

<b>Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting</b>	<b>DRAFT Minutes</b> Mon. Sept 12 2016 / 9:15-11:30 am Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC	
		Decision/Action
1) Welcome; Introductions, opening remarks.		
2) Approval of Agenda		Approved
3) Approval of Minutes of July 25. Business arising from Minutes.		Approved
4) Correspondence and announcements.	Request for partnership - Olivia Allen, Youth Advisory Board, <a href="#">The Great Waters Challenge</a> , Waterlution.	-provide networking partnership - Co-Chair Lefebure to meet youth - I. Morrison to connect to Lake Cowichan High School & CLRSS
5) Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative (J.Thompson, T.Rutherford)	<p>-CWB/CWS has been invited to submit an Expression of Interest to participate in a provincial pilot to explore sustainable funding for local watershed governance.</p> <p>-2.5 year pilot involving 2-3 communities in BC</p> <p>-Provides support from experts in this field, access to provincial decision-makers, and peer to peer networking to explore long term stable funding for CWB activities (e.g. CVRD's service bylaw, water licensing fees – new revenue stream coming to communities, First Nations' sources of funds).</p> <p>-Can include the local governance pilot project later if that goes forward, or can focus on core annual funding.</p> <p>-K. Kuhn – not supportive of it until we know what it will entail. CWB is getting involved in things we shouldn't be involved in. Its Feds, Prov and Catalyst responsibility.</p> <p>-J. Lefebure – it's an opportunity to look for other sources of funding than property taxes.</p> <p>-D. Froese – doesn't further our primary goal of raising the weir. Side-tracked.</p> <p>-T. Rutherford – Raising the weir will take a new way to fund the license.</p> <p>-I. Morrison – encouraged, supportive to learn of innovative ideas to pursue funding.</p> <p>-T. Kulchyski – Cowichan has never ceded rights. It's natural; our responsibility to find</p>	<p>Motion: that Cowichan Watershed Board supports participation in the Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance pilot as outlined in the draft Expression of Interest, subject to confirmation that it won't impose unduly on Cowichan Tribes and CVRD.</p> <p>Carried with one opposed.</p>

	<p>solutions. Cited example of difficulty getting DIAND approval for culvert in past.</p> <p>-T. Rutherford – if we are serious about more water in the river, the current model isn't going to get us there.</p>	
<p>6) Watershed Governance Pilot Proposal – update and Legacy Fund proposal (R.Hunter)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- waiting for endorsement by CVRD and Cowichan Tribes</li> <li>-drafting TOR for team that will take it forward to the province. Next meeting – establish team; consider hiring professional negotiator to support</li> <li>- funding principal – source of funding should contribute to well-being of watershed (e.g. water licenses)</li> <li>-goal is healthy watershed – governance is a tool to better achieve targets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- circulate draft TOR to Board members</li> <li>- establish team at next meeting.</li> </ul>
<p>7) Fish/Flows WG – Optimal Flows process update (C.Ayers)</p>	<p>Fish/Flows Working Group – working together with community partners and stakeholders on a robust and defensible process to define flows – what water levels we need in the river for early spring to late fall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- talking to fish interests first, then idea is to take those draft levels to other interests to see if they would satisfy other needs.</li> <li>- working with CVRD, Catalyst, Cowichan Tribes to adjust/meld workplans as we go</li> <li>- good participation from fish groups in the process – BCCF, Cowichan Tribes, MoE, DFO, recreational fishing sector</li> <li>-seeking funding to update past studies by modelling with data from 2015-16. Answer question – how many years in 30 years can we not meet flows. Shortfall \$3,600.</li> <li>-next -need decision-making model for whoever ends up managing the weir. E.g. low snow pack in Jan triggers x action.</li> <li>- CVRD might have appropriate funding for this. If not, CWS's REFBC funds. Have to wait for rain so have time for this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- T. Rutherford – kudos to Cheri for the vision and getting the right people in the room and process with strong rigour.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p>8) Weir/Water Storage update (G. Kissack)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Catalyst has invested almost \$.5 million in foundation, hydro, 20 pumps at weir.</li> <li>-included redundant power supply - if power went out, could re-start quickly without river going dry in between. Must be reliable.</li> <li>- need to make decision tomorrow whether to deploy pumps so they are ready to start the next week if needed.</li> </ul> <p>R. Forrest – water source intake from Town of Lake Cowichan would be affected</p> <p>G. Kissack – We will not fire up the</p>	

