

LRISS 2024 AGM & Partner Planning Meeting Minutes



Where: Virtual on Zoom

When: May 1, 2024

Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Participants

Name	Title	Organization
Sue Senger	Chair	LRISS
Bill Spencer	Treasurer	LRISS, Yalakom Ecological Society
Mandi Rogers	Director	LRISS, LAFS
Christian Ahrenkiel	Director of Operations	P'egp'ig'ha Council
Matt Manuel	Lands Coordinator	Lillooet Tribal Council
Sheryl Wurtz	Invasive Plant Management Specialist	Ministry of Forests
Coleen Hougen	Invasive Plant Management Coordinator	Thompson Nicola Regional District
Vivian Birch-Jones	Area B Director, Secretary	Squamish Lillooet Regional Director, Lillooet Naturalist Society
Karen Playfair	Director	Lillooet Off Road Cycling Assoc
Marra Stewart	Business Development Lead & Tourism Coordinator	Lillooet Chamber of Commerce
Johannes Bodendorfer	Executive Director	Lillooet Chamber of Commerce
Jagoda Kozikowska	Environmental Coordinator	Squamish Lillooet Regional Director
Grahame Gielens	Environmental Roadside Manager	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Elhe Black	Biologist	St'át'imc Government Services
Ayla Barton		Rivershed Society of BC
Mica Anguita	Executive Director	Seat to Sky Invasive Species Society
Brieana Van Loon		Interwest Timber
Ira Harry	Councillor	Ts'kw'aylaxw
Geoff Playfair	President, Director	Lillooet Naturalists Society, Lillooet Off Road Cycling Society
Janna Pike		Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society
Karen Mitchell	Administrator	Xaxli'p Community Forest Corp
Shayla Chalifoux		Shaylish Indigenous Plant Selections, Sekw'el'was
Mike McEwan	Natural Resource Dept	Ts'kw'aylaxw
Jacquie Rasmussen	Executive Director	LRISS

AGENDA:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
2. LRISS 2023 Activities – Jacquie Rasmussen
3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections
4. Break
5. A review of LRISS Operational Activities & Discussion
6. Round Table Partner Updates
7. Wrap-up.

1. Welcome & Introductions:

Acknowledgement of the St'at'imc Territory

Review Agenda:

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

2. LRISS 2023 Activities – Jacquie Rasmussen

Jacquie gave a presentation that summarized the activities of LRISS in 2023. This is based on the report that was produced outlining these activities in more detail.

The 2023-24 report is on our website www.lriiss.ca

Q&A

None

3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections

2023 Minutes

Actions from previous year: NONE

Motion to accept the minutes from 2023 - Passed.

Review of financials: Bill Spencer.

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

Balance Sheet and Income Statement presented by Bill Spencer.

Questions

None.

Motion Passed to adopt the financial report as stated above.

Election of the Board of Directors: Run by Bill Spencer and Jacquie Rasmussen

Positions that are current:

Sue Senger, Bill Spencer, Gerald Michel

Positions to be renewed this year:

Mandi Rogers, Matt Manuel, Christian Ahrenkiel

New nominations:

Elhe Black

Nominations from the Floor:

None

All were accepted and passed by the membership.

Break

5. A review of LRISS Operational Activities & Discussion

Review of the LRISS region for 2024 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?

A motion to accept the 2 new species into the Eradicate category: Japanese Butterbur and White flowered broom was passed.

Feedback about species or specific locations:

Grahame Gielens, MOTI: Comment regarding species from a Provincial perspective: Invasive Trees have been raised to a higher priority, but the challenge is how to treat and manage them. Grahame also flagged invasive grasses : for example, Cheatgrass, North Africa Grass, Jointed Goat grass, slender false brome. These are concerns for the province. He encouraged everyone to keep their eyes open for odd looking grasses and to report.

Mandi Rogers continues to prioritize burdock on her property and range licence.

Janna Pike: Janna asked about resources for fruit bearing shrubs or plants that are invasive. Himalayan blackberry is one example. Goji berry was also mentioned as another invasive plant.

