

**French Creek Residents' Association
Annual General Meeting - Minutes
May 8, 2019. St. Columba Church Hall**

- 1.** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. with about 40 people in attendance. A quorum was present (10 or more members excluding the Executive).
- 2.** President Rob Williams introduced himself and chaired the meeting. Secretary Michael Jessen recorded the meeting.
- 3.** Pres. Williams introduced and thanked the other current members of the FCRA Executive – Bill Campbell, Vice President; Ray Shaw, Vice President; Barb Riordan, Treasurer; Michael Jessen, Secretary; and Directors Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Steve Coull, Michael Cook, Pat Weber and Jervis Swannack; and announced the local officials and speakers on the agenda, Clarke Gourlay, RDN Area G Director and Sean De Pol, Director RDN Water & Waste Water Services.
- 4. Official notice** per bylaws given by email to members and some past members. The Notice of Meeting was also posted on the society's web site.
- 5. Approval of agenda.** Motion to approve agenda. M/S Bill Campbell, Michael Cook. Carried.
- 6. Presentations.**

a. Clarke Gourlay, Director RDN Area G – Current news from Regional District.
Dir. Gourlay is enjoying his role as a RDN director. He is learning a lot and is amazed at the array of tasks. He reminds us that the RDN board of directors has only one direct-report, the Chief Administrative Officer. He feels the RDN organization is made up of good people.

With respect to French Creek the pollution control centre expansion and odour control are the big projects through 2022. On the Epcor purchase consideration things are moving along and the issue will come back to the public.

The 2008 OCP called for nodal development at the FC marina. A rezoning application has been received.

The seven local Oceanside RDN directors will be forming a new Oceanside Services Committee. It will meet for the first time in Qualicum Beach Council Chambers on May 16. It will prepare its proposals that will go to the full RDN board. One of the Committee's first issues will be a proposal to expand the Ravensong swimming pool.

Questions to Gourlay:

1 Is Highway 19A going to be widened to four lanes? Initial response – the RDN has little influence on Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

2. Why are transit bus fares so expensive for short routes - \$2.50 is too much? Is the RDN encouraging discussion? Initial response – there are reviews going on. Smart ticket devices may be coming.

3. Wembley Rd. is a “speedway”. Initial response – it has been widened which tends to enable speeding. RCMP say they monitor. FCRA has spoken against the 3-way stop at Ackeman. Some residents suggest a 3-way stop would be better at Crystal Court.
4. Discussion of swimming pool locations. Initial response – Nanoose might contribute to a pool if built in Parksville. Gourlay is “intrigued” with suggestion to build new pool at Wembley Centre.

b. Sean De Pol, Director RDN Water & Waste Water Services.

The existing FC Pollution Control Centre (FCPCC) serves 27,000 people from Surfside to Pacific Shores Resort. Built in 1977 as secondary treatment and updated in 1997.

The outfall is 2.4 k in the Salish Sea at 61 metres deep.

Expansion based on 3% per year population growth and the next project should cover until 2035, but built to be readily expanded.

Budget for this project is \$33 million with \$23 million in grants applied for. RDN is learning a lot from the current expansion of the Greater Nanaimo Pollution Control Centre. Schedule of FCPCC projects:

2012 Process selection

2018 Pre design finish

2018 Detail design

2019 Peer review

2020 Odour monitoring

June 2019 Open house consultations

2020 Tender and contract award

2022 Construction finish and commissioning

Visit www.getinvolved.rdn.bc.ca for more information.

Odour upgrades – VIU has a mobile, real-time sampler and analyzer, quantifiable as it travels. RDN has partnered. It will be used to inform the design of the new plant and the refurbishing of the existing plant. There will be pre and post odour measurements.

Comments and questions to De Pol:

1. Please provide more information on the grants.
2. What is the quality of the effluent that enters the ocean?
3. Low flow plumbing fixtures and green bins for vegetable waste have delayed the need for expansion.
4. The expansion cost in 2035 should be quite modest by comparison to current situation.

