

LRISS 2023 AGM & Partner Planning Meeting Minutes



Where: Virtual on Zoom
When: May 4, 2023
Time: 1:30-4:30pm

Participants

Name	Title	Organization
Sue Senger	Chair	LRISS
Bill Spencer	Treasurer	LRISS, Yalakom Ecological Society
Ellen Reyes	Director, Environment Manager	LRISS, St'át'imc Governance Services
Gerald Michel	Director, Councillor	LRISS, Xwísten
Sarah Petznick	Executive Director	Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society
Christian Ahrenkiel	Director	P'egp'ig'lha 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 & Past President	Squamish Lillooet Regional Director, Lillooet Naturalist Society
Daryn Scotchman	Environment & Fisheries Technician	Sekw'el'was, Splitrock Environmental
Tim Peter	Tsal'alh Guardianship Program Lead, Lands Resources Technician	Tsal'alh
Nicole Morgenstern	Environmental Technician	St'át'imc Governance Services
Kathy Ma	Executive Director	Fraser Valley Invasive Species Society
Amie Waelchi	Lands on Reserve Manager	Lil'wat Nation
Roisin Cumming		Member of the public
Jacque Rasmussen	Executive Director	LRISS

AGENDA:

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
2. LRISS 2022 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: Bill Spencer & Jacquie Rasmussen

Acknowledgement of the St'át'imc Territory

Review Agenda:

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

2. LRISS 2022 Activities – Jacquie Rasmussen

Jacquie gave a presentation that summarized the activities of LRISS in 2022. This is based on the report that was produced outlining these activities in more detail.

The 2022-23 report is on our website www.lriss.ca

Q&A

None

3. AGM Business – Financial Update & Elections

2022 Minutes

Actions from previous year: NONE

Motion to accept the minutes from 2022 - 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:

Mandi Rogers, Matt Manuel

Positions to be renewed this year:

Sue Senger, Bill Spencer, Gerald Michel & Ellen Reyes for 2 year position

Nominations from the Floor:

Christian Ahrenkiel – for one year.

All were accepted and passed by the membership.

Break

5. A review of LRISS Operational Activities & Discussion

Review of sites for treatment: Are there any high priority areas to identify that were not already covered for the PRT

Review of the species to change the category: Scotch Broom and Invasive Trees

Questions & Comments

- Comments from Gerald Michel: after the invasive tree list was shown, Gerald brought up concern for Russian Olive. He said it is a fire hazard and is spreading in east Lillooet.
- Bill Spencer commented that Sea Buckthorn was invasive, and he'd seen that locally.
- Coleen Hougén asked about the colour coding of the invasive plant sites on the Priority Ranking Tool map shown during the review and input section of our Annual Planning Meeting. Jacquie explained that the colour of the dots/infestations indicated their overall ranking. She showed the legend.

6. Partner Updates

Note that a few of these updates were actually given before the AGM portion because there was time before the Annual Planning Meeting section. People were joining us at 3pm for that agenda item only so we were filling in some time.

Clare Greenberg, Sea to Sky Invasive Species Society (submitted in writing and read aloud)

- SSISC team is gearing up for another busy year – we will have a team of 16 staff, onboarding seasonal staff during April and May.
- New species that have arrived in the region in the past year: Japanese Butterbur, Tree of Heaven, Teasel, Hound's Tongue.
- We are seeing more Scotch Broom in the northern part of our region (e.g., In-shuck FSR along Lillooet Lake) – definitely one for LRISS to be on high alert for
- We have also added many new species to our prevention watchlist, most from the provincial invasive tree list We are asking for feedback and input on our 2023 Program Plan which you can download here: <https://ssisc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/SSISC-Program-Plan-for-2023-DRAFT-2023-04-11.pdf>
- Our 2022 Highlights report also gives a good overview of what we've been up to over the past year too:
- <https://ssisc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Annual-Report-Highlights-2022-for-online-use.pdf>

Jake Bapty, 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 “

Daryn Scotchman – Sekw'el'was Land Adviser. Environment and Fisheries technician. Daryn is currently reading the late Chief Perry Redan's files to understand the projects he was working on. Cheryl Blair, Splitrock Environmental Biologist, is working on Grizzly Bear recovery.

