

French Creek Residents Association
Minutes of Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept 4, 2025, at Oceanside Place Meeting Room

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Vice Pres Williams

Board members present as noted (quorum 3 or more):

Rob Williams - Vice President

Judy McHale - Director

Mike Cook - Vice President - Regrets

Lyle Hollingworth - Director

Barb Riordan - Treasurer

Mike Butler - Director

Agenda:

Adoption of the agenda.

M/S Dir Butler, Dir McHale - carried

Minutes:

Adoption of July 3, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

M/S Treas Riordan, Dir McHale - carried

Treasurer's Report:

Treas Riordan reported a balance of \$2,753.11 at the end of July; one cheque \$58.90 to VP Williams for meeting room rental. The balance at the end of August was \$1,929.91 with one cheque of \$823.20 for 3 Sandwich Boards.

Adoption of Treasurer's Report M/S Treas Riordan, Dir Butler - carried

Old Business:

1. Minutes

Minutes for this meeting will be taken by Dir McHale. Minutes for Oct 2 by VP Cook.

2. Sign Boards

Dir McHale reported the new sandwich board sign in Columbia Beach went missing Aug 26th from near the entrance to the French Creek Estuary Nature Preserve trail. Dir Williams checked with Mainroad Contracting and they have not removed it. Treas Riordan will follow up that perhaps having been moved by the group doing invasive plant removals on Tuesdays it may have been taken away. One person mentioned they had moved the sign that day. This is an expensive loss because it's worth \$245. No new member responses have been received. Dir Butler said he will 'doorknock' as an alternative solution to getting the FCRA name out.

3. Property Taxes

VP Williams conducted a comparison of French Creek property taxes with Parksville based on equivalent assessed property values and, as reported in June, had found Parksville taxes are an average of 20% higher than French Creek. Treas Riordan obtained a tax bill from a friend in Qualicum Beach and a comparison revealed Qualicum taxes are 24% higher than French Creek. This large difference was unexpected as it had been commonly believed that French Creek taxes had approached municipal taxes over the past 10 to 15 years. It was also surprising that Qualicum taxes are almost 5% higher than Parksville. A comment was made that if Qualicum goes ahead with a purchase of the Eaglecrest Golf Course lands, this could result in even higher taxes for property owners.

4. RDN Taxpayers Alliance Update

VP Williams reported there have been no meetings since the end of June but a meeting is scheduled for Sept 11th. The RDN 2026-2030 Financial Plan should be available very soon and will be thoroughly vetted by the Alliance. The Sept 11 meeting will be increased from 2 to 3 hours. VP Williams will have more to report at our next Board meeting.

New Business:

1. Water Restrictions/Resources

VP Williams questioned why Parksville was at a Level 4 water restriction several weeks before Epcor did the same, all the while Qualicum Beach still has no restrictions. Are the resources truly at low levels, why the differences, should we be monitoring these variances? Why are home developments continuing especially in Parksville if there is such a water shortage? Apartments do use less water. VP Williams will inquire of Karen at Epcor how they came to the decision of moving water restrictions to level 4 almost 6 weeks after Parksville.

2. Hamilton Marsh

Treas Riordan brought forward new information that the RDN and Mosaic Forest Management had announced the signing of a conditional contract of purchase and sale for approximately 360 hectares of Hamilton Marsh for \$30 million (PQB News, Sept 2, 2025). \$7.5 million is to be raised from funding partners and other contributions but no mention was made how the remainder would be funded. To be continued.

Pending to a Future Date

- Governance Study Area F or G
- Dalmatian Drive Culvert

Closed Session

None

Announcements/Notices

Nil

All Business being completed the meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm

Meeting Schedule for 2025 -

Oct 2

Nov 6

Dec 4