7. Approval of May 9, 2018 Annual General Meeting minutes: Secretary Jessen had recorded the minutes and vetted by Chair Williams. Motion to approve the minutes of AGM as distributed. M/S Pat Weber, Wendy Shaw. Carried.

8. Treasurer’s Report: Treasurer Barb Riordan presented the annual financial report to March 31, 2019. In summary the closing account balance was \$2,358.63 with revenue from dues of \$1,546.35 and interest of \$0.25, and expenses of \$2,760.33. The largest expense in the year was a \$1,000.00 donation to Friends of French Creek Conservation Society for an estuary research project. The largest regular expense at \$700.00 remains Directors and Executives Insurance which is a necessity if the

society is to expect members to run for the positions. The financial report was reviewed by Vice President Bill Campbell and Director Jervis Swannack. The financial statement is based on cash accounting principles. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. M/S Sandy Robinson, Bill Campbell. Carried.

9. Directors' Report:

Sec. Jessen presented a report on the most significant matters handled by the Executive over the past year. Some hard copies with the entire written report were made available. Highlights:

*** The Executive, primarily through Pres. Williams' efforts, continued to monitor as best it can the RDN's in camera efforts to buy the Epcor water utility. A Freedom of Information application to the RDN seeking information from a consultant's evaluation of the EPCOR was deemed a protected matter. The RDN's decision was appealed to the Privacy Commissioner.**

*** FCRA continues to participate with Friends of French Creek Conservation Society in trying to protect environmentally sensitive estuary land. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the French Creek Estates in December 2018 which will eventually turn over about 13 acres to an environmental society or land trust.**

*** The Executive concluded collaboration with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in completing safety improvements to Robertson Boulevard after a pedestrian fatality a few years ago.**

*** The Association has asked the RDN for improvements to the quality of Sandpiper water for over fifteen years. The RDN has applied for infrastructure grants to build an iron and manganese removal plant by 2023.**

*** The Executive worked with RDN personnel to have street lights installed at each end of the 19A French Creek bridge. RDN staff have indicated the lights might be approved in late June.**

*** The Executive and the community made an effort to have the "Stanhope Connector" from 19A to Ackerman completed coincident with the completion of the new strata. Efforts were also made to maintain a treed buffer along 19A and to quash a 3-way stop intersection at Ackerman-Wembley Road.**

The full details of the written report will be attached to the printed/filed minutes.

10. Questions and Issues Arising from Minutes or Reports

See Item 13. Questions and discussion.

11. Acknowledgment. Chair Williams thanked all the officers and directors for their service and gave a special thank you to retiring Vice Presidents Bill Campbell and Ray Shaw, and Secretary Michael Jessen.

12. Election of Executive. A slate of nominees was presented. In all cases nominations or volunteers were invited from the floor three times.

Rob Williams had agreed to stand as President and was acclaimed.

Jervis Swannack had agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.
Michael Cook had agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.
Barb Riordan had agreed to stand as Treasurer and was acclaimed.
Brian Wilford had agreed to stand for Secretary and was acclaimed.

No Past President.

Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Steve Coull, Pat Weber and Trevor Bowles had agreed to let their names stand as directors. Barb Svarich was nominated from the floor and agreed to let her name stand. All were acclaimed - up to six directors can serve.

13. Questions and discussion

President Williams made a few comments on the FCRA request to the RDN to buy the Epcor utility. One member said the FCRA made an excellent presentation to the RDN board back in June 2016. Williams described difficulties in dealing with in camera (closed) meetings. There is no way for the public to know the status of discussion surrounding any particular matter sent into closed meetings – or even to know specifically what is on the agenda of a closed meeting.