Christian Ahrenkiel – Director of the P'egp'ig'lha Council. The Council is responsible for the traditional land for T'it'q'et and their mandate is off-reserve stewardship. They currently have 3 Lands Guardians and 2 Fisheries Guardians. Activities for the Land Guardians include territorial patrols and checking wildlife cameras for recreational use and wildlife. The Guardians will be monitoring for invasive species and doing some treatment as well. The Guardian program isn't new but has mostly all new members. The Guardians will likely be involved in Wild Parsnip removal at the wetland. There is an emphasis on building capacity within the Guardian team and this will include the identification of plants (and invasive plants). P'egp'ig'lha has and will continue to engage in the projects taking place for the restoration of the McKay Creek Fire area in addition to collaborating as a member of the McKay Creek Technical Committee.

Vivian Birch-Jones – Director for Area B for the Squamish Lillooet Regional District. She is a strong supporter of LRISS. Vivian is also the Past President and Secretary of the Lillooet Naturalist Society. LNS has been a supporter (in-kind and funding) of LRISS since it was formed in 2011. LNS and LRISS have a strong partnership. Weed pull days on local trails will be hosted by LNS this spring and summer. Vivian is especially pleased about circulation of information about Burdock because songbirds and bats get caught in its burrs and die. Vivian has observed that Hoary Cress continues to exist along her road and spreading. She is happy to hear about the LRISS - LAAS (Lillooet Animal Advocate Society) partnership and work around feral cats. Feral cats have impacts to birds and small mammals.

Sarah Petznick – Lillooet Agriculture & Food Society: LAFS is partner with LRISS. LAFS has shifted gears with funding and is excited to support a community butcher hub at Spray Creek ranch. LAFS is working with the Ucwalmicw Society on their incubator farm program as well as other successful funding from Northern Development Initiative Trust. LAFS has a new Farmer's Market coordinator – Cara Clark. In general, Sarah is excited that LAFS is expanding their staff team: Janna Pike is a program coordinator for the Cookbook (NDIT funding). Exciting that there is growth!

Sheryl Wurtz – Ministry of Forest. Invasive Plant Specialist. There are changes in the structure of the Invasive Plant program. Its changing from zones to positions. This means instead of one person connecting with LRISS, the specific specialist will connect with LRISS depending on the topic. Overall, Derek Hogen will be working with all of the Regional Invasive Species Organizations across BC. Other staff positions of note include the Early Detection Rapid Response Specialist – Becky Brown, Derek Hogen's official title is Policy & Practices Specialist. There will also be new specialists hired including aquatic, terrestrial and climate change specialist. By the Summer, the aquatic specialist should be in place. Inquiries will go to the applicable specialist. Many retirements especially in the biocontrol

program. A new biocontrol specialist has been hired: Janine Brook. Judith Carder's position will be filled this summer. Some positions will be reclassified. Two of the province's Pesticide Management Plan's are up for review and renewal in 2024. The Southern Interior PMP that covers the LRISS region and the Vancouver Island one. Sheryl will be starting the consultation process by sending letters in the next few months.

Tim Peter – Tsal'alh. Tim reported that Tsal'alh has worked with LRISS for many years. About 6 years ago. Tsal'alh had guardians that LRISS trained and now there is a new guardian program with 3 new people. This new Guardian program is in the phase of increasing capacity. Tim has set a date with Jacque to do hands on training in the community.

Nicole Morgenstern – St'át'imc Government Services (SGS) Environmental Technician. SGS has a project funded by the First Nations Health Authority called: Post Wildfire Food Security Project. This project will be collaborating with the UBC McKay Creek Vegetation response project (Master's project).

Ellen Reyes – SGS Environment Manager since Jan 2021. Ellen oversees the fish and lands projects. She also oversees Hydro projects. Ellen supervises 3 technicians and, in the summer, youth seasonal technicians. Ellen is in the process of receiving the funding for the FNHA project. Ellen also contributed to the Memorandum of Understanding developed and signed between LRISS and the St'át'imc Chiefs' Council-Lands and Heritage Committee & SGS.

Coleen Hougen – Invasive Plant Manager for TNIPMC – Thompson Nicola Regional District. Coleen provided a presentation about priority invasive plant species and what was happening along our shared borders. This is a summary of key points shared.

- LRISS and Thompson Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee share borders along Highway 99 and Hwy 12. There are also 2 small overlap areas where Coleen and Jacque collaborate on inventory, management & treatment.
- New invaders to the TNRD: thankfully they are not near the LRISS boarder. Persian Cornflower (Merritt area) Fernleaf yarrow (Merritt, came in with contaminated soil or equipment) Queen Anne's Lace (Kamloops area) Myrtle spurge (Ashcroft)
- Treatments will focus on regional and provincial priority species – Eradicate and Control Species and some "Contain"
- Plants at our shared borders include:
 - Baby's breath (contain for TNRD) Cache Creek, Churn Creek ,Hwy1 & 97
 - Blueweed (contain) treat all outside the contain line. Core in Merritt. South of Cache Creek, Murray, West Pavilion FSR
 - Common Tansy (contain) – Kwoiek (south of Lytton)
 - Hoary Cress – Hwy 99, Kelly Lake
 - Puncturevine (Fountainview Academy – working with LRISS and Fountainview; management is manual because Fountainview is an organic carrot farm
 - Russian Knapweed (contain)

