

LRISS 2025 AGM & Partner Land Planning Meeting Minutes



Where: Virtual on Zoom

When: May 7, 2025

Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Participants

| Name | Title | Organization |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Christian Ahrenkiel | Director of Operations, Chair | T'it'q'et-P'egp'ig'Iha, LRISS |
| Sue Senger | Land Guardian Coordinator, Director | St'át'imc Chiefs Council, LRISS |
| Bill Spencer | Treasurer | LRISS, Yalakom Ecological Society |
| Elhe Black | Biologist, Director | St'át'imc Government Services, LRISS |
| Sheryl Wurtz | Invasive Plant Management Specialist | Ministry of Forests |
| Graham Watson | Environmental Roadside Manager | Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure |
| Coleen Hougen | Invasive Plant Management Coordinator | Thompson Nicola Regional District |
| Vivian Birch-Jones | Area B Director, Secretary | Squamish Lillooet Regional Director, Lillooet Naturalist Society |
| Jagoda Kozikowska | Environmental Coordinator | Squamish Lillooet Regional Director |
| Cait Gentle | | Rivershed Society, Food & Land Systems |
| Amie Waelchi | | Lil'wat Nation |
| Marisa Carr | Planning Forester | Timber Sales |
| Janna Pike | Program Coordinator | Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society |
| Trevor Chandler | Retired Professional Agrologist | Member of the Public |
| Jacque Rasmussen | Executive Director | LRISS |
| Chris Rottluff | Roads Supervisor | Dawson Road Maintenance |

AGENDA:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
2. LRISS 2024 Activities & Presentation of Draft Strategy 2025-30 – 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 2024 Activities – Jacquie Rasmussen

Jacquie gave a presentation that summarized the activities of LRISS in 2024. This is based on the report that was produced outlining these activities in more detail.

The 2024-25 report is on our website www.lriiss.ca

Q&A

None

3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections

2024 Minutes

Actions from previous year: NONE

Motion to accept the minutes from 2024 - 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.

Also showed the Reconciliation of Fund Summaries to Bank Accounts

Questions

Funding Grants – what is this category? Vivian

Jacquie explained that this category is the time spent on writing grants.

Trevor Chandler: What made up Fees, licences & permits? Jacquie explained the new contract templates that were acquired through a lawyer was included in this category, so it was a high amount.

Motion Passed to adopt the financial report as stated above.

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

Matt Manuel will be stepping down.

Positions that are current: Christian Ahrenkiel, Mandi Rogers, Elhe Black

Positions to be re-election this year:

Sue Senger, Bill Spencer, Gerald Michel

New nominations:

None

Nominations from the Floor:

None

All were accepted and passed by the membership.

4. 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 change the 2 species from Eradicate category to Prevent: Japanese Butterbur and White flowered broom was passed.

A motion to accept the 3 new species into the Eradicate category: Fernleaf Yarrow, Queen Anne's Lace, Common Evening Primrose was passed.

Feedback about species or specific locations:

Questions & Comments

Trevor Chandler – Black locust. He is concerned about our outreach material about this plant. The wood is very good for treated posts. The fodder is not toxic, but the bark is. He doesn't see the evidence that it is invasive in our region. Why is it categorized as invasive? Trevor said it is important to know about this species to manage it well. And he says it is extremely important to agro forestry. The flowers are very important for honey and the wood is very good for firewood as well. He'd like to see some nuance in the outreach material. Flowers are also used in cooking. Bill added to this because he has black locust trees on his property and says it is very valuable wood for handles or posts. He hasn't seen it move on the landscape. Flowers attract pollinators. If you need to control them, you can scrape away the bark and girdle the trunk and it will stop growing. He says it is not a problem.

Vivian: Removing many invasives from private land. Losing the battle regarding Hoary Cress. Vivian does wish that herbicides could be used for this species. She is asking for help with this species and recommends that the Board discuss this topic and the use of herbicides for this species.

5. Partner Updates

Marissa Carr, BC Timber Sales, Planning Forester, Cascades District: Presentation: Invasive Plants and Forest Management. A PowerPoint presentation was given, and a copy will be provided to the attendees.

Vivian Birch-Jones, Squamish Lillooet Regional District, Area B Director– Admire the work that LRISS is doing.

