

**French Creek Residents Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
St. Columba Presbyterian Church**

1. Call to order.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm with about 35 people in attendance. A quorum was present (10 or more members excluding the Executive).

2. Greetings and announcement of chair.

President Rob Williams introduced himself as chair for the meeting.

3. Introduction of Board Members and guests.

Chair Williams introduced and thanked the other current members of the FCRA Executive – Mike Cook, Vice President; Jervis Swannack, Vice President; Barb Riordan, Treasurer; Directors; Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Pat Weber and Lloyd Sargison. He introduced the guest speakers on the agenda; Melissa Tomlinson and Erica Forssman RDN WaterSmart and Lehann Wallace, RDN Area G Director.

4. Approval of agenda.

The Chair asked for any additions or amendments to the Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda. M/S Lloyd Sargison, Mike Cook. Carried.

5. Approval of October 7, 2020 Annual General Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting as distributed and posted on the Association website. M/S Wayne Wurtz, Mike Jessen. Carried.

6. Financial Report

Treasurer Barb Riordan presented the Annual Financial Report to March 31, 2022, as attached. In summary, the closing balance was \$2,770.72 with revenue from dues of \$931.15, no interest and expenses of \$854.01. The largest regular expense at \$626.00 remains Directors and Officers Liability Insurance which is necessary if the society is to expect Members to run for these positions. The financial statement is based on cash accounting principles. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. M/S Barb Riordan, Lyle Swannack. Carried.

7. Directors' Report

Chair Williams explained that the Board had been quiet due to covid and being unable to hold regular meetings because the RDN had closed the Oceanside Arena meeting rooms. However, two long running projects continued to have activity and Director Weber provided a report.

French Creek Estuary lands – at the invitation of Friends of French Creek Conservation Society (FFCCS), FCRA joined with them in July 2016 in an Estuary Committee. The intention was to promote the protection of the estuary lands from development or at least a portion of same. The Committee was able to arrange a Memorandum of Understanding (MOE) with the owner French Creek Estates to set aside a large portion of land which was signed in Dec 2018. Together with other parties, this success culminated in the Estuary lands being purchased by the BC Parks Foundation in April, 2022. This project is now complete. Those who also participated should be congratulated on achieving this tremendous community undertaking, including Save the Estuary Society, Lehann Wallace and all the individuals who contributed financially or as volunteers.

Area G Governance Restructure Study – in Spring 2018 FCRA initiated action with the BC Ministry of Municipal Affairs to conduct a study for Electoral Area G to determine whether the existing governing structure and means of delivering services to French Creek and other areas within Area G currently meets their needs based on the fragmented structure of the Area. This raises several questions and several options including should French Creek become a municipality on it's own, join (wholly or partially) either Qualicum or Parksville, or remain as is. Our effort was the result of dissatisfaction with how services are currently being delivered to the different parts of Area G, the current governance structure of the RDN and our limited representation with only one Director out of 19 members on the Regional Board. The FCRA Board believes that the large size of the RDN and the conflicting needs of the combined municipal members versus the Electoral Areas, limits RDN staff in their ability to service the Electoral Areas efficiently. At this stage, regional funding has been approved and an application has been made to the Ministry by the RDN to undertake a study for Area G. There is currently a study in progress for Area F as has been reported in the News.

Highway Traffic Control - the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) is responsible for Highways and all roads in the RDN, traffic control lighting and approval/vetting of land development applications. MOTI and it's contractors have now synchronized the lights at Wright Road, Lee Road and Johnstone Road to help alleviate congestion at other access points such as Columbia Drive. The change of the school at Wright Road has resulted in MOTI revisiting traffic control patterns and speed controls. Increased population in French Creek, combined with a resurgence of tourist traffic during the summer will require further investigation into traffic flow issues. We are concerned with problems at Columbia Drive.

8. Presentations:

a. Melissa Tomlinson & Erica Forssman RDN Team WaterSmart

Melissa and Erica provided a general overview of water supply/aquifers for the region encompassing RDN Areas F, G, H, Qualicum Beach and Parksville which are included in the RDN Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program. The Team are developing tools/computer models to be implemented to allow decisions to be made as to water resource allocation for future usage by existing properties and accommodate anticipated expansion. They track historical information relative to snow melt and river flows over the general area and the Arrowsmith Dam/Reservoir seasonal flows. They also watch flows for Cameron Lake which provides water for the Little Qualicum River and the Town of Qualicum.

Information was mentioned concerning rebate programs which currently still have funds available for rebates covering home rainwater harvesting, irrigation installation/upgrades and well upgrades. <https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rdn-rebates>

b. Lehann Wallace, RDN Area G Director.

