Foundation Grant Application (Chris)
— complete.
6. Host a screening of Salmon Confidential (Deb, Chris, Melanie)
— ongoing.

Agenda Item: Mallett Creek (Jethro)

— Jethro spoke to Emilda Cuthbertson, a former teacher at Gabriola Elementary School, who told him that the DFO Salmon-in-the-Classroom program was piloted on Gabriola Island by Helen Bailey whose husband worked for DFO. They released cutthroat trout and chum salmon

— Jethro contacted Helen Bailey who sent him a description of the classroom program and photos

— Mike Peacock also did a lot of instream work on Mallett Creek including adding gravel and clearing woody debris from the intertidal area. He also released over 5,000 chum fry

— a student from Camosum College's Marketing Class will be writing an article about the History of Mallett Creek thanks to a connection made by Laurie Jackson

— initial Habitat Assessment of Mallett Creek by Jethro, Kyle, and Bob found an alevin salmon which is proof of salmon spawning in the creek and that the creek requires rehabilitation to improve their survivability

— Jethro/Melanie to connect with student from Camosum College Marketing Class about the article (**ACTION**)

- Jethro/Howie to write a letter to Robert Rooks to access upper reach of Mallett Creek (**ACTION**)
- for all invertebrate and water quality survey of Mallett Creek on April 5 (**ACTION**)
- Jethro/Anne to enter data from initial habitat survey into Pacific Streamkeepers Federation online database (**ACTION**).

Agenda Item: PSF Application – Winthuysen Creek Pilot Project (Chris, Melanie)

- the PSF application was submitted. Streamkeepers requested \$4,000 to cover a streamkeepers kit, tent, signs, bus rental for events and space rental for a speaker
- we will hear back about the funding on April 1
- all to implement outreach/habitat assessment plan outlined in the application (**ACTION**)
- for all on March 8, initial habitat assessment of Winthuysen by Streamkeepers (**ACTION**)
- for all and Laurie for PR on March 29, community habitat assessment of Winthuysen, requires advertising, organizing bus, etc. (**ACTION**)
- Melanie and Laurie for April 19 talk by Kees Groot for Earth Day, Melanie will confirm with Kees, requires advertising and renting a hall (**ACTION**)
- for all on June 8, Oceans Day activity at Winthuysen Creek (**ACTION**).

Other business

Tawnie attended that last two GaLTT board meetings on behalf of the Gabriola Streamkeepers and the GaLTT AGM. Katie Blake from the Nature Conservancy of Canada spoke at the AGM on land conservancies in a globalized world. In 2013, GaLTT provided \$518 in support of streamkeepers activities

Deb has been corresponding with Ramona de Graff about organizing a forage fish workshop on Gabriola. Ramona sent Deb a draft funding application for the workshop which we can use to request funding from the Islands Trust. A workshop could take place in April or May

Melanie suggested we organize a field trip to see other streamkeepers work in similar sized streams to Gabriola such as in Ladysmith or Departure Bay Creek

Deb will continue to correspond with Ramona de Graff to organize a workshop and Chris will help with the funding application (**ACTION**)

Melanie will notify GaLTT about our progress on organizing a forage fish workshop (**ACTION**)

Melanie will look into organizing a field trip (**ACTION**).

Dates to note:

MARCH 8: WINTHUYSEN CREEK HABITAT ASSESSMENT – ALL INVITED

MARCH 11: CHANTAL NESSMAN, DFO COMMUNITY ADVISOR, TOUR OF STREAMS

MARCH 29: COMMUNITY EVENT AT WINTHUYSEN CREEK – HABITAT ASSESSMENT

APRIL 5: MALLET CREEK INVERTEBRATE AND WATER QUALITY SURVEY

APRIL 19: TALK BY DR. KEES GROOT FOR EARTH DAY (APRIL 22)

JUNE 8: OCEAN DAY EVENT AT DESCANSO BAY REGIONAL PARK

Next meeting

March 20, 2014. ◇

January 16, 2014: Meeting notice

We have a meeting this Thursday at 7pm at the Women's Institute. I've attached the minutes from our previous meeting for your review.

This meeting will focus on discussing the project we'll propose for the upcoming Pacific Salmon Federation grant application and surveying Mallett Creek. ◇