Vivian Birch-Jones: Hoary Cress is a high priority for Pine Ridge Road. From the junction with Highway 12 and it is getting very dense. It gets cut back by Pine Ridge residents, but it is not going away. Tree-of-Heaven is also in the Cheneault Gravel Pit.

Comment: Tree of Heaven very hard to control manually and need herbicides and Hoary Cress too. Hoary Cress is an early emergent species and early flowering (May).

Coleen Hougen from the TNRD suggested that we may want to try benthic barrier for Hoary Cress. They will be trying this.

Questions & Comments

- Elhe: where did LRISS source data for the layers that went into preparing the Priority Ranking Tool. Jacquie explained that this data came primarily from the BC Government Data warehouse. Mule deer is probably the only layer that isn't the most up to date based on Sue Senger's work. This isn't publicly available yet.

6. Partner Updates

Jake Bapty, Vegetation Management Specialist BC Hydro (Submitted in writing and read aloud): "BC Hydro continues to work with LRISS to provide contribution funding annually. This is focussed on invasive plants that occur on our transmission right of way corridors. We work with Jacquie and her staff to identify priority treatment areas. We thank LRISS for their continued efforts, and their leadership. Jake Bapty is BC Hydro's Vegetation Management Specialist for the South Interior and can be contacted if you have any questions related to invasive species and BC Hydro assets. Jake.Bapty@bchydro.com "

Stephanie Russell, Conservation Specialist – BC Parks – I have \$6500 (\$3500 Thompson and \$3000 Cariboo for Edge Hills) in my budget for LRISS this year. LRISS will be working with BC Parks to create a workplan for 2024.

Coleen Hougen, TNIPMC, TNRD: Provided a presentation. LRISS and TNIPMC have a special relationship because there is an overlap in our region. The TNIPMC operational plan has been updated and it is posted online. New invaders in the region: Common cocklebur, common evening primrose, phragmites, Queen Anne's Lace, Wild 4 O'clock and Wild Caraway. Cocklebur is in the Churn Creek watershed. Phragmites is in Walhachin along the rail line. This is problematic because this species could spread along the rail line into the LRISS region. Queen Anne's Lace is found on the Big Bar Rd. Wild 4 O'clock: found in Spences Bridge and likely Lytton. Coleen reported one Japanese Butterbur infestation found in Little Fort in the TNRD.

Along the shared LRISS-TNIPMC border: Blueweed, West Pavilion. It is a lower priority for treatment due to operational constraints for the TNIPMC.

A caution from Coleen that it is hard to identify invasive cocklebur because there is a native cocklebur, and it is suspected that the invasive and native is hybridizing. There are key distinguishing features on the seeds.

Another species to be aware of: Scotch thistle: On Highway 1 as far west as Cache Creek. It is being moved from the Vernon area.

LRISS-TNIPMC collaborations: monitoring a puncturevine infestation between Lytton and Lillooet on our board with the private landowner as well as inventory of the adjacent highway. Biocontrol monitoring in Edge Hills Park.

Mica Anguita, Executive Director, Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council – Mica has been in her position for 2 weeks, but she has worked with SSISC in the past. SSISC is just getting started with their field season. New species to be aware of: Japanese Butterbur. The one infestation is in the southern area near Lyons Bay. Narrow Leaved cattail is the other species that is new to their priority species in the Squamish Estuary. Although SSISC is addressing these species, there is no priority action from the province on Narrow-leaved cattail yet.

LRISS-SSISC collaborations: Treatment of Wild Parsnip with T'it'q'et. SSISC collaborates with Lil'wat to treat the Wild Parsnip on their reserve in addition to new inventory work on other lands for invasives. Mica noted that there is Blueweed on a school property that is just before the Hurley. Jacquie and Mica will be communicating about this Blueweed and the Hydro projects that will initiate more travel between our regions.