Question for Coleen: How is the TNRD treating Hoary Cress and how is it working? Coleen explained that it is an early emergent species so May treatment is of the rosettes with herbicides but later, the flowers are cut and then herbicides are applied. The TNRD has only been active for the last 2 years so a review of the effectiveness of this treatment hasn't been collated yet.

Sue Senger – Chair, LRISS, Professional Biologist & Agrologist. Owner of Rose Hill Farms. The weeds on her farm will likely get away on her because of her lack of capacity (broken finger). She reminded everyone that bears are out and moving and to implement best practices to protect bears. She thanked our neighbouring Regional Committee's for the information about their programs and information along our borders.

Gerald Michel – Xwísten Councillor, LRISS Director. Working on McKay Creek fire. Xwísten is active on the McKay Creek Fire Committee. Last year, their crews did the review of the fire guards for cultural heritage before they were rehabilitated. Xwísten works with Ts'kw'aylaxw on the fire area and rehabilitation. Gerald started on invasives in

1982 on knapweed specifically. There was a committee back then that involved many government representatives and other stakeholders. He took courses including biocontrol. More recently, the community bought a bailer and unfortunately it was infested with parasitic dodder. After dodder was established in the community, a highways mower spread it. Gerald didn't know about parasitic dodder, so he emphasized the needed for education as a key part of the prevention.

Bill Spencer – Yalakom Ecological Society (YES) and LRISS Treasurer. Bill explained that he is part of the Yalakom community about 22 km northwest of Lillooet. He is the Director of the Yalakom Ecological Society which has been active for 38 years including work on invasives. YES used to receive a contract from MOF to manual remove Knapweed around the Tergazhi dam area. MoF contributed money toward YES expenses, but the manual removal of the knapweed was primarily a volunteer effort. Knapweed now has several biocontrol agents on the infestations in the Lillooet Region. Bill says that parasitic dodder has been spreading in their area. He thinks it is being spread by wildlife and definitely by vehicles. There are a few other species that they are concerned with in the community that are primarily related to agriculture and hay fields: Night flowering catchfly is an example. Yalakom community members are involved in invasive species identification. When there is a new species or unidentified plant, Bill will help or get photos to Jacquie to help with the identification. YES does other things including cooperating with Xwísten and SGS in St'át'imc territory to decrease invasives and reduce the loss of biodiversity. Bill feels very good about our collaborations.

Question from Sue: Is the Weather station information for Lillooet coming from Ashcroft? Does anyone know why this is? She is concerned that the Environment Canada weather station for Lillooet is not functional. Gerald provided her with a link to contact Environment Canada to ask about this.

Last words from Gerald Michel: Congratulations to the directors and the new directors!

7. Wrap-up

Bill Spencer LRISS Treasurer: Thanks to everyone that were able to attend today.
If you have any questions moving forward, contact Jacquie or look at the website.
Please consider signing up to become a member and get our free monthly newsletter.

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, 2023

ASSET

Current Assets

Gaming Equity Shares	6.74	
Gaming Bank Account	21,023.02	
Chequing Equity Shares	6.96	
Plan 24 Savings Account	2,175.21	
Chequing Bank Account	<u>41,648.00</u>	
TOTAL CASH		<u>64,859.93</u>
Total Current Assets		<u>64,859.93</u>

TOTAL ASSET 64,859.93

LIABILITY

Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	7,736.49	
Collabria Visa #4753 Payable	256.20	
WCB Payable	15.66	
GST Rebates Receivable	<u>-2,677.97</u>	
GST Owing (Refund)		<u>-2,677.97</u>
Total Current Liabilities		<u>5,330.38</u>

TOTAL LIABILITY 5,330.38

EQUITY

Retained Earnings

Retained Earnings	4,245.69	
Current Earnings	<u>55,283.86</u>	
Total Retained Earnings		<u>59,529.55</u>

TOTAL EQUITY 59,529.55

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY 64,859.93

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**Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society
Income Statement Apr 01, 2022 to Mar 31, 2023**