	<p>pumping until we have that solution.  K. Kuhn – asked whether river has ever dried up before; what are the consequences if it ran dry for a week?  Chief Seymour – has been this dry before – 1950s  - T. Kulchyski – has been as low as 1-2 cms but in a very different river system. This is beyond normal in low flow years.  Temperatures higher; fish/ecosystem more stressed now. Consequences of running dry – could lose entire coho run; early run Chinook -100-200 eliminated; ripple effects in rest of system unknown;  -j. Lefebure – sewage outfall – 40:1 dilution isn't required by permit but is the desirable guideline. Ultimate solution is to move outfall out of river which we are working on. Negative impacts on river and on First Nations use of river downstream.  -T. Rutherford – RE monitoring fish in lake – DFO will be monitoring when we hit 0 storage. Unlikely fish will want to move from holding to spawning until we hit higher water. DFO looking at new data set from 1900s upwards showing that summer flows were higher than expected, likely due to hydrology and snow impact.</p> <p>Catalyst exploring flashboards. Engineering study delayed – end Sept/early Oct.  Good meeting with Prov and Feds, Catalyst, Cowichan Tribes, and CVRD recently. Seeking ~ \$2 million for:  a) 3<sup>rd</sup> party study to tell us how much water needs to flow every day;  b) engineering and climate modelling to instruct how high and where the weir needs to be to meet that, and costs.</p> <p>This is what we need to move forward. Catalyst doesn't have \$15million to spend in capital on this weir. That is more than the entire annual capital budget across the whole company.</p> <p>L. Brown – Feds are reaching out to Fed family for next steps.</p>	
<p>9) Shaw Creek update (D. Slade)</p>	<p>-most ecologically significant area of Lake Cowichan  -hopes it will be Gerald Thom Ecological Area one day, and a win-win for everyone.  - original ask was for 18 modest lots  - current owners want to maximize return on investment.  - Electoral Areas Services Committee presentation –</p>	

	<p>consensus around table seemed to be they were asking too much.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- R. Hunter suggested field trip</li> </ul>	
10) Communications – draft brochure, governance (J.Thompson)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- have hired Susan Down to produce a general CWB brochure; more comms planned to support governance pilot if moving forward</li> <li>- Speaker Series restarting 4<sup>th</sup> Thurs of every month @7pm at VIU Cowichan. Sept speakers – POLIS’ Oliver Brandes and Rosie Simms on Local Watershed Governance and the Water Sustainability Act.</li> </ul>	
11) Other	<p><b>Board Membership</b>  D. Toporowski – question about adding Darrin George to the CWB appointees from Cowichan Tribes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-J. Lefebure – supports equal representation from CVRD and Cowichan Tribes</li> <li>- R. Hunter – CWB Terms of Reference initially approved by CVRD and Cowichan Tribes, so a change would need to be ratified by them. Previously, Andy Thompson, DFO, agreed that one Fed position could go to Cowichan Tribes. D. George was a member before - thoughtful participant and excellent Board member.</li> </ul> <p><b>River Cleanup</b>  J. Thompson -great partnership with Cowichan Tribes. Safe Youth Cowichan also participated, though less this year. 4 trucks of garbage to dump, about 70 participants. Cash sponsorships for this and other public engagement work in 2016 from CUPE 358, CUPE BC, PPWC-Crofton Mill, Drillwell, Catalyst, TimberWest. Many in-kind sponsors as well, though overall food/prize sponsorships down. Thanks to Cowichan Tribes for hosting and making Little Big House available for event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-T. Kulchyski – important work</li> <li>-T. Rutherford – thanks to all volunteers</li> <li>-P. Jefferson- lake and upper river cleanup also successful – 100 participants – garbage volumes way down from first cleanups thanks to better stewardship from river users and local businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>Co-Chairs to recommend to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD boards that CWB membership be extended to “up to 14” members to allow for the appointment of “up to 3” Cowichan Tribes members to equal CVRD representation.</p>
Next meeting – Mon. Oct 31 9:15-11:30am		
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