Mica also shared that SSISC works with the Resort Municipality of Whistler and the District of Squamish with regards to their invasive species bylaws and to take actions on private land that have invasives.

Janna Pike, Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society (LAFS). LAFS shares LRISS our posts. She expressed that LAFS would like more collaboration with LRISS have conversations especially with regards to the local seed library. She is interested in an invasive free bumblebee seed mix as one idea. Janna also believes we could collaborate with wildfire education and outreach and help community understand it better. She'd like to tackle topics like these, so it is easy for people to understand. Janna expressed an interest to collaborate with outreach and education.

Brieana Van Loon, Interwest Timber – Brieana expressed the willingness to go over salvage logging plans and hear about treatment for invasives that has worked. She also reported that Interwest has supports for people with private land if they need help with their properties. She expressed gratitude to being part of these and future discussions.

Mike McEwan, Natural Resources Department, Ts'kw'aylaxw – His department works with LRISS. He is very happy with how things are moving forward.

Vivian Birch-Jones, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Area B Director– Vivian expressed that she is impressed with how LRISS has progressed over the 10 years plus, as well as the participation at this meeting. She wanted to pass along that there will be Wildfire Preparedness Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers this Friday (May 3). There is lots of work around Firesmart in the SLRD.

Jacquie gave Vivian and the SLRD recognition because of the support and funding that we've received for projects beyond our Service operations (regular funding). The McKay Creek Wildfire Project and associated Masters project is one example.

Grahame Gielens, Environmental Roadside Manager, MOTI – With regards to the suggestion of the Native bumblebee mix, Elizabeth Elle will be presenting during Invasive Species Action Month hosted by the Invasive Species Council of BC. Other species that he wanted the group to take note of: Wild Chervil, Cress species and Phragmites are species being moved on the railway. News: A new Pesticide management Plan is approved for the southern part of the province. This PMP used to be 3 areas and separate PMP's and now it is just one for the entire area. This amalgamation significantly reduces administration and simplifies Consultation with BC's Indigenous communities. This was a key piece of feedback from Indigenous Communities. The Traditional Territories would cover 2-3 PMP's

areas so this added capacity challenges even though the PMP's were very similar. Lil'wat Wild Parsnip in the Sea to Sky: MOTI is working with Lil'wat.

Proposed burn in Darcy area: Grahame was contacted about a controlled burn that will be conducted by N'Quatqua. It is in the SSISC region and just outside the LRISS region. Grahame will connect with Jacquie about this project.

Wildlife and livestock fencing: Best Management Practices (BMP) for installation of fencing along highway right of way are being updated. These BMPs are important because fencing installation can cause a large disturbance and a hot bed for invasives. Machinery can also introduce invasives. Grahame is updating the BMP's, and more audits will occur to make sure installation and the BMPs are followed properly especially those areas that have been affected by wildfire.

Contracts: There will be a hold on new contracts being signed because of the election. No new contracts will be created after the end of May unless there are special circumstances.

Grahame will be speaking at the Transportation Association of Canada conference: His talk will include climate change, natural disaster, and invasive plants. There is a great line up of speakers if anyone is interested in going.

Q for Grahame: Is Forestry (range departments) sending out agrologists to inspect fencing? And supply proper seed mixtures? to these fence right-of-ways? This question will need to be sent to MOF. Sheryl was having technical difficulties and had to leave the AGM early.

Note of clarification MOTI is in charge of fencing along highway right of ways.

Mandi Rogers comment: Generally fencing contractors install the fences as per BC Cattlemen Assoc guidelines. At our local Lillooet Livestock Association meeting, we were told the range department had fencing materials and seed mixtures available (but only through some of the grants available) - but so far can't get much confirmation as to what is available etc. Again, this will be passed along to the Ministry of Forests, likely Cascades Forest District.

Jagoda Kozikowska, Environmental Coordinator, SLRD - Jagoda is working with LRISS and SSISC. This is her first time attending the AGM and Annual Partner Planning Meeting. She has nothing new to report at this time. She started her position in August 2023. She is still getting familiar with the operations.