A summary of Director Wallace's presentation is attached to these Minutes.

9. Further general questions and announcements

There were no further questions and no announcements.

10. Election of Officers and Directors.

A slate of nominees was presented. Chair Williams asked for volunteers for the position of President, Secretary and 2 Director positions but no one came forward. In all cases nominations or volunteers were invited from the floor three times.

President - vacant.

Michael Cook agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.

Jervis Swannack agreed to stand for VP and was acclaimed.

Barb Riordan agreed to stand for Treasurer and was acclaimed.

Secretary – vacant.

Rob Williams is now the Past President.

as per Bylaws, the Association may have up to 6 Directors:

Lyle Hollingworth, Brian Coath, Pat Weber and Lloyd Sargison agreed to let their names stand as Directors and were acclaimed.

11. Adjournment

All business being complete, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:50pm.

Minutes prepared by Chair Rob Williams and reviewed by Treasurer Barb Riordan.

Minutes are subject to review and adoption at the next Annual General Meeting in 2023.

**French Creek Residents Association
Annual General Meeting June 8, 2022
2021/2022 Financial Report**

Opening Balance – April 1, 2021	\$2,693.58
Income – Membership Dues	\$931.15
Expenses	\$854.01
Closing Balance – March 31, 2022	\$2770.72
Expenses included:	
Directors & Officers Liability Insurance	\$626.00
Room Rental for Board Meetings	\$127.35
2020 Society Registration	\$40.00
2021 Society Registration	\$40.00
Website Domain	\$20.66
TOTAL	\$854.01

Update by Lehann Wallace
RDN Director Area G

Director's Report and updates included highlights of the accomplishment of achieving the Eagle Sanctuary at French Creek Estuary through the land purchase and crowdfunding campaign with BC Parks Foundation; And the conclusion of the agreement for clean water supply to provide the Residents of Sandpiper with Bulk Water from the Town of Qualicum Beach through agreement and permanent connection. Other topics included Recycling, Flood prevention and log jam remediation of French Creek at French Creek Community Park, POSAC G updates, the recently completed French Creek Active Transportation Plan and the Area G Governance and Services Study in 2023. During their meeting we created a list of more information and here is the list captured:

Further updates regarding the Area G Governance and Services Study can be viewed here:
<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/electoral-area-g>

French Creek Pollution Control Centre Expansion and Odor Control – Stage 4 expansion report and updated timelines:
<https://rdn-pub.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=4debb9c7-9e57-48fb-82f3-e7fab0dbbcb6&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=46&Tab=attachments>

The list of RDN taxation Bylaws that apply to water for the French Creek Area (both Sandpiper and Epcor) **will be forthcoming** with a breakdown of how they comprise total water costs for French Creek.

YouTube link to the QB Council receipt of verbal report from Bob Weir on Qualicum Water system and source management – Sept 2021:
About 3:04 it starts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48a9S96Elx0&t=10873s>

Recycling depot (lack of service in Oceanside) RDN Board recent action and advocacy with the Province:

At the May 11, 2022 Solid Waste meeting- Mayor Weise moved the following motion at 1 hour and 3 minutes into the meeting under new business... "It was moved and seconded that staff be directed to write letters to the Province (Ministry of Environment) and Recycle BC, reminding them that the Oceanside area is still experiencing decreased recycling services, and asking them to step up their efforts." CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY – see discussion and staff update here: <https://rdn-pub.escribemeetings.com/Meeting.aspx?Id=5585f75f-8aed-4d4f-a8c3-1fbcae5502eb&Agenda=Agenda&lang=English&Item=12&Tab=attachments>

Links to the Financial Plan for the matrix of RDN services that Area G participates in and receives:
https://rdn.bc.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/RDN_2022_Spring_Budget_Brochure_Colour%20-%20Electoral%20Area%20G.pdf
https://www.rdn.bc.ca/sites/default/files/inline-files/2022-2026%20Financial%20Plan%20-%20Amended_3.pdf – see page 7 for the Regional Services Matrix requested at the meeting.

The Regional District of Nanaimo provides grant funding and rebates for a variety of programs for residents and to organizations throughout the region that provide programs or services that serve a local community or provide a regional benefit:
<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/community-grants> to assist registered non-profit organizations to

provide social programs and services that serve a local community

<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/oceanside-community-safety-grants> grant funding in order to support organizations which help to increase the safety of their community.

<https://www.rdn.bc.ca/rdn-recreation-grant> RDN Oceanside Services Recreation Grants provide funds on a District-wide basis to organizations requesting financial assistance to offer recreation programs, special events or projects, which would benefit specific communities or the District as a whole. There are two categories: Youth specific (11-18 years) or Community (all ages).