

LRISS 2026 AGM & Partner Land Planning Meeting Minutes



Where: Virtual on Zoom
When: May 6, 2026
Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Participants

Name	Title	Organization
Christian Ahrenkiel	Independent consultant, Chair	LRISS
Sue Senger	Land Guardian Coordinator, Director	St'át'imc Chiefs Council, LRISS
Bill Spencer	Treasurer	LRISS, Yalakom Ecological Society
Elhe Black	Biologist, Vice-Chair	St'át'imc Government Services, LRISS
Gerald Michel	Lands, LRISS	Xwísten, LRISS
Sheryl Wurtz	Invasive Plant Management Specialist	Ministry of Forests
Grahame Gielens	Environmental Roadside Manager	Ministry of Transportation & Transit
Sarah Petznick	Executive Director	Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society
Erin Galloway	CoExecutive Director	Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council
Geoff Playfair	President, Director	Lillooet Naturalist Society, Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association
Troy Nelson	Aquatic Biologist	Independent consultant working with SGS
Monique Knudson	Community HUB Manager	Community HUB, Lillooet Learning Community Society
Jacque Rasmussen	Executive Director	LRISS

AGENDA:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
2. LRISS 2025 Activities– Jacque Rasmussen
3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections
4. A review of LRISS Operational Activities & Discussion
5. Round Table Partner Updates
6. Wrap-up.

1. Welcome & Introductions: Christian Ahrenkiel

Acknowledgement of the St'át'imc Territory

Review Agenda:

Changes to Agenda? None – Motion passed to adopt agenda.

2. LRISS 2025 Activities – Jacquie Rasmussen

Jacquie gave a presentation that summarized the activities of LRISS in 2025. This is based on the report that was produced outlining these activities in more detail.

The 2025-26 report is on our website www.lriss.ca

Q&A

None

3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections

2025 Minutes

Actions from previous year: NONE

Motion to accept the minutes from 2025 - Passed.

Review of financials: Bill Spencer.

**All financial documents are found at the end of these minutes.*

Balance Sheet, Income Statement & In-Kind Contributions presented by Bill Spencer.

Questions

None

Motion Passed to adopt the financial report as stated above.

Election of the Board of Directors: Run by Christian Ahrenkiel and Jacquie Rasmussen

Positions that are current: Sue Senger, Bill Spencer, Gerald Michel

Positions to be re-election this year:

Christian Ahrenkiel, Mandi Rogers, Elhe Black

New nominations:

Roxx LeDoux

Nominations from the Floor:

None

All were accepted and passed by the membership.

Update from Governance committee:

Christian updated that the committee was active in Board work including:

1. Board workplan is being developed for this year. Bill explained that LRISS Board members have received Board Governance training. This workplan was part of this training.
2. Policy and Procedure Manual was adopted as a living document and will be scheduled for review.
3. LRISS will be developing and AI policy. A draft has been started.
4. An Early Detection Rapid Response Protocol has been adopted.
5. A new job description for the Executive Director and a new contract has been completed.
6. Also, a review process has also been completed for the Executive Director.

4. A review of LRISS Operational Activities & Discussion

Review of the LRISS region for 2026 priority treatment areas: Are there any high priority areas to identify that were not already covered in the review of the Priority Ranking Tool online map?

Jacquie showed the LRISS web portal with the areas that will be treated and surveyed this year.

Feedback about species or specific locations: None

Questions & Comments

Geoff Playfair– how do you deal with the big sites?

Jacque zoomed in to some of the large sites that were identified for the LRISS staff to survey and treat. She explained that these sites would not be treated in entirety but that there would be a survey completed and then if time allowed treatment would be on the edges or near high areas of potential spread to contain the infestation. These sites, depending on the type of species would also be reviewed for potential biocontrol release sites.

Jacque showed the LRISS priority plant list. No changes were proposed. When asked if anyone had any input or proposed changes, no input was given.

5. Partner Updates

Sheryl Wurtz, MOF: The Ministry of Forests' Invasive Plant Program resides in Range Branch. Danielle Cuthbertson was the Director, but she resigned and her position is posted. Jodi Kekula is the interim Director. Val Miller, Invasive Plant Program Lead has officially announced retirement. Her official leaving date is end of June. Crystal Chadburn is taking this role interim until the position is filled.

Biocontrol Specialist Janine Brooks is supposed to get a technician. That position is now being interviewed for to help with her program.

MoF Early Detection Rapid Response program: one change is that Black Henbane is no longer on the provincial EDRR list and program. There are too many sites, and some are too large with aggressive infestations. The province does keep the treatment in-house and manages direct contracts to deal with the EDRR infestations. Sheryl is managing 4 Black Henbane sites in the Thompson Nicola Regional District area and 3 have no plants found and the other is dramatically reduced.

The Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group is holding meetings where LRISS and other partners attend for updates. Sheryl reminded us that we can also ask for agenda items to be covered during these meetings.

Pesticide Applicator's Course was hosted in April at T'it'q'et. It was a success and Sheryl is thankful for the support from T'it'q'et and LRISS. The knowledge and training from this course will help T'it'q'et to manage the Wild Parsnip site that they have in their community. Sheryl will be working to support this work despite the loss of Howard Levine, one of the T'it'q'et Operation and Maintenance Crew members.

Erin Galloway: Sea to Sky Invasive Species Society is gearing up with crews and fully staffed next week. Near our shared border with LRISS we are targeting Scotch broom (near the north border). Another main concern is Wild Parsnip on Lil'wat reserve that they've been treating since 2022. SSISC is doing inventory and starting treatment soon because of hot weather. Hound's tongue at base of the Hurley. SSISC is working with Lil'wat too on this species. SSISC will be doing biocontrol monitoring to see if there are any active agents on the Hounds Tongue plants. If there are no agents, it could be a future release spot. Blueweed is close to the Hurley and SSISC is managing that infestation, so it doesn't spread into the LRISS region up the Hurley. Most of the SSISC workplan is taken up by knotweed in general.

Jacque mentioned that she will connect with Erin about the major Hydro Projects to update her.

Grahame Gielens, MOTT: He is calling in from the Pinantan area close to Kamloops. It's been a hot spring, so plants are growing well. He is busy getting treatment contract work started because of this hot spring. He is collaborating with LRISS on Tree-Of-Heaven treatment options and hoping to do a treatment for Chenault pit. Invasive trees are starting considered for treatment and management. Invasive trees are complex because their treatment requires cutting, machinery and herbicides potentially. Grahame says that it is early stages in invasive tree management, but he sees it increasing. More inventory is definitely needed for invasive trees to understand the extent of the problem.

MOTT just entered into a new 3 year agreement with LRISS.

Grahame highlighted the invasive plant called Puncturevine: a new infestation was identified in Wallachin Rodeo grounds. There is an extremely high potential for spread due to the rodeo participants and horses. It could show up

along roadsides, pastures etc. Invasive grasses are also a priority. So far there are none of the provincial high priority annual grasses in the LRISS area, but they are hard to identify and can spread easily. Jointed Goatgrass, for example.

Geoff Playfair: Lillooet Naturalist Society (LNS), Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association (LORCA) – the Naturalists fund LRISS annually. As a club, naturalist members do weed pulling on trails. Lion's trail in Lillooet was the last one where this was done. LNS circulates our monthly article. In the LNS hiking guide that they sell, there is information about invasives. They encourage reporting of invasive plants. LNS sends out a weekly email and usually includes a photo. Geoff could include an invasive plant as well.

LORCA – The mountain bike association collaborates with LRISS and does weed pulls as well. They educate the membership and encourage invasives prevention and reporting. PlayCleanGo is the key message, and they encourage this with the bikes and dogs as well: weed-free. An annual bike rodeo for kids is held every year and in the free packages, there are invasive species information, fun activity sheets and stickers.

Monique Knudson: Monique is the Community Hub Manager and also is a freelancer who works with online marketing for the Lillooet Chamber, Museum, and Visit Lillooet. LRISS information and posts are shared on the platforms she manages. LRISS information is also provided to Elders (HUB Elder Connect Program) and also in the HUB store. The goal is to get more people in the HUB doors. She suggested that a local Lillooet campaign online could be done and LRISS can participate. Megan Remple is the Director of Lillooet Learning Community Society that manages the HUB. She sends her regrets.

Sarah Petznick: Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS). LAFS has been a partner with LRISS since at least 2018. LAFS shares LRISS information. Update for LAFS: the focus is on the store at the HUB. LAFS is working on getting more people through the door and supporting local food. LAFS is supporting the Farmer's market: Rainah Thomas will be the new market manager. Working on more education initiatives for agriculture and producers.

Troy Nelson: Troy is an aquatic biologist who currently resides just south of Brisbon, Australia but whose work has taken place primarily in BC. He is currently working with St'át'imc Government Services with eDNA for white sturgeon in Seton and Anderson Lake. Troy has a long-term interest in the area with lots of prior work along the Fraser and spent lots of time in Lillooet. He has done steelhead radiotelemetry. He's been working on sturgeon for 30 years. One of his projects was supported by the Lillooet Naturalist Society to buy some equipment for the sturgeon work. As far as invasives, Troy obviously deals more with the aquatics. He and his wife own a nature reserve in Australia and are dealing with invasives on their reserve. In BC, he continues to work on the conservation of white sturgeon. Troy is concerned about the introduction of invasives especially with regard to the request to use finfish for bait to target sturgeon in the middle Fraser near Lillooet. Troy is hoping that our group would support the call to NOT use finfish for bait because it would introduce parasites and potentially other diseases into this important ecosystem (like whirling disease).

