



Valdes Island Conservancy

January 2018

Minutes

Date: January 13, 2018 (in-person meeting)

Present: Anne Casselman, Doug Campbell, Doug Cochran, Marja de Jong Westman (recorder), Alexandra de Jong Westman, Janos Mate, Bill McElhanney, Warren Warttig (Chair); Dan White
Missing: Emrys Prussin

Regrets: Alan Doolittle

Late call in: Diane Burton

1. Routine Business

1.1 Call to Order; 10:15

1.2 Approval of the Agenda: moved by Alexandra, seconded by Anne; carried

1.3 Approval of November minutes (completed on line); can be distributed to members

2. Officer's Reports

2.1 President's Report – Presented by Warren

- Membership eblast sent to all members, Gulf Island Conservancy groups and Islands Trust.
- Further development of the VIC position re: anchorage of freighters in Gulf Islands
 - **Action item:** Final draft to be circulated to all board by Feb. 15th - Warren
 - **Action item:** Bill McElhanney to access and distribute Lyackson position statement on Kinder Morgan.
 - **Action item:** Feb. 22nd - Final document to be sent out to government officials (MPs; MLAs; Ministry of Environment(Provincial); Environment Canada(Federal); Islands Trust; Lyackson FN; other Gulf Islands Conservancy groups; COSEWIC; Raincoast Conservation Foundation. (Warren and Janos to also communicate with Peter Maidstone and GAFA as to



- whether other groups have received any responses to their communications)
- **Action item:** Executive summary and press release to be sent out on Feb. 22nd – **Anne**
 - Letter to Treaty Commissioner mailed in January 2nd
 - **Action item: Warren and Doug to contact office to ensure receipt of document (early February)**
 - AGM confirmed for Saturday, September 1st 11:00: Doug Campbell's cabin; Doug Cochran's place can be used instead if Campbell's plans change
 - Board meeting schedule now as follows:
 - **Conference call in meetings** – second Monday of the month at 7:00 pm
 - Monday, March 12
 - Monday, May 14
 - Monday, July 9
 - Monday, September 10
 - Monday, November 12
 - **On line reports/status of action items due** in the months where we do not have meetings scheduled.
 - Monday, February 12
 - Monday, April 9
 - Monday, June 11
 - Monday, August 13
 - Monday, October 8
 - On line purchase of Conference Hub from Best Buy (**Action item: Warren and Diane**)

Motion to Approve President's report: Alexandra moved; Doug Cochran seconded - carried



2.2 Treasurer's Report – posted to Basecamp – deferred to next meeting

2.2.1 Period ending December 31, 2017

Chequing account:	\$1066.61
Revenue	0.00
Expenses:	
Travel re: meeting with Lyackson FN	\$101.70
Momentum conferencing	21.18
Balance:	943.73
GIC:	5052.50
Total:	\$5996.23

3. Committee Reports

3.1 Membership Committee – Chair Diane Burton

- 3.1.1 Membership form to be updated and distributed to board for approval **Action: Diane**

3.2 Revenue Committee – Co-Chairs Alexandra de Jong Westman/Bill McElhanney

- 3.2.1 Meeting to be scheduled for next week – **Action: Alex and Bill**
- 3.2.2 Gathering of costs for items on wish list – **Action: Bill to contact Diane for costs of Bioblitz; newsletter printing and hard-copy mailout to members**
- 3.2.3 Research Regional District's Grant-in Aid (Cowichan Regional District)– **Action: Bill**
- 3.2.4 Wish list under development (**updated during today's meeting**) - Proposed projects requiring financial support:
 - Directional signs on the hiking trails (~ \$65.00 per sign)
 - Trail Map publication
 - Bioblitz costs
 - Newsletter printing and distribution costs
 - Trail maintenance
 - Invasive plant removal
 - Community garbage day removal (Bill/Alex to investigate 1-800-Got Junk; truck rental; Dan's cost for running boat/his time)



- Creation of signs for notification of white-nose syndrome/cave access restrictions
- Review of need for more hunting signs/placement
- Natural history signs on trails with key ecosystems (coastal bluffs; meadows; riparian areas; CDF forest)

3.3 Trails and Lands Committee – Chair Warren Warttig

- 3.3.1 Status of North property: **Action: Janos to follow up with government contact in February**

3.4 Safety Committee – Chair Dan White

- 3.4.1 Discussion of threat of fires re: repeated summer droughts. **Action: Dan to contact government re: plans for fire prevention/fire watch services planned for the summer of 2018. Action: Doug to contact Lyackson FN about our concerns of vulnerability to fire.**

- 3.4.2 Warren purchased a spine board and cover. To be delivered to Dan White.

3.5 First Nations Committee – Chair Doug Campbell

- Follow up plans re: letter to Treaty Commissioner
- Getting access to anthropologist Eric McClay's article for upcoming VIC newsletter from Lyackson FN – **Action: Doug**

3.6 Conservation and Education Committee – Chair Marja de Jong Westman

3.6.1 Newsletter:

- **Deadline for submissions February 12; March publication and distribution**
- Articles:
 - Natural history of Bats – a request was sent to Vanessa Craig
 - Best practises for islanders (including discussion of fire prevention) – Alexandra
 - Insect pollinators or under log bugs – Joel Gibson
 - Killer Whale mythbusting – the real story behind the southern residents – Anne Casselman
 - Unique plant communities on Valdes Island – Andrew Simon
 - Species-at-risk on Valdes – (one species per newsletter) Marja
 - Underwater world updates from Bioblitz 2017- Warren
 - **Cole's notes version of document getting to 100% - Doug Campbell OR Bill?**



- Story of Lyackson FN – Eric McClay

3.6.2 Bioblitz – dates June 15 (planning night); weekend June 16-17.

- Planning night – June 15 on Valdes
- Field work – June 16-17
- Planned activities: Each to be organized as a separate session.
 - Saturday morning – coastal waterbird survey (circumnavigate Valdes)
 - Saturday – invasive plant removal (areas to be predetermined)
 - Saturday mid-day – intertidal marine survey
 - Saturday evening – bat monitoring
 - Sunday morning – bird walk
 - Sunday - blue-bird and purple martin nest box monitoring
 - Sunday morning – botany and insect walk
- Potluck dinner at Westman’s Saturday evening

3.6.3 Andrew Simon’s research proposal re: plant communities/pollinators on Valdes Island

< discussion of VIC offering in-kind support; assist with transportation/accommodation; involving VIC board members and/or island residents; request for VIC/logo to appear on final report

Action item: Marja to contact Andrew and ask what type of help/support he requires and communicate the VIC’s requests.

3.6.4 Letter of invitation/membership forms to be sent to resource biologists who have assisted with Bioblitz.

Action item: Marja

3.7 Legal Affairs Committee – Chair Alan Doolittle; deferred

4. Old Business

- a. Communications with Island Timberlands re: access ACTION: **Warren to contact MacKenze Leine**



- b. Communication with Emrys Prussin **Action: Marja**
- c. Membership drive:
 - Create postcard-type brochure for e-blast distribution
 - Topics:
 - VIC projects for 2018
 - Request of community involvement
 - Honouring our mandate
 - Membership form to be included
 - Promo post card to be emailed to all islanders
 - Need to develop a list which includes younger family members and not just cabin owners
 - **Action: Doug Cochran; Marja; Anne and Bill**
 - **Future considerations: survey of existing members; social media campaign**

Motion to adjourn Bill; seconded by Alexandra – carried.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 12; 7:00 pm * conference call

Mission Statement

To conserve and protect the existing biological and cultural communities of Valdes Island and its environs.