6. Break – 5min.

Coleen Hougen, Integrated Pest Management Supervisor, TNRD, Coordinator for Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee (TNIPMC), A presentation was provided, and a PDF will be provided as an attachment to the minutes... Coleen reported that they are dealing with hoary cress, and it is very hard to deal with even with herbicides. They are trialing a 2-pass herbicide treatment. Puncturevine has been detected at the Deadman Creek rodeo grounds: Apparently it has been there for a few years and 800-1000 people come each year from all over. Wild 4-o'clock is an issue near Spences bridge and very thick and LRISS needs to keep an eye out. Fernleaf Yarrow is an "Eradicate" category species for the TNIPMC and it was found at the Thompson Rivers University plant sale. It was pulled but some had already been sold. Common Evening Primrose is becoming more and more prevalent. Trying to do surveys to make a better management plan. TNIPMC is also dealing with 2 Provincial Early Detection Rapid Response species: Black henbane: Deadman, Perennial Pepperweed. Phragmites near Wallachin.

Kathy Ma, **Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society** – Shared the following via email:

- We did a lot of Scotch Broom removal work in the Fraser Canyon last year, this will be monitoring those efforts and trying to catch any regrowth and get ahead of any wildfire fuel/risk
- other species at our shared boundary in the Fraser Canyon, hoary alyssum, dalmatian toadflax, Hounds Tongue continues to be targeted, but may switch to relying on biocontrol Hounds Tongue, aim to do some agent monitoring this year to help inform decision

- Wild chervil is still a concern for us, especially in the Abbotsford/Chilliwack area. Due to spread post-flood, we are reevaluating our work prioritization, keeping in mind the aim to contain the plants and prevent spread beyond our region. Because of that, the Hwy 1 Fraser Canyon, Hwy 5, Hwy 3 are our top priority areas as we have no sites YET in our region east of Hope

- Knotweed treatments continue. We have a cost-share program, now calling it the Knot on My Property program (and sharing this branding with some other lower mainland/coast RISO groups)

- will be continuing to raise awareness on knotweed in the Chilliwack River due to spread post-flood

- lake monitoring for ZQM will also be continuing, as roving inspection stations are expected to operate in our region

Grahame Watson, Environmental Roadside Manager, MOTT – MOTT has an agreement with LRISS to deliver treatment as well as education and outreach. This includes special projects with Xaxli'p to remove burdock. Graham Gielen's is normally the contact. MOTT invasives budget is 2.5 million. Considering all of the high priority species for roadsides, this isn't a large budget

Jacquie explained she is working with the MOTT Gravel Pit staff to identify invasives especially in the product that would be moved out of the pits.

Sheryl Wurtz, Invasive Plant Specialist, Range Branch, Ministry of Forests – No update provided. Technical difficulties with her tech and didn't provide an update via email.

Cait Gentle, Rivershed Society of BC: New staff in the Foodlands corridor restoration program. In the past, the Rivershed Society hosted paddling on the Fraser to advocate for river health. They have pivoted from paddles to restoration localized to agriculture areas and focus on indigenous medicine and culturally significant plants. Rivershed has 30 years of operation and partnerships. Cait might be interested in a Board position. Glad to connect with people.

Janna Pike, Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society (LAFS), Program Coordinator. Currently, there is a Lillooet Grown Market at the HUB and is taking lots of time and resources. Main purpose is to create a social enterprise for LAFS to work towards the food system and encourage the growth of local farmers and sell local goods. There are lots of opportunities to work with LRISS including a table at the farmer's market to display information. Could display LRISS resources. This is also the second year that LAFS is operating a gleaning program.

Karen Playfair, Director, Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association – LORCA works with LRISS. Sent in a report (attached) for reading.

Christian Ahrenkiel, Director of Operations, T'it'q'et P'egp'ig'lha Council: This council represents title and rights and territorial stewardship for off reserve. On IR 1, the Council and staff have been involved in the Wild Parsnip removal. The Wild Parsnip removal project is transitioning to the Lands Department of the main Administration. The Council has a Guardian program with 4 Guardians that will be doing invasives removal. The Guardians will be dedicating 1 day a week to remove invasives in Town Creek using the LRISS inventory report completed from 2024. This summer there is a summer Guardian training program monitoring by horseback to incorporate this mode of transportation to the monitoring program. The horseback riding training is in collaboration with Splitrock. LRISS will be setting up training for any new Guardians and those in the horseback riding program.

Sue Senger, LRISS Chair, Rose Hill Farm and Windwalker Consulting: Sue Senger is the St'át'imc Chief's Council Lands Guardian Coordinator with all 11 St'át'imc Communities. Invasive species are part of the ongoing work with the Guardians, and she is working to connect the southern communities to the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council. At a recent meeting there were lots of communities talking and working on invasives.

Elhe Black, Biologist, St'át'imc Government Services – They are working on a Food Systems Restoration project and Mule deer forage project on West Pavilion. They are also noticing invasive species in the project areas. They have knowledgeable staff that teach other staff members about invasives.