Comment from Gerald for Troy: Common carp showed up in the Fraser River and unfortunately it was put back in the river.

Troy said he was aware of invasives in the Fraser River and this could be due to the fact that the Fraser River tributaries go through suburbs. It is hard to understand the source of invasive species that show up from upstream. What matters is to stop the spread. He said that there have been reports of German brown trout and he is aware of small mouth bass in Pitt River system that is in the lower mainland. Both of these species' feed on small salmonids. Carp can be very devastating to an aquatic ecosystem. Education and awareness are really important. It is a serious concern if invasive fish are introduced. Humans have the ability to move and introduce these invasives.

Jacque suggested that during local fishing season that LRISS can highlight the invasive fish and what species should NOT be put back in the river. The theme of the August newsletter article can be focused on invasive fish to watch for, and a campaign online can also circulate information (especially Facebook).

Gerald Michel: Sharing information from a recent trip to Kamloops from Lillooet. When driving through Pavilion he noticed less Saskatoons after Pavilion. Gerald thinks that it is from overgrazing. He also saw Acacia trees along this drive too. He's heard that the city of Kamloops says that they have a 20 year plan for Russian Olives. Gerald was speaking to his colleagues from the University of Montana and Russian Olives have taken over riverbanks in their

state. We need to be careful about that, and Gerald has concerns about Russian Olive. Xwísten has a lack of funding to deal with invasives. Xwísten is doing some prevention, but Gerald is worried that the crews are moving invasive plants. He isn't seeing funding from the province to deal with invasives. The lack of funding is concerning. He is looking for a meeting record from 1982 where they talked about invasives.

Elhe Black: She is wearing two hats at this meeting: LRISS Director and Jr. Biologist with St'át'imc Government Services (SGS). In her role with SGS, she is in a technical advisory role for BC Hydro projects. She has been raising the profile of invasive management and advocating for planning and treatment work for the large upgrade projects that are happening in the area. SGS is working collaboratively with LRISS on the fin-fish bait issue and Portage River work.

Bill Spencer: Yalakom community has been educated by Bill -LRISS and many locals are good at recognizing invasives. For example, a Hoary Alyssum infestation was recognized and the LRISS staff did respond and removed it. Bill continues to monitor and removes plants. Yalakom Valley residents are concerned about the Tolko roads in the north of the valley connecting to roads to the Cariboo. They are trying to give feedback to at least have access controls because if the north – south route is established, it will encourage more recreational activity. Even now, there is traffic into the alpine in the Shulaps even though it is not allowed, it is not monitored or enforced so there is a risk of invasives spreading into the alpine. Bill is working on a Hoary Cress site on Highway 40, so this site doesn't spread. He communicates with the road contractor, Dawson and Bill removes this site every year. In the Yalakom, Bill can receive questions about unknown plants to see if it is invasive. He is an important resource to his community in the Yalakom and in our region.

Comment from Gerald specific to 4x4 companies: there is a road that is a circle route, and it was approved by the government that goes from the Yalakom to the Fraser River side. Xwísten is not in favour of this road. Jacquie is aware of this section of road because LRISS is a member of the 4x4 Association of BC and this road section was highlighted in one of their newsletters.

Sue Senger: Burdock was bad last year on her property and looks very bad this year. It is frustrating that it is bad. She wanted to remind people about invasive insects and keeping watch to report them.

Christian Ahrenkiel: Recently moved to Skuppa just south of Lytton. He and his partner are expecting a baby at the end of September. This is exciting but might be busy near the end of September. He will be carrying on with LRISS. In his work he is coordinating St'át'imc community response to deactivation planned in the Duffy Corridor. This work is being led by the Cascades Forest District and is linked to the 2021 atmospheric river slide events. Christian has connected with Jacquie about this work and the invasive infestations that may be blocked as a result of this work.

Comment from Bill: Encourages LRISS to use horses. Christian mentioned that there was renewed interest to use horses to do work with Guardians. This comment was in jest. It has logistical issues. 😊

7. Wrap-up

Thank you all for coming! Motion to adjourn at 3:53 pm was passed. **Adjourned at: 3:53 pm**

Short Board meeting:

Election of the Executive was all by acclamation.