REVENUE

Revenue from Funding

Admin Revenue from MOTI	3,500.00	\$16,060.00
Admin Revenue from Feds - MOE	5,000.00	
Admin Revenue from HCTF	500.00	
Admin Revenue from BC Hydro	500.00	
Admin Revenue from SLRD	3,200.00	
Admin Revenue from MOFLNRO	3,360.00	
Habitat Conservation Trust Fund	4,900.00	
Deferred Revenue	28,642.98	
MOFLNRO - COORDINATION	14,000.00	
MOFLNRO - OPERATIONS	28,000.00	
MOTI	35,000.00	
BC Hydro	6,000.00	
SLRD Area B	30,000.00	
SLRD Service	32,142.50	
Feds - MOE	47,050.00	
BC Gaming Grant	21,000.00	
Canada Summer Jobs	9,719.32	\$4,866
GST Rebates	2,677.97	\$0.00
Lillooet Naturalists Society	1,000.00	
Net Funding Revenue	<u>276,192.77</u>	<u>\$252,588.80</u>
		Note: This is the actual funding received.
Other Revenue		
Bank Interest Revenue	2.81	
Donations	5.00	
Total Other Revenue	<u>7.81</u>	
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>276,200.58</u>	

EXPENSE**Operating Expenses**

El Expense	953.00	
CPP Expense	2,177.39	
WCB Expense	74.62	
Vac Expense	1,705.88	
Accommodation	294.06	
Accounting	682.50	
Advertising	4,294.52	
Equipment	9,377.81	
Fees, Licenses, Permits	4,622.29	
Meals	506.66	
Meeting Expenses	378.09	
Mileage - kms	3,441.96	
Office and Outreach	3,360.23	
Office Rent	1,200.00	
Sample Courier Fees	115.08	
Deferred Expenses fr Previous Year	2,421.66	
Admin Expense to Funders	<u>16,060.00</u>	
Subtotal		<u>46,754.86</u>
Total Operating Expenses		<u>51,665.75</u>

Wage Expenses

Wages: Coordination-Communication	7,561.50	
Wages: Coordination - Meeting	10,472.00	
Wages: Coordination - Planning	14,227.50	
Wages: Education & Awareness	37,161.50	
Wages: Inventory	21,680.75	
Wages: Treatment	4,572.75	
Wages: Monitor	2,236.25	
Wages: Data Entry	882.00	
Wages: Funding - Coordination	9,890.56	
Wages: Funding - Grants	1,816.67	
Wages: Reporting	2,845.50	
Wages: Survey	3,589.50	
Wages: Employee Training	5,225.96	
Wages: Data Management	3,086.00	
Wages: Contract - Inventory	1,575.00	
Wages: Contract - Treatment	32,775.88	
Wages: Contract - Data	4,000.00	
Wages: Stat Holidays	1,309.54	
Wages - Reallocated	<u>4,342.11</u>	<i>Plus 511.21 of MERCs</i>
Wages - Subtotal		<u>169,250.97</u>
Total Wage Expenses		<u>169,250.97</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE		<u>220,916.72</u>
NET INCOME		<u>55,283.86</u>

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Lillooet Regional Invasive Species Society: 2022-23 In-Kind Contributions

Volunteer or Organization	Activity or Resource	Estimated number of hours	Rate (if applicable)	Estimated Value
Earth Day Event	Director Spencer	2	\$27	\$54.00
Lillooet Naturalist Society	Weed Pulling	3	\$27	\$81.00
Public	Weed pulling or removal.	2	\$27	\$54.00
Public - Christina Timms	Reporting & photos of Tree-of-Heaven	3	\$27	\$81.00
Lillooet Agriculture & Food AGM	Organize event	1	\$27	\$27.00
Xwistən, Xaxli'p, Ts'kw'aylaxw, Sekw'el'was, T'it'q'et, Tsal'alh, St'át'imc Government Services, Lillooet	Organizations posting monthly newsletters	42	\$27	\$1,134.00
District of Lillooet - BRLN Features with invasive species segment (June, July, October)	Advertising info cost	2	\$50	\$100.00
District of Lillooet	Invasive Species information to DOL site	1	\$25	\$25.00
Lillooet Library	Organize youth events	8	\$22	\$176.00
Lillooet Off Road Cycling Association Bike Rodeo	Event Organization	5	\$27	\$135.00
Timber Supply Area Partner Meetings	Meeting Organization	1	\$27	\$27.00
McKay Creek Fire Restoration Meetings	Meeting Organization	14	\$30	\$420.00
Plankton Tow nets	Plankton Tow nets	2	\$0	\$1,200.00
TOTALS		86		\$3,514.00

Category	Amount
Events	\$839.00
Treatment	\$216.00
Outreach	\$1,259.00
Equipment	\$1,200.00
	\$3,514.00