On Aug 10, 2023, at 10:26 PM, Land Keepers <landkeepers23@gmail.com> wrote:

August 10th, 2023

Removal of Key Dikes in Cowichan Bay Estuary

Dear Sierra Acton,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern, as well as the concerns of many constituents in your riding, regarding the recent decision to remove key dikes in the Cowichan Bay Estuary. It has come to our attention that this significant decision was made without any public consultation, which has left our community feeling disheartened and unheard.

First and foremost, we were dismayed to learn about this crucial issue through the local paper, rather than through proper channels of communication or public consultation. As elected representatives, it is crucial to keep the public informed about matters that directly affect their lives and livelihoods. The lack of transparency and engagement in this process has created a sense of disenfranchisement among the people who call this area home.

The potential consequences of removing these dikes are severe and far-reaching. Cowichan Bay Estuary is already grappling with recurring flooding, and the removal of key dikes will undoubtedly exacerbate this issue, putting the safety and well-being of our community at risk. Landowners in the region are particularly concerned about the potential impact on their properties and livelihoods.

Even the South Cowichan Lawn Tennis Club, a BC protected heritage site, is disappointed by the lack of information and consultation conducted on this matter. This club holds historical

and cultural significance in our community, and their concerns must not be overlooked.

To address these pressing concerns, we are organizing a town hall meeting in Cobble Hill at The Hub (2375 Koksilah Rd, Duncan, BC V9L 6M5) on August 14 at 7 pm. We extend a warm invitation to you to join us on this important occasion. This town hall meeting will provide a platform for constituents to voice their anxieties and share their perspectives on the removal of the dikes. We believe that the people who are most affected by this decision deserve to have their voices heard and taken into account.

We sincerely hope that you will attend this town hall meeting to understand the full scope of the issue. It is vital that you play a role in representing the concerns of the people who have placed their trust in you as their elected representative.

Once again, I implore you to consider the gravity of this situation and work towards finding a collaborative and informed solution. The Cowichan Bay Estuary is an essential part of our community, and its ecological and social value should be protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we eagerly await your presence at the town hall meeting. If you are unavailable, we would greatly appreciate a representative from your office to attend in your place.

Sincerely,

Daniel Jack McLe

From: Sierra Acton <Sierra.Acton@cvrd.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Removal of Key Dikes in Cowichan Bay Estuary
Date: August 15, 2023 at 9:50:36 AM PDT
To: Land Keepers <landkeepers23@gmail.com>

Thank you for the invite but this is not a CVRD matter. The project is being run by the Nature Trust of BC in partnership with Cowichan Tribes and funding is being provided by the province with funding coming from the BC Salmon Restoration Innovation Fund. Sonia Furstenau our MLA should be able to provide more information on the responsibilities of the province. Sonia.furstenau.mla@leg.bc.ca

I respectfully decline your invite, Sierra.

Sierra Acton
Director Area B
COWICHAN VALLEY REGIONAL DISTRICT
175 Ingram Street
Duncan, BC, V9L 1N8
Sierra.Acton@cvrd.bc.ca
(250) 715-6763 cell/text
Iloveshawnigan.com

I acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where I now work.

FW: Cowichan Estuary discussion

From: To:

Sent:

Attachments:

Hi Brian,

Reid, Thomas G FLNR:EX <Thomas.Reid@gov.bc.ca>
Brian Farquhar (bfarquhar@cvrd.bc.ca) <bfarquhar@cvrd.bc.ca>, Brian Farquhar <Brian.Farquhar@cvrd.bc.ca>
May 13, 2022 8:58:20 AM PDT

Cowichan Restoration Project Brochure.pdf

Fyi. It would be good to also discuss this with you as well as there will be potential implications to Maple Grove Park. As mentioned below I would appreciate it if you could keep this discussion/attachment confidential for now.

Thanks, Tom

From: Thomas Reid <treid@naturetrust.bc.ca>
Sent: May 13, 2022 8:55 AM
To: Reid, Thomas G FLNR:EX <Thomas.Reid@gov.bc.ca> **Subject:** FW: Cowichan Estuary discussion

From: Thomas Reid
Sent: May 11, 2022 4:39 PM
To: 'kate.miller@cvrd.bc.ca'
Subject: Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Kate,

I hope you are well.

If possible I am hoping we can schedule a meeting to discuss some work that we have been doing in the Cowichan Estuary as part of our BCSRIF project

(www.estuaryresilience.ca). A detailed presentation of the entire project can be found at: https://vimeo.com/519685350/9d9c5e59f8

In the Cowichan Estuary we have been working with NHC, Cowichan Tribes and other consultants to:

1. Update rslr projections for the estuary;

2. Determine the resilience of the estuary in terms of sea level rise and coastal squeeze based on the data we have collected as part of our BCSRIF project;

3. Model the potential impacts of sea level rise to the ecological communities in the estuary; and,

4. Identify restoration projects within the estuary to help build resilience and improve fish/wildlife habitat (including an comprehensive assessment of the Dinsdale Farm and dike and restoration options).