Karen Mitchell, Forestry Manager Xaxli'p Community Forest Corp. – XCFC has a Crew of 5 doing the LRISS contractor. One of the priority areas for Xaxli'p is the conservation of their alpine in the Fountain Valley. There have been no cattle in the alpine. LRISS provided a training session the Range riders. Derek Saul is the crew lead, and he understands the invasive species "language". The XCFC crews are effective data collectors. Burdock is a high priority in the Valley. A few new species popping up and they have been mapped. She thanked everyone for their part in doing in the invasive work and the support to take care of their territory.

Ayla Barton, Rivershed Society – (Pasted from the chat) Unfortunately my mic is not working, however Rivershed is currently collaborating with the UBC master's student Virginia to create a visual rendering of the McKay Creek Wildfire project which will be used for outreach. Rivershed is also researching protection and restoration initiatives within the Fraser Watershed and is using this information to develop an online map highlighting these initiatives. The goal is to show how they connect across regions and uplift the people/organizations doing the work!

Geoff Playfair, Lillooet Naturalist Society – LNS membership is interested in natural and "invasive" species to protect local ecosystems. LNS forwards information and LRISS newsletter articles to their membership. Invasive removal and native planting occurred in 2023 spearheaded by Jonah & Christina Timms. The intent is to host these sessions again. LNS is also keeping membership informed about the McKay Wildfire restoration especially the research on the Fire by UBC. Looking into possible presentations about this restoration and research.

Karen Playfair, Director, Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association – LORCA works with LRISS. There was a trail clearing session last year: burdock primarily. LORCA helps to remind people to PlayCleanGo. The annual Bike rodeo includes invasives information for kids and parents too.

Elhe Black, Biologist, St'át'imc Government Services – Elhe is new to the Lillooet area. The key project is on the McKay Creek Wildfire. SGS is working with Sue restoring Mule deer winter range using food and cultural plants by planting corridors connecting existing or remaining Mule Deer Winter Range.

Christian Ahrenkiel, Director of Operations, T'it'q'et P'egp'ig'lha Council: Their Guardians do patrols in the territory and look for invasives. They receive training from LRISS and now conduct manual control for invasives in T'it'q'et wetland. They manage the collaboration with SSISC to do herbicide control of Wild Parsnip on reserve. They were unable to secure year-end funding to do Wild Parsnip treatment from the Ministry of Forests.

Bill Spencer, Yalakom Ecological Society (YES) – YES has been working in the area for 40 years. The 2 main areas of current work: 1. Horseshow bend area of the Bridge River. There is a salmon enhancement project there and there is a collaboration with Xwísten. YES is going to be involved in how that project will develop and invasive species management as well.

2. Xwísten collaboration to address concerns with the Tolko logging roads that are being built in the northern St'át'imc territory and Yalakom that will connect to the north and allow more traffic through to our region. This new access will cross over into the northern Yalakom and possibly Mud Lakes.

These are two main things of concerns and will continue to work with Xwísten to ensure we don't get more invasives into the region. This is coming from the Churn Creek Watershed.

Matt Manuel, Lands Coordinator, Lillooet Tribal Council: St'át'imc Gathering next week in N'Quatqua. Unity Riders went through Northern St'át'imc here in Sekw'el'was.

LTC continues to support membership committees with restoration especially Mule Deer Winter range and McKay Creek Wildfire. Mule Deer Report out soon. Looking at a deferral to protect the remaining habitat. This will need strong support from a variety of Communities and organizations.

Matt will be asking for direction from St'át'imc Leadership about how to support the impacted communities with regard to the Downton and Casper Creek fires. There is a government-led Land Based Recovery Table, but St'át'imc has not been involved with these yet.

LTC is also working on Big Horn sheep and impacts to them from disease from domestic sheep. They are working with Ministry biologists and NGOs to protect these species. Pressure on Ministry of Agriculture to implement policies that protect Big Horns from domestic sheep (diseases that they carry).

Matt will be retiring in 20 months. He'll be asking what is the fate of the Natural Resources department and the 30 years of data? How to share with communities and ask this question to communities.

Ongoing LRISS – how do we support stakeholders? Commitment to our operational budget. LRISS is the conduit to deliver operations. The St'át'imc moratorium on the use of herbicides is a topic that we'd like to address.

NDP government: some movement and discussions around legislative components that need to be addressed specifically the Mineral tenures Act. Matt is involved in meetings to discuss this Act and changes.

LTC is working with Cascades Natural Resource District to address Forests for Tomorrow and planting wildfire affected areas with a diversity of species.

LTC is going to be going to all of the membership communities and each department is going to present and ask the question: How can LTC support the member communities. Tsal'ah in May. Xwísten visit has occurred already. Then the other 3.

Additional announcement: Darwyn John retired from SGS. Very big loss for that organization.

Fiona McDonald, Digital Marketing Consultant for LRISS. – Fiona is very happy to be at the AGM to put names to faces. She has enjoyed traveling through our area and working with LRISS.

Sue Senger, LRISS Chair, Rose Hill Farm and Windwalker Consulting: Sue is working on the McKay Wildfire with regards to Mule Deer Winter Range. The hope is to extend this work to Downton and Casper areas. Preliminary results show very alarming information – 50% of winter range is gone. Every indication is that the catastrophic fires will continue so the protection of Mule Deer Winter range is an emergency situation. Sue views Mule Deer like passenger pigeons because the passenger pigeons were so abundant and could die out fast. It will take 100 years to grow the trees to restore Mule Deer Winter Range.

Sue explained that the efforts are to restore but also with an eye on what is happening with invasive species and not cause a spread or explosion. Hopefully wash stations will be out on the landscape as well as getting people trained.

Mandi Rogers, Lillooet Livestock Association - we had our LLA (Lillooet livestock Association meeting on April 6th) Kevin Boone - General Manager of the BCCA and our range agrologist Thomas Balson (as well as his boss - who's taken over for Rene) were in attendance and there was a big discussion about the fires and range and fencing and access roads to maintain/rebuild fencing and manage invasive species. The takeaway was that the range department will hopefully be coming out this year to visit our range tenures and hopefully be able to provide better communication around the ability to continue having road access to parts of our range tenures where there is a need to be able to access areas to mitigate increased invasive weeds.

Sheryl Wurtz, Invasive Plant Specialist, Range Branch, Ministry of Forests - **submitted after the meeting due to technical difficulties* - As many know, the multi-agency Pest Management Plan was up for renewal this year. We started Consultation with both the public and First Nations in September of 2023 in order to be completed and have our reports and requirements completed and submitted to Ministry of Environment in February 2024 for their review and application approval. This was achieved and the new PMP (which went from the South Area only to including boundaries of what was previously 3 PMP's and became 1 large Southern Coastal and Island PMP) was approved in mid-April. The Notice of Intent to treat was submitted in March as well so treatments were not held up in any areas.

As a result of the PMP First Nations Consultation, we met with many Communities including a weeklong trip to Lillooet last October allowing us to meet in person with a few. Many positive conversations occurred, and a couple of new partnerships were initiated, funding dependent with 2 Communities. Those are in early stages but have some positive steps forward to coming up with some treatment solutions for a couple of high priority species in the region. Further conversations will continue throughout the coming months.

We will be starting planning for the renewal process, Pubic and First Nations Consultation for the North PMP this summer as it expires Spring 2025.

Top 25 species list was reviewed and remained the same for 2024. We did a significant number of species assessments to get the list in a good place in 2023 so we are still quite comfortable with the order for 2024.

7. Wrap-up

Thank you all for coming! Motion to adjourn at 4:23 pm was passed. **Adjourned at: 4:23 pm**

LRISS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society Income Statement

REVENUE	Apr 01, 2023 to Mar 31, 2024
Revenue from Funding	
Admin Revenue from SLRD Area B	\$1,000.00
Admin Revenue from MOTI	\$2,000.00
Admin Revenue from Feds - MOE	\$5,000.00
Admin Revenue from HCTF	\$350.00
Admin Revenue from BC Hydro	\$500.00
Admin Revenue from SLRD	\$3,200.00
Admin Revenue from MOFLNRO	\$2,760.00
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	\$3,570.00
Deferred Revenue	\$38,747.96
MOFLNRO - COORDINATION	\$15,000.00
MOFLNRO - OPERATIONS	\$23,000.00
MOTI	\$20,000.00
BC Hydro	\$5,000.00
SLRD Area B	\$10,000.00
SLRD Service	\$32,142.50
Feds - MOE	\$44,550.00
BC Gaming Grant	\$21,000.00
Employment Grants	\$8,510.00
GST Rebates	\$2,764.53
Lillooet Naturalists Society	\$1,000.00
BC Parks	\$6,500.00
Net Funding Revenue	\$246,594.99
Other Revenue	
Bank Interest Revenue	\$2.92
Donations	\$305.18
Total Other Revenue	\$308.10
TOTAL REVENUE	\$246,903.09
Revenue minus Admin Revenue	\$229,328.56

EXPENSE

Operating Expenses	
EI Expense	\$627.95
CPP Expense	\$1,472.70
WCB Expense	\$50.19
Vac Expense	\$1,095.37

Accomodation	\$0.00
Accounting	\$682.50
Advertising	\$4,345.64
Equipment	\$6,848.16
Fees, Licenses, Permits	\$4,421.56
Meals	\$180.92
Meeting Expenses	\$766.73
Mileage - kms	\$5,652.07
Office and Outreach	\$6,069.37
Office Rent	\$1,530.00
Sample Courier Fees	\$70.53
Deferred Expenses fr Previous Year	\$9.18
Admin Expense to Funders	\$14,810.00
Total Operating Expenses	\$48,632.87

Wage Expenses

Wages: Coordination-Communication	\$5,229.00
Wages: Coordination - Meeting	\$13,534.50
Wages: Coordination - Planning	\$9,444.50
Wages: Education & Awareness	\$32,088.87
Wages: Inventory	\$7,675.00
Wages: Treatment	\$2,671.18
Wages: Monitor	\$1,344.45
Wages: Data Entry	\$189.00
Wages: Funding - Coordination	\$8,242.80
Wages: Funding - Grants	\$1,921.50
Wages: Reporting	\$2,677.50
Wages: Survey	\$279.50
Wages: Employee Training	\$1,368.00
Wages: Data Management	\$4,336.50
Wages: Contract - Inventory	\$12,675.00
Wages: Contract - Treatment	\$41,350.00
Wages: Contract - Data	\$5,000.00
Wages: Contract -Outreach	\$27,825.00
Wages: Stat Holidays	\$741.60
Total Wage Expenses	\$178,593.90

TOTAL EXPENSE	\$227,226.77
----------------------	---------------------

NET INCOME	\$19,676.32
-------------------	--------------------

Generated On: Apr 23, 2024

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society

Balance Sheet As at Mar 31, 2024

ASSET

Current Assets

Gaming Equity Shares	7.05
Gaming Bank Account	20,987.54
Chequing Equity Shares	7.28
Plan 24 Savings Account	4,855.47
Chequing Bank Account	<u>23,286.99</u>
TOTAL CASH	49,144.33
Total Current Assets	<u>49,144.33</u>

TOTAL ASSET 49,144.33

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Deferred Revenue	21,000.00
Accounts Payable	6,880.00
Collabria Visa #4753 Payable	115.00
WCB Payable	0.86
GST Rebates Receivable	<u>-2,773.54</u>
GST Owing (Refund)	-2,773.54
Total Current Liabilities	<u>25,222.32</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY 25,222.32

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings	4,245.69
Current Earnings	<u>19,676.32</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>23,922.01</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 23,922.01

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 49,144.33

Generated On: Apr 24, 2024