- a. Those in attendance were reminded that there is a way out for dealing with contentious issues – vote in the next local elections.
- b. We need to seek out answers and contribute to discussions on matters important to the community.
- c. Mainroad did a poor job of snow clearing during the past winter.
- d. Will Mainroad look after the debris on the roads after storms?
- e. President Williams advised that the head of Mainroad is Peter Ashcroft in Victoria.

14. Meeting adjourned 8:55 pm – all business concluded.

Minutes prepared by Michael Jessen, Secretary. Reviewed by Rob Williams, President and Meeting Chair. Minutes subject to review and adoption at next general meeting.

For further information and the attachments see: <http://frenchcreekresidents.ca/>

Financial Report
Executive Board Report

**French Creek Residents Association Annual General Meeting
May 8, 2019
2018/2019 Financial Report**

Opening Balance – April 1, 2018	\$3,572.36
Income – Membership Dues	\$1546.35
Interest	\$0.25
Expenses	\$2760.33
Closing Balance – March 31, 2019	\$2,358.63
Expenses included:	
Directors & Officers Liability Insurance	\$700.00
Website	\$178.49
Society Filing	\$40.00
Board Meeting Room Rental	\$251.84
St Columba Meeting Room Rental	\$240.00
St Columba Damage Payment	\$250.00
Wildlife Permit Fee	\$100.00
Donation to FFCCS for Estuary Research	\$1000.00
TOTAL	\$2760.63

The financial records were reviewed by VP Bill Campbell and Director Jervis Swannack on May 2, 2019 and found to be in order.

Executive Board Report

French Creek Residents Association (FCRA)

Annual General Meeting May 8, 2019

The following matters of some significance were addressed by your executive from April 2018 to March 2019 which is aligned with the association's financial year that runs to the end of March.

Members and the community can keep up-to-date on the issues the Board is considering by periodically monitoring the “Meetings” web page:

<http://frenchcreekresidents.ca/meetings/>

1. Purchase of Epcor. The FCRA Executive and members continued to support the initiative to buy the private Epcor water utility. Your directors made a formal presentation to the RDN Board in June 2016. The RDN Board decided to consider acquiring the Epcor utility and the matter was moved into closed meetings almost immediately and so far remains there. The society has been unable to obtain much information on how the consideration of the proposal is moving other than funding was approved by a December 2017 motion in open session to seek a professional appraisal of the system. It is believed that no decision has been made by the RDN directors. Under the Freedom of Information Act, in April your Board requested a copy of the consultant's evaluation report for the Epcor utility which the RDN refused to provide. We subsequently appealed to the Commissioner in Victoria for a review and are awaiting their decision.

2. French Creek estuary lands. The Executive Board continues to participate in a joint Estuary Committee with Friends of French Creek Conservation Society. Under the guidance of FCRA Dir. Pat Weber discussions with Mr. Quinn Griesdale of French Creek Estates resulted in the signing a Memorandum of Understanding in Dec. 2018 which will see about 14 acres of the estuary lands turned over to a community entity for park and nature reserve when necessary development agreements are achieved. In late 2018 the Estuary Committee received a detailed survey of the estuary lands done by the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute. FCRA continues to work with French Creek Estates and Regional District of Nanaimo to preserve and protect the existing estuary lands that have already been set aside as park.

3. Herring roe odours. Treasurer Barb Riordan, a biologist, continues to lead the Executive Board on this issue. In spite of a large amount of herring roe and sea weed in the cove beside the marina last summer, no significant odours were experienced. Monitoring after the 2019 herring fishery a few weeks ago found relatively small quantities of roe on the beach so no significant odours are expected. Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society has proven that there are forage fish (sand lance, surf smelts etc.) spawning on our Oceanside Beaches so dealing with future piles of herring roe and sea weed on the beach could become more difficult. FCRA abandoned its application to deal manually with the herring roe and sought return of its deposit.