Christian Ahrenkiel– Chair; Bill Spencer– Treasurer; Elhe Black– Vice Chair

Next Board meeting is June 9 – 9:30am

LRISS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society Balance Sheet As at Mar 31, 2026

ASSET

Current Assets

Gaming Equity Shares	7.83	
Gaming Bank Account	21,101.75	
Chequing Equity Shares	8.12	
Plan 24 Savings Account	11,692.69	
Chequing Bank Account	<u>17,514.10</u>	
TOTAL CASH		<u>50,324.49</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>50,324.49</u>

TOTAL ASSET 50,324.49

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Deferred Revenue	21,000.00	
GST Rebates Receivable	<u>-4,317.87</u>	
GST Owing (Refund)		<u>-4,317.87</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>16,682.13</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY 16,682.13

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings	4,245.69	
Current Earnings	<u>29,396.67</u>	
Total Retained Earnings		<u>33,642.36</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 33,642.36

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 50,324.49

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Vac Expense	1,089.00	1,131.09
Accommodation	400.00	0.00
Accounting	1,600.00	1,470.00
Advertising	3,345.18	1,592.19
Equipment	8,500.00	9,885.35
Fees, Licenses, Permits	5,300.00	6,405.38
Meals	200.00	437.84
Meeting Expenses	2,187.29	407.12
Mileage - kms	5,458.99	4,325.88
Office and Outreach	4,270.00	2,644.71
Office Rent	1,975.00	1,974.00
Admin Expense to Funders	16,310.00	16,310.00
Subtotal	49,546.46	45,452.47
Total Operating Expenses	52,983.46	48,815.33

Wage Expenses

Wages: Coordination-Communication	8,826.46	6,548.27
Wages: Coordination - Meeting	11,250.00	12,198.14
Wages: Coordination - Planning	10,828.78	12,569.39
Wages: Education & Awareness	27,857.31	24,475.41
Wages: Inventory	13,150.00	11,548.63
Wages: Treatment	2,900.00	3,162.75
Wages: Monitor	2,550.00	1,690.88
Wages: Data Entry	1,075.00	502.25
Wages: Funding - Coordination	9,500.00	7,865.88
Wages: Funding - Grants	1,350.00	6,155.63
Wages: Reporting	3,425.00	5,040.02
Wages: Survey	7,909.00	3,502.25
Wages: Employee Training	1,500.00	2,475.00
Wages: Data Management	2,386.11	4,038.63
Wages: Contract - Inventory	0.00	740.00
Wages: Contract - Treatment	33,000.00	45,716.73
Wages: Contract - Data	5,000.00	4,977.00
Wages: Contract -Outreach	37,800.00	36,750.00
Wages: Stat Holidays	530.00	1,019.82
Wages - Subtotal	180,837.66	190,976.68
Total Wage Expenses	180,837.66	190,976.68

TOTAL EXPENSE	233,821.12	239,792.01
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NET INCOME	3,000.00	29,396.67
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Generated On: Apr 08, 2026

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society Comparative Income Statement

	<u>Budget Apr 01, 2025 to Mar 31, 2026</u>	<u>Actual Apr 01, 2025 to Mar 31, 2026</u>
REVENUE		
Revenue from Funding		
Admin Revenue from Parks	650.00	650.00
Admin Revenue from SLRD Area A & B	1,000.00	1,000.00
Admin Revenue from MOTI	2,000.00	2,000.00
Admin Revenue from Feds - MOE	5,000.00	5,000.00
Admin Revenue from BC Hydro	900.00	900.00
Admin Revenue from SLRD	4,000.00	4,000.00
Admin Revenue from MOFLNRO	2,760.00	2,760.00
		16,310.00
Deferred Revenue	13,936.12	27,623.70
MOFLNRO - COORDINATION	15,000.00	15,000.00
MOFLNRO - OPERATIONS	23,000.00	23,000.00
MOTI	20,000.00	20,000.00
BC Hydro	9,000.00	27,583.00
SLRD Area A & B	10,000.00	10,000.00
SLRD Service	40,205.00	40,205.00
Feds - MOE	49,500.00	44,550.00
BC Gaming Grant	21,000.00	21,475.00
Employment Grants	11,370.00	11,119.00
GST Rebates	0.00	4,317.87
Lillooet Naturalists Society	1,000.00	1,500.00
PARKS	6,500.00	6,500.00
Net Funding Revenue	<u>236,821.12</u>	<u>269,183.57</u>
Other Revenue		
Bank Interest Revenue	0.00	5.11
Total Other Revenue	<u>0.00</u>	<u>5.11</u>
Internal Reallocations		
Internal Employment Grant Expense	0.00	-9,890.36
Internal Employment Grant Income	0.00	11,119.00
Internal MERCS Expense	0.00	-1,228.64
Total Internat Reallocations	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>236,821.12</u>	<u>269,188.68</u>
		252,878.68
EXPENSE		
Operating Expenses		
EI Expense	750.00	650.26
CPP Expense	1,530.00	1,524.87
WCB Expense	68.00	56.64