

Columbia Lake Stewardship Society

Annual General Meeting

October 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

This AGM covers the period from May 31, 2019 (January 1, 2019) to December 31, 2019.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by our board chair, Nancy Wilson.

Board Members present: Nancy Wilson, Pat Silver, Tom Dance, Tom Symington, Katie Watt, Bill Thompson

Board Member Regrets: Mary McGovern, Colin Cartwright

New Program Coordinator: Georgia Peck

Guests: Doug McCutcheon, Daneve McAffer, Peggy Conte, Duncan Shipley, Amira Elwakeel, Tracy Flynn

Confirmation of Quorum: Six board members in attendance: Nancy Wilson, Tom Dance, Pat Silver, Bill Thompson, Tom Symington, Katie Watt. There is a quorum in attendance.

Agenda Review: No additions to the agenda.

Minutes of 2019 AGM: M/S Pat Silver/Tom Symington that the minutes of the 2019 AGM be adopted as circulated and amended. Carried.

2019 Financial Report: Prepared and presented by Treasurer Pat Silver.

Discussion. A question was raised about the financial contribution from the Village of Canal Flats.

M/S Nancy Wilson/Tom Dance that the Financial Report for 2019 be accepted as presented. Carried.

2019/2020 Directors' Reports: (All of the reports were presented in a PowerPoint presentation prepared by Nancy Wilson that all attendees were able to follow easily on their respective devices.)

1. Water Quantity Monitoring – Bill Thompson

Water quantity work allows us to continually refine our understanding of the water balance of the lake, an understanding of which is required to manage the water resource of the lake.

2019 Report is available on our website. Major findings were:

- Annual rise in lake level due to water entering the lake from Dutch Creek spring runoff
- The lake gains water from: precipitation, local streams and groundwater
- The lake loses water to: evapotranspiration and consumptive use
- Work undertaken in 2019 focussed on isolating groundwater contributions

2020 Report

We continued to monitor the volume of water entering and leaving the lake and the resulting change on lake level. Since monitoring is conducted outdoors physical distancing was not a significant issue

- Monitoring of lake level and inflows and outflows to Columbia Lake in progress.
- Data base containing temperature, humidity, and wind data from the nearby Fairmont Airport weather station established.
- Data loggers on the Kootenay River and Columbia Lake installed.
- Timber Springs weather station in operation.
- Temperature, snow depth and rainfall data from the Fairmont Flood Mitigation Project weather station recorded
- Report will be completed by the end of January 2021

2. Water Quality Monitoring

CLSS continued its bi-weekly monitoring of selected water quality indicator parameters. Samples were collected by volunteers and our summer student twice a month and analysed once a month. An expected range of values has been established and any changes to lake health can be noted and shared with decision makers

2019 Report is available on our website. Major findings were:

- Overall, the lake's water quality has not changed during the five years of monitoring and it remains suitable for a variety of its intended uses: recreation, domestic water supply and aquatic habitat
- Maximum turbidity exceeded the maximum expected value recorded between 2014 and 2018.
- The survey at fourteen monitoring locations along the lake repeated from the 2018 survey shows that pH, Conductivity and chloride values increase from the north to south.

2020 Report

We were able to continue our lake and stream monitoring by ensuring that the data collection was either done by family groups or people who were physically distancing during collection.

- Seven regular sampling events were conducted and included:
 - Three sets of water samples tested for hardness, chloride, iron, and manganese alkalinity, total phosphorous, dissolved phosphorous and nitrate
 - Indicator parameters, conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity were monitored during all 7 events

- Two events were organized to monitor the chloride profile along the lake
- Report will be completed by end January 2021

3. **Stream Monitoring**

CLSS visited four creeks that flow into Columbia Lake to measure water quality and estimate flow: Hardie Creek, Marion Creek, Dutch Creek and Canal Flats Creek.

2019: The creeks were identified, and one set of samples collected.

2020: Monitoring protocol refined; Regular monitoring commenced in spring 2020.

- Monitoring these streams will help us get a better picture of water quality upstream of Columbia Lake so that we can trace any changes in the lake's water quality
- We estimated flow and measured the same water quality parameters as we measure on the lake
- Results will be included in the 2020 water quality report

4. **Watercraft Counts**

Our summer student conducted regular watercraft counts in 2020 to better understand the recreational uses of the lake and see if there is a correlation between lake use and water quality. The highest count was over 60 watercraft. Lake usage varied depending on the weather, and it peaked on holiday weekends. A wide variety of watercraft are used on Columbia Lake. * It was noted that usage this summer may have increased because of the pandemic and the need to recreate closer to home.

5. **Education**

The 2019 program consisted of lake tours and school programs. There were multiple lake tours by boat and one multi-stop tour along the lake. 2019 was the third year of our school program.

The 2020 program was severely impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic and had to be modified. Summer camps (socially distanced) were conducted jointly with the Lake Windermere Ambassadors. Topics were: Our Watershed; Water, The Trip Before our Taps; Life in a Drop of Water. The camps were conducted at Tilley memorial park for the first time.

6. **Outreach and Advocacy**

These activities included: Weed pulls; New Signage at Tilley Memorial and the Southwest Boat Launch; Booths at Farmers' Markets (conducted jointly with the Lake Windermere Ambassadors and included the development of a new game).

CLSS provided input into the Columbia Lake Management Plan update; commented on development and rezoning applications; stocked educational brochures (boating on Columbia Lake) at lake and riverside locations; installed educational signs (fish and bird life) at lakeside locations.

7. **Communication**

8. CLSS promoted its activities through Facebook and Instagram posts, articles in the Canal Flats Community Newsletter and reports. Our first CLSS newsletter will include “AMP” articles about the animals, minerals and plants to be found around the lake.

Proposed Activities for 2021:

Water quantity - Continue existing monitoring program. (May need to replace some equipment.)

Water quality - Maintain the existing testing program and research the use of CABIN.

Small Streams - Maintain the existing testing program; Train and educate volunteers on sampling protocols.

Fish and Biota – Participate with the LWA on how to monitor for fish and Biota (CABIN)

Organization and Governance – Develop a five-year plan; coordinate some aspects with LWA

Education and Outreach – Present a watershed education program in one school; develop and deliver a summer camp

Communications – Develop materials for booths and displays; post CLSS activities frequently on social media

Interactions With Other Groups – Develop synergies with Lake Windermere Ambassadors

Advocacy – Provide data and input into the Columbia Lake Management Plan; respond in a timely manner to any issues that impact the lake.

Fundraising – Apply for charitable status; seek further funding for employee

Organizations We Work With

The following organizations provide us with support and input:

Lake Windermere Ambassadors; Columbia Wetlands Stewardship Society; East Kootenay Invasive Species Council; Living Lakes Canada; Swallow Survey.

Columbia Valley Swallow Project survey. Monitoring the number of cliff swallows we have along the lake.

Board of Directors Election: The following members volunteered to let their names stand for the 2021: Nancy Wilson (Chair), Tom Dance (Water Quality Coordinator), Pat Silver (Treasurer and Communications Coordinator), Bill Thompson (Water Quantity Coordinator), Mary McGovern (Swallow Survey Representative, Writing Coordinator), Colin Cartwright (Canal Flats Representative). There were no new nominations. M/S Tom Symington/Pat Silver that the slate of candidates be approved. Carried.

Final Comments: Doug McCutcheon (Canal Flats council member) would like Nancy to share her presentation so he can present it to the Canal Flats council.

Daneve McAffer volunteered to help us get started with our five-year long-term strategic plan.

Adjournment: M/S Nancy Wilson/Pat Silver that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.