

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Mon. April 24 2017

9:15-11:30 am

Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan



Participants: Chief Seymour, Ian Morrison, David Anderson, Jon Lefebure, Laura Brown, Tim Kulchyski, Ross Forrest, David Slade, David Froes, Klaus Kuhn, Brian Carruthers, Tom Rutherford

Regrets: Debra Toporowski, Darin George, Lori Iannidinardo

Co-Chair: Chief Seymour

1) Welcome		
2) Approval of Agenda		Approved
3) Approval of Minutes. Business arising from Minutes.		Approved
4) Correspondence and announcements.	Shaw Creek letter complete. Edit was made to specify our riparian target. CVRD has informed us we should wait to submit until process begins. Announcements – see below*	Tom to submit letter RE Shaw Creek when appropriate.
5) Quarterly report	Tom provided highlights. See presentation and report. See link . Discussion: - what happens when critical flows are set for Koksilah? Reply: if water gets too low, FLNRO can require licensees to stop drawing water. - How is Koksilah flows work funded? Lead by FLNRO – encouraged to partner with local community	For information only.
6)TAC – New TOR	See link . Each Working Group contributes up to 3 members to TAC. Broad range of technical expertise. Co-Chaired by ED and Cowichan Tribes. 1 seat reserved for Cowichan Tribes in case they aren't participating via Working Groups. Working Groups can and should report directly to the Board as needed.	Motion to endorse new TAC Terms of Reference 1 st Jon 2 nd Ross Carried.
7) Cow Bay Rezoning Issue	Presentation by Western Stevedoring, Sharon Horsburgh. Tidal Harmony Holdings Zoning Amendment. See link Presentation by Jock Hildebrand, Cowichan Estuary Restoration and	For information only.

	<p>Conservation Association. (CERCA) See link</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - no taxes are paid to CVRD for the property but it was clarified that is normal as taxes are paid to province. - David Anderson inquired about the original agreement document with Doman that established the intent for the property. - clarification that WFP lease is a separate from Western Stevedoring lease 	
<p>8) Water Storage</p> <p>a) current levels</p>	<p>Tom presented in lieu of Brian Houle. It has been a wet spