

2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes



Thursday November 17th, 2022

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Attendance: 20

Chair: Victoria Brookes

MINUTES

Start of Meeting: 10:00 am

1) Welcome, introductions and housekeeping

2) Begin AGM

- Motion to start meeting: Nichole Marples; Seconded: Janne Perrin

3) Report from the Chair

(Victoria Brookes, FVISS Chair)

- Victoria expressing appreciation for those in attendance, their interest in invasive species, and their continued support
- Thank you for Kathy (FVISS) for her expertise and communication skills that have increased the scope and effectiveness of the program
- FVISS work has been supported this year by new staff member Kaitlin
- New activities undertaken this year, including kayaking project in Chilliwack Slough
- Appreciative of sponsors and cooperators in their successful work
- Increased budget, allowed us to expand our work in 2022
- Reduced Covid-19 restrictions allowed us to increase education and outreach components
- Thank you to Board of Directors

4) Adopt 2021 AGM Minutes

- Motion to approve: Nichole Marples; Seconded: Janne Perrin
- All in favour. Motion carried.

5) Accept the Agenda for 2022 AGM

- Motion to approve: Nichole Marples; Seconded: Christy Jones
- All in favour. Motion carried.

6) Report of Financial Statement

(Nichole Marples, FVISS Treasurer)

- Presentation of Financial Statement to date (January to November 2022)
- Motion to approve: Christy Jones; Seconded: Todd Kohler
- All in favour. Motion carried. Financial report was approved as presented.

7) Operations and Projects 2022 FVISS Update

(Kathy Ma: FVISS Executive Director and Kaitlin Baril: Outreach Coordinator)

- Thank you to the 2022 Funding Partners
- 2022 Year in Review, updates from the previous season on operational project work
 - Surveys, Manual and Chemical treatments across the region
 - (i) Control work on 30 plant species,
 - (ii) Knotweed species receiving most effort
 - Invasive Mussel Lake Monitoring
 - (i) Five waterbodies in the region, 8 substrate samplers, 30 water samples,
 - (ii) No adults found on substrate samplers; no water samples tested positive for veligers
 - FVRD Knotweed Cost-Share Pilot
 - (i) First year of the program
 - (ii) Includes Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Electoral Areas C, D, E, G, H
 - (iii) FVRD to cover 50% of treatment costs, homeowners cover 50%
 - (iv) Conducted targeted door to door notifications
 - Skagit Valley- Ross Lake: Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission, Seattle City Light
 - (i) Reed Canary Grass Mapping/Surveys on the Canadian side of the border in the Skagit Valley
 - In addition to contractor crew work, ISCBC Stronger BC Action Team completed on the ground invasive plant removal work in the Abbotsford, Chilliwack, and Mission areas, and surveying for yellow flag iris in the Columbia Valley
 - (i) FVISS acting as regional coordinator
 - (ii) More details on the work completed will be presented later in the AGM by Torin Kelly, Stronger BC Action Team supervisor

8) Education and Outreach 2022 FVISS Update

(Kaitlin Baril: Outreach Coordinator)

- New outreach material highlights
 - *Common Invasives of the Fraser Valley* online resource book
 - (i) 23 invasive plants included so far- will be adding more as we go
 - (ii) Includes common invasives, not just ones listed on the Provincial Noxious Weed List
 - Display Table Revamp
 - (i) Display board with interchangeable material
- Event highlights:
 - 15 events
 - (i) Roadside crew presentations, plant pulls, plant walks, kayaking Chilliwack Slough and yellow flag iris seed pod clipping, booth events, workshops
 - (ii) Two outreach programs this year
- Website updates
 - New plant pages: tree of heaven, common burdock
 - Look-A-Like pages (wild chervil, giant hogweed)
 - Community science page updates
- Public inquiries
 - Most were reporting sites (50% knotweed, 14% giant hogweed)

- Also asked about invasive plant control options, identification help, invasive plant pick up program, invasive species legislation
- Most inquiries from Abbotsford and Chilliwack
- Social media updates
 - Newsletter: 171 subscribers, Instagram: 771 followers, Facebook 694 followers
- 2023 education and outreach plans
 - Presentations, geocaching events/sites, iNaturalist BioBlitz, curbside pick-up program, weed walks and weed pulls, yellow flag iris surveys and management, new website, and brochure resources

9) ISCBC Stronger BC Update

(Torin Kelly, ISCBC StrongerBC Action Team Supervisor)

- 2022 field season highlights- surveying, invasive plant removal, monitoring
 - Worked in provincial parks; Cultus Lake- zebra and quagga mussel monitoring with FVISS, yellow flag iris surveying in Cultus Lake and tributaries; Chilliwack Restoration Sites; Mission parks
 - Collaboration: Yellow flag iris control with benthic barriers workshop with Dr. Catherine Tarasoff, work at Squamish Nation
 - 116 sites visited, surveyed 6 Ha of area, manually managed 38 sites, removed 170 bags of plants (1900 kg)

10) Post-Flood Survey of Knotweed in Chilliwack-Vedder River Update

(Dr. David Clements- TWU Knotweed Lab)

- Increased number of knotweed stands in 2022 as compared to 2019
 - 341 patches in 2019; 1690 patches in 2022
- Most patches composed of shorter heights- indicating they are new plants
- Surveyed 10 tributaries, knotweed patches found in 6 of the tributaries
- Knotweed found growing out of debris brought by the November 2021 flood

11) Using Benthic Barriers to Control Aquatic Invasive Plants

(Dr. Catherine Tarasoff)

- Benthic barriers- materials that lay on bottom of lakes, ponds, wetlands, or rivers
 - Types: Typar, 18 oz PVC coated vinyl, rubber-based pond liner
- Yellow flag iris
 - Large rhizome, reproduced by seeds, slow decay or rhizomes under the barrier
 - Lessons learned: use nonporous 18 oz PVC vinyl, have a 10-20 cm overlap of fabric, have benthic barrier extend 20 cm past last visible stem, secure barrier with spikes, rocks, sandbags, stitch pieces of fabric together with zip ties, don't remove until rhizomes are dark and mushy
- Eurasian Watermilfoil
 - Lose "foot", reproduces by fragmentation, has rapid decay under barrier
 - Lessons learned: 10-20 cm overlap of fabric, install barrier before water temperature is 10°C, don't cut plants, secure with rocks and sandbags
- Parrot's feather
 - Loose "foot", reproduced by fragmentation, rapid decay under barrier
 - Lessons learned: use Typar

- Tips for benthic barrier use: make time for planning, understand the biology of the plant, use the right benthic barrier based on the plant biology

12) Election of Board of Directors

- Proposed board members for 2023:
 - Victoria Brookes
 - Nichole Marples
 - Janne Perrin
 - Ken Schwaerzle
 - Alida Janmaat
 - Steve Clegg
 - Terisha Mitchell
- Motion to accept: Christy Jones; Seconded: Todd Kohler
 - All in favour. 2023 Board accepted.

13) New Business/Announcements from members

- Questions:
 - Is the new common invasives book on the website? – will be added to the resources page of our website in November 2022
 - Can I treat knotweed on my property with roundup, specifically within the high-water line? – Ministry of Environment would be able to clarify, homeowners would need to follow the pesticide label

14) Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn FVISS 2022 Annual General Meeting: Terisha Mitchell
- Motion carried.

Time adjourned: 11:50 am