Now that we are entering Year 4 of our project we are starting to focus a significant amount of attention on the implementation of transformational restoration projects (e.g. Dinsdale Farm, Koksilah Marsh) and I would like to discuss with you the steps for engagement with the CVRD.

Attached is a summary brochure of what is being considered in the south Cowichan Estuary. I would appreciate it if this attachment could be kept confidential at this time.

I look forward to speaking with you soon.

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

FW: Cowichan Estuary discussion

From:
To:
Sent:
Attachments:
For Thomas's contact info as well as a brief for the agenda.

Kate Miller <Kate.Miller@cvrd.bc.ca> Jeff Moore <Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca> May 18, 2022 1:35:40 PM PDT
Cowichan Restoration Project Brochure.pdf

Auto dictated – please forgive occasional error.

Kate Miller, M.Sc., MCIP, RPP, LEED AP+ Manager Environmental Services
Division Strategic Services Department
Cowichan Valley Regional District

175 Ingram Street, Duncan BC V9L 1N8 Email: kate.miller@cvrd.bc.ca
Tel: 250.746.2509 / Toll Free: 1.800.665.3955

I acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Pauchachin, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where I now work.

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From: Thomas Reid <treid@naturetrust.bc.ca> **Sent:** May 11, 2022 4:39 PM
To: Kate Miller <Kate.Miller@cvrd.bc.ca> **Subject:** Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Kate,

I hope you are well.

If possible I am hoping we can schedule a meeting to discuss some work that we have been doing in the Cowichan Estuary as part of our BCSRIF project (www.estuaryresilience.ca). A detailed presentation of the entire project can be found at: https://vimeo.com/519685350/9d9c5e59f8

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Now that we are entering Year 4

Attached is a summary brochure of what is being considered in the south Cowichan Estuary. I would appreciate it if this attachment could be kept confidential at this time.

I look forward to speaking with you soon. Cheers,
Tom

From: Thomas Reid <treid@naturetrust.bc.ca> **Sent:** May 24, 2022 10:51 PM
To: Jeff Moore <Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca> **Subject:** RE: Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Jeff,

Thanks for the invitation. Unfortunately I am not available that day due to other commitments. How often does the group meet?

Cheers, Tom

From: Jeff Moore [mailto:Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca] **Sent:** May 24, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Thomas Reid
Subject: RE: Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Thomas,,

I hear from Kate Miller that you have been doing some work on dikes in the Cowichan Estuary and should potentially be part of the Cowichan Flood Management Working Group. Our next meeting is online via Webex on June 1 from 9-11 am. I've just sent you an invitation in case you are able to make the meeting.

Regards, Jeff

Jeff Moore, MRM
Senior Environmental Analyst 250.746.2636

I acknowledge that for thousands of years the Quw'utsun, Malahat, Ts'uubaa-asatx, Halalt, Penelakut, Stz'uminus, Lyackson, Pauquachin, Ditidaht & Pacheedaht Peoples have walked gently on the unceded territories where I now work.

From: Kate Miller <Kate.Miller@cvrd.bc.ca> **Sent:** May 18, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Jeff Moore <Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca> **Subject:** FW: Cowichan Estuary discussion

For Thomas's contact info as well as a brief for the agenda.

Auto dictated – please forgive occasional error.

Kate Miller, M.Sc., MCIP, RPP, LEED AP+ Manager Environmental Services
Division Strategic Services Department
Cowichan Valley Regional District

175 Ingram Street, Duncan BC V9L 1N8 Email: kate.miller@cvrd.bc.ca
Tel: 250.746.2509 / Toll Free: 1.800.665.3955

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RE: Cowichan Estuary discussion

From:
To:
Sent:

Hi again Jeff –

Thomas Reid <treid@naturetrust.bc.ca> Jeff Moore <Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca> May 25, 2022 1:27:14 PM PDT

Further to my note to Kate below please keep the attachment I originally sent to Kate confidential (see highlighted portion below). There are some project sensitivities that we need to work through before our planned project is made public; hence my question as to who attends your meetings.

As an aside – at your upcoming meeting perhaps you may be able to ask the attendees if they would have time for a project specific meeting on our proposed works via zoom, teams, webex etc..?

Thanks, Tom

From: Thomas Reid
Sent: May 25, 2022 9:16 AM
To: 'Jeff Moore'
Subject: RE: Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Jeff –

Who usually attends these meetings? We have been engaged with Cowichan Tribes and the Province (Brian Epps) on this potential project for quite some time. NHC is also our lead consultant in doing extensive modelling and engineering assessments on the project too.

Thanks, Tom

From: Jeff Moore [mailto:Jeff.Moore@cvrd.bc.ca] **Sent:** May 25, 2022 9:04 AM
To: Thomas Reid
Subject: RE: Cowichan Estuary discussion

Hi Tom,

We usually try and meet twice a year. It's always a challenge trying to find a time that works for all the players so we'll be sure to include you in the next invitation.

The group was involved in the recent flood mapping updates and generally works on sediment management, dike inspections and various grant projects. From what Kate shared, it looks like you've got some interesting plans for your lands in the estuary which would definitely be of interest to the Group.

Regards, Jeff

Jeff Moore, MRM
Senior Environmental Analyst 250.746.2636

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