4. Improvements to Robertson Boulevard. A traffic fatality occurred on Robertson Boul. in early 2016. Upon completion of improvements to the road and pathways and numerous phone calls and meetings with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure managers, agreement has been achieved on the changes that were made to the road, markings and signage. The FCRA executive still believes some road markings are needed in particular to properly identify crossings for pedestrians and golfers. Dir. Swannack and Dir. Coull will continue to work with the Morningstar Golf Course and MoTI personnel.

5. Sea lions in FC harbour. Members were concerned about noise from the animals in spring 2018. FCRA Executive members spoke with harbour management. The sea lions eventually left in June as predicted. Harbour staff installed suitable devices to discourage the sea lions and so far the problem does not seem to have arisen in 2019.

6. All-candidates meeting for October local election. The Association sponsored and organized a highly successful standing room only meeting to hear from the three candidates who ran for election in Area G.

7. Sandpiper water quality. The RDN surprised the community with an announcement in November 2018 that it is applying for an infrastructure grant to build an iron and manganese removal plant. FCRA had recommended and asked for such a system as long as 15 years ago. The plant and other infrastructure projects including a new storage tank are scheduled for 2023. This application was made in case a proposed purchase of Epcor does not occur.

8. Large undeveloped lot at south end of Imperial Dr. Tree clearing started on the parcel in summer of 2017. An inquiry by FCRA found that the RDN had issued a stop work order because all permits were not in place. As of a few months ago a development permit for about eight subdivided lots is now in place providing significant riparian reserve for the creek.

9. Bus routes. The Executive Board has raised concerns about the lack of local bus service in and around the Columbia Beach community. The RDN and MoTI have also been advised of pedestrian problems at the Sunrise/19A/Columbia Drive intersection. The no-fare transit promotion in August and September, 2018 through Qualicum Beach and parts of French Creek did not seem to encourage ridership.

10. Approaches to French Creek 19A bridge. A suggestion had been made at the 2015 AGM to have street lights installed at each end of the bridge. Discussions started with the RDN in mid 2018 and a site visit made in the summer. RDN has processed the request through BC Hydro and a number of administrative difficulties were discoed with respect to setting up a “service” in the RDN to account for the costs. The RDN manager believes the RDN Board will consider and probably approve the proposal for one street light at each end of the bridge at their meeting in May or June.

11. Ackerman strata. The land for the strata has been prepared to receive the structures. A trail or path has been constructed on the Stanhope Connector contrary to the expressed wishes at the public hearing. The treed buffer along Hwy. 19A has already lost quite a few trees during site preparation and there is no retention or succession requirement in a covenant applicable to the treed buffer. FCRA directors have voiced disappointment with MoTI's proposal to install a 3-way stop at the intersection of Wembley Rd. and Ackerman Rd.

12. Odours from Pollution Control Plant. The Executive Board attended several meetings with managers of the Pollution Control Centre to review plans to refurbish the existing plant to among other things eliminate the escape of odours and to review plans for expansion by 2022. The RDN has contracted with VIU to monitor for odours in the community around the plant using a new mobile “laboratory”. Residents are strongly urged to report odours to the Centre when they are experienced (Ph. 250-248-5794. After business hours and weekends call 1-800-862-3429. Or use email form at <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/odour-communication-form>).

13. Health care in Oceanside. Sec. Jessen continues to participate in the Federation of Oceanside Residents' Association which spends its efforts entirely on health care services. A task force called the Perfect Storm Group has accomplished very little in the way of setting up a multi-doctor medical clinic in Qualicum Beach.

14. Home based businesses. The Executive and members continue to monitor for inappropriate home-based businesses.

15. Tidal Treasures in Oceanside communities. FCRA opposed some of the activities of the this program, especially those in Columbia Beach. It appears the program has basically been wound up.

Please visit the Association's web site for the minutes of the board meetings. Meetings are held upstairs at Oceanside Place at 7 pm on the the first Thursday of the month, except August. Room availability can be a problem at times so check with a board member if you plan on attending (or send an email to fcra@telus.net .)

Summary notes prepared by Michael Jessen, Secretary, FCRA

May 6, 2019