Bill Spencer, Yalakom Ecological Society (YES) – Bill is a founding member of LRISS and Yalakom is a concerned and involved community with invasive species. He has helped to educate people about invasive species. Bill is also a Director of the YES since 1986 and involved in land management processes including eco-based processes. He likes to be involved and can devote more time and finds it rewarding. He takes care of a small Hoary Cress near the Horseshoe bend on HWY 40. It hasn't likely gone to seed due to his care and treatment each year.

Jacquie: It is recommended that LRISS asks for written updates especially from our Ministry Partners in the event of technical difficulties, they can be read aloud.

7. Wrap-up

Thank you all for coming! Motion to adjourn at 4:00 pm was passed. **Adjourned at: 4:00 pm**

LRISS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society Balance Sheet As at Mar 31, 2025

ASSET

Current Assets

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Gaming Equity Shares | 7.83 | |
| Gaming Bank Account | 21,573.30 | |
| Chequing Equity Shares | 8.12 | |
| Plan 24 Savings Account | 7,632.50 | |
| Chequing Bank Account | 14,943.33 | |
| TOTAL CASH | | 44,165.08 |
| Funder Holdbacks Receivable | 4,950.00 | |
| TOTAL RECEIVABLES | | 4,950.00 |
| Total Current Assets | | 49,115.08 |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL ASSET | 49,115.08 |
|--------------------|------------------|

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Deferred Revenue | 21,000.00 | |
| Accounts Payable | 212.63 | |
| Collabria Visa #4753 Payable | 88.14 | |
| GST Rebates Receivable | -4,055.08 | |
| GST Owing (Refund) | -4,055.08 | |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 17,245.69 |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL LIABILITY | 17,245.69 |
|------------------------|------------------|

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Retained Earnings | 4,245.69 | |
| Current Earnings | 27,623.70 | |
| Total Retained Earnings | | 31,869.39 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL EQUITY | 31,869.39 |
|---------------------|------------------|

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | 49,115.08 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|

Generated On: Apr 25, 2025

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society

Income Statement Apr 01, 2024 to Mar 31, 2025

REVENUE

Revenue from Funding

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Admin Revenue from Parks | 650.00 |
| Admin Revenue from SLRD Area A & B | 1,000.00 |
| Admin Revenue from MOTI | 2,000.00 |
| Admin Revenue from Feds - MOE | 5,000.00 |
| Admin Revenue from HCTF | 360.00 |
| Admin Revenue from BC Hydro | 500.00 |
| Admin Revenue from SLRD | 4,000.00 |
| Admin Revenue from MOFLNRO | 2,670.00 |
| Habitat Conservation Trust Fund | 3,730.00 |
| Deferred Revenue | 24,631.72 |
| MOFLNRO - COORDINATION | 15,000.00 |
| MOFLNRO - OPERATIONS | 23,000.00 |
| MOTI | 20,000.00 |
| BC Hydro | 7,000.00 |
| SLRD Area A & B | 10,000.00 |
| SLRD Service | 40,205.00 |
| Feds - MOE | 49,500.00 |
| BC Gaming Grant | 21,000.00 |
| Employment Grants | 15,895.00 |
| GST Rebates | 4,055.08 |
| Lillooet Naturalists Society | 1,500.00 |
| PARKS | 6,500.00 |
| Net Funding Revenue | 258,196.80 |

Other Revenue

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Bank Interest Revenue | 5.11 |
| Total Other Revenue | 5.11 |

Internal Reallocations

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Internal Employment Grant Expense | -14,475.83 |
| Internal Employment Grant Income | 15,895.00 |
| Internal MERCS Expense | -1,419.17 |
| Total Internal Reallocations | 0.00 |

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| TOTAL REVENUE | 258,201.91 |
|----------------------|-------------------|

EXPENSE

Operating Expenses

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| El Expense | 766.49 |
| CPP Expense | 1,794.27 |
| WCB Expense | 59.37 |
| Vac Expense | 1,317.23 |
| Advertising | 3,595.92 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Equipment | 8,423.22 | |
| Fees, Licenses, Permits | 14,439.68 | |
| Meals | 476.03 | |
| Meeting Expenses | 3,104.93 | |
| Mileage - kms | 4,456.42 | |
| Office and Outreach | 9,517.79 | |
| Office Rent | 1,732.50 | |
| Sample Courier Fees | 102.56 | |
| Transportation | 100.10 | |
| Deferred Expenses fr Previous Year | 5.40 | |
| Admin Expense to Funders | 16,180.00 | |
| Subtotal | | 62,134.55 |
| Total Operating Expenses | | 66,071.91 |

