

Subject: Island View Beach environmental report
From: Jason Austin <jason.austin@shaw.ca>
Date: 14/01/2015 4:42 PM
To: Lynn Wilson <lwilson@crd.bc.ca>
CC: Mike Walton <mw Walton@crd.bc.ca>

Hi Lynn

Thanks for your email yesterday. Will you help me on a few things please:

1. I've been looking over the links given at <https://www.crd.bc.ca/project/island-view-beach-management-plan>
This is what the CRD website shows:

Below are links to the presentation, which is displayed in sections for easy viewing.

- [Executive Summary](#)
- [Introduction and Management Planning Process](#)
- [Natural History](#)
- [Coastal Processes](#)
- [Ecosystems and Habitats](#)
- [Species of Interest and their Habitats](#)

Is this the full amount or is there information elsewhere?

2. The May 21, 2014 Parks Committee meeting said the report would:

*"Provide factual technical and scientific information about the natural environment **found in the park**.*

- *Regional Geographic setting*
- *Natural features **of the Park**:*
 - *Regional geographic setting*
 - *Terrain, hydrology*
 - *Species at risk (flora and fauna)"*

In going through the material I see the reference is mostly made to "Island View Beach" and not "Island View Beach Regional Park". When you refer to Island View Beach in the public report do you mean the park, or are you speaking of the greater area of Island View Beach? I found many areas where you were clearly speaking of areas outside the park when you spoke of "Island View Beach" and that will be misleading to the average reader who believes you are speaking of the park.

3. In the Natural History section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-naturalhistory?e=2590922/10796099> you have 2 photos from the Saanich Archives that you label as "**Island View Beach - 1936 ditch excavation**" and "**Island View Beach - 1936 sea wall construction**". The Saanich Archives however at <http://www.saanich.ca/webapp/saanichArchives/searchresults.jsp?keyword=island+view&subject=All&localArea=All> describe both those photos as "**Cleaning Island View Beach, Saanich Municipal Public Works crew and vehicles 1937**".

Why did you change the titles and dates on these photos?

4. In the text that accompanied those photos, you said "*These archival photos illustrate the effort invested in ditching the area for drainage and constructing a large berm along the shoreline to hold back the tide.*" What "*large berm along the shoreline*" ?

5. In the Coastal Process section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-coastalprocess?e=2590922/10796152> you refer to unpublished data by Dr. Blunden [is his name not Blundon?] **Will you email me that please along with his reports.**

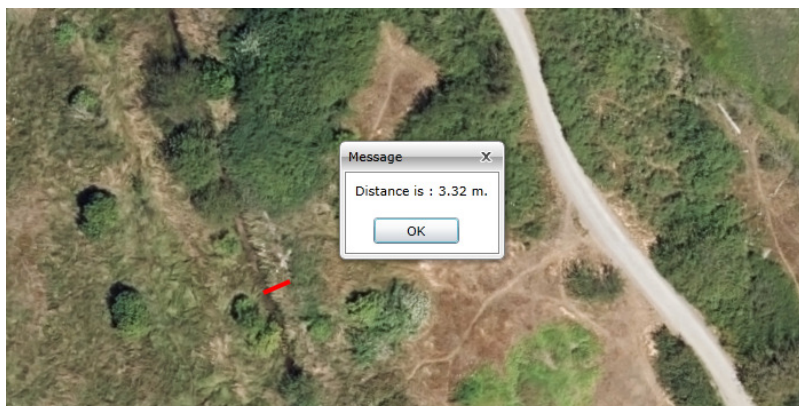
6. In the commentary and maps along with Dr. Blundon's data, why did you not mention that the lands shown in orange and red had been flooded on a daily basis for over 20 years with salt water from the failed flood gate on the north edge of the Tsawout lands? Of course that area will show high levels of salinity with all those years of salt water from a man made cause.

7. Still in the Coastal Process under the heading "Drain Ditches" [sic] (I wish these pages had been numbered!), you say:

- "*Considerable effort has been made to drain the coastal marshes at Island View Beach since the early 20th century*". The ditches were dug in 1936.

What has been the considerable effort since then?

- "*The ditches have an estimated width of 3.4m*". **Meters????** ... lol ... That is nonsensical. Don't you mean feet? Here is a screen capture from the CRD atlas showing the main north-south ditch, the biggest and widest ditch in the whole system. There I have used the measuring tool to show in red what 3.32m is (I couldn't get it to 3.4m but 3.32 is close). The red line is 3.32m which shows how narrow the ditches are. Somewhere else you said the ditches had sloping side, that is not correct either.



- You say there are "2.7 acres of relatively stagnant wetted area" in the ditches in the summer and "5 acres of wetted habitat" in these ditches during winter. Will you give me the calculations please of these numbers. I think these will also be shown to be as far fetched as saying the ditches are 3.4m wide.

- You quote D.R. Regan but did you check that calculation with them?

- As you were discussing mosquitoes in relation to drainage, why did you not show how the amount of mosquito laticide used on Puckle Farm dropped to almost nothing once the park ditches were cleaned in 2011? The report is unbalanced when only half a story is given like this.

8. In the ecosystems section at <http://issuu.com/capitalregionaldistrict/docs/ivbnep-ecoysystems?e=2590922/10796106> under "Coastal Wetlands" you say:

- "Groundwater is at or near the surface throughout the year forming a complex of habitats". What is the evidence for this statement? Are you aware that almost all the ditches in the park are dry in the summer? Here is a screen clip from the CRD atlas showing the main north south ditch and you can see for yourself there is no evidence of water in the ditches which there would be if ground water was "at or near the surface throughout the year".



9. The Coastal wetlands section speaks of Salt Marshes as if they are present in the park. Exactly where are they?

10. Still in the Ecosystems section, there is a page titled "Wetland ecosystems" showing a photo of what is said to be a salt marsh with the implication it is in the park. Where and when was that photo taken?

11. What was the purpose of including the section on "Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping"? It gives the impression of being scientific but actually conveys no information on the park to the reader, and the notes on the left alongside the photo are misleading because those statistics related to the mapping of Cordova Shore and not just the park area. And I notice you did not disclose the limitations of TEM the authors of that report themselves disclosed: "Ecosystem descriptions may be constrained by limited field sampling (insufficient plot data to adequately classify the typical plant assemblage and site conditions). The extensive nature of disturbance and introduced species throughout the study area may misconstrue ecosystem classification and interpretation." Given that the TEM conveyed nothing I wonder why it was included in this report. If there was a good purpose to include it, then the limitation should also be disclosed.

12. I see the Terrestrial habitat map in this latest report is significantly different to the one contained in the 2013 draft plan. But I also see you are still showing the northwest corner of the park as salt marsh, even though surely by now you must accept that the salt water there is caused by the malfunctioning flapper gate on the Tsawout ditch. Here is the area from the CRD atlas that shows the area you still claim to be salt marsh. Everything is arid - including the so called "salt marsh" - but look at the salt water in the Tsawout ditch system. That is coming through the malfunctioning flapper gate

and up the ditch system. Why do you keep calling this a salt marsh?



13. Still in Ecosystems, on the "Elevation Model" page, you say "*The sinuous meadow and marsh habitat boundary is reflected very closely by the low elevation areas that are subjected to high water table, seasonal flooding and high salinity.*" I have shown you the CRD aerial photo above that demonstrates there is no high water table during the summer, and in the Coastal Process section, the "Ground water" page it shows that the bulk of the park is actually fresh water or brackish at worst, but certainly there is no evidence of high salinity in the park. Why on this page do you speak of high salinity?

14. Species of interest and their habitats. I had looked forward to this section, thinking that at last we could get to the meat of the issue, and find out what species are at risk in the park and what and when do things need to be done to protect them. But after reading it many times I cannot find information that tells me anything useful in terms of what changes need to be made from the park plan as it is now to a new plan. There is nothing of substance that says this species lives here, and needs this protection, from these things, during this time. Surely that was the whole purpose of this exercise?

Will you get back to me as quickly as possible please.

Thanks

Jason