Wage Expenses

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Wages: Coordination-Communication | 6,919.50 | |
| Wages: Coordination - Meeting | 11,896.51 | |
| Wages: Coordination - Planning | 9,419.01 | |
| Wages: Education & Awareness | 24,863.88 | |
| Wages: Inventory | 14,161.00 | |
| Wages: Treatment | 1,734.00 | |
| Wages: Monitor | 2,756.00 | |
| Wages: Data Entry | 283.50 | |
| Wages: Funding - Coordination | 8,763.68 | |
| Wages: Funding - Grants | 879.38 | |
| Wages: Reporting | 2,989.88 | |
| Wages: Survey | 544.50 | |
| Wages: Employee Training | 1,216.00 | |
| Wages: Data Management | 4,302.38 | |
| Wages: Contract - Inventory | 1,537.50 | |
| Wages: Contract - Treatment | 31,700.00 | |
| Wages: Contract - Data | 4,854.00 | |
| Wages: Contract - Outreach | 34,702.50 | |
| Wages: Stat Holidays | 983.08 | |
| Wages - Subtotal | | 164,506.30 |
| Total Wage Expenses | | 164,506.30 |
| TOTAL EXPENSE | | 230,578.21 |
| NET INCOME | | 27,623.70 |

Generated On: Apr 25, 2025

Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society: 2024-25 In-Kind Contributions

| Volunteer or Organization | Activity or Resource | Estimated number of hours/units | Rate (if applicable) | Estimated Value |
|---|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Member of Public - Gun Lake Weed removal | Weed removal roadside on Gun Lake Road, Downton Fire area | 35 | \$27 | \$945.00 |
| Ts'kw'aylaxw Guardian Crew | Biocontrol Monitoring Assistance | 16 | \$60 | \$960.00 |
| Xaxli'p Range Riders | Rough Creek Trail | 8 | \$30 | \$240.00 |
| Bridge River Valley Community Association - Trail Committee Coordinator | Trail inventory: Lower Gun Creek Trail | 6 | \$27 | \$162.00 |
| Jon Anderson | Yellow Flag Iris Treatment | 8 | \$27 | \$216.00 |
| Lillooet Naturalist Society | Burdock Removal on the Lion's Trail Dec 8 | 9 | \$27 | \$243.00 |
| BCWS | Electrolyte tablets | 10 | \$13 | \$126.00 |
| BCWS | Accommodations (3 nights) | 3 | \$200 | \$600.00 |
| Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association | Bike Rodeo Organization | 8 | \$27 | \$216.00 |
| Splitrock Environmental | Walking with the Smolts Event Coordination | 8 | \$27 | \$216.00 |
| Xwisten, Xáxli'p, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Sekw'el'was, | Organizations posting monthly newsletters | 42 | \$27 | \$1,134.00 |
| Seniors Expo Event | Seniors Connect - HUB | 8 | \$28 | \$224.00 |
| Lillooet Livestock Association meetings | Fall 2024 meeting organization | 2 | \$27 | \$54.00 |
| Lillooet Library | Organize youth events | 8 | \$22 | \$176.00 |
| Tsa'alh | Organize Career Fair | 8 | \$25 | \$200.00 |
| McKay Creek Fire Restoration Meetings (Nov 22) | Meeting Organization | 4 | \$30 | \$120.00 |
| Downton SLRD Fire Recovery Meetings | Meeting Organization | | \$30 | \$0.00 |
| Plankton Tow nets | Plankton Tow nets | 2 | \$0 | \$1,200.00 |
| TOTALS | | 185 | | \$7,032.00 |

Reports from Partners

1. BC Timber Sales powerpoint: As an attachment.
2. Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee powerpoint: As an attachment.
3. Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association: See below



The Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association (LORCA) is a group of volunteer members dedicated to enjoying and promoting responsible mountain biking, and the sustainable maintenance of Lillooet area trails.

In 2024, our programs included group rides, trail cleanup and minor maintenance days, education, and awareness of the sport. We partnered with LRISS to host the popular annual kids' bike rodeo, at which bike and helmet safety checks and a basic riding skills program are offered free of charge. The rodeo also offers an opportunity to educate young riders on responsible trail use, including the importance of Play, Clean, Go.

This past year, a number of the directors have also been volunteering with teacher Jen Eddie and her class from George M. Murray Elementary School on a trail building program. The focus of this program has been sustainable trail development, including inventorying wildlife and flora (native and invasive) in the trail area. The kids have done a terrific job on their trail, and are demonstrating solid knowledge of what their section of trail offers in terms of plants and wildlife habitat.

In 2025, the group recently offered a Women's Only adult riding skills clinic, as well as a drop-in bike maintenance evening, hosted at the local brewery.

As there is director cross-over with the Bridge River Valley Community Association's trail committee, LRISS's message on Play, Clean, Go and working to limit the spread of invasives is also being amplified in the trail and mountain biking community in the Bridge River Valley.

LORCA looks forward to continuing to partner with LRISS as we promote responsible recreation and enjoyment on the land in the beautiful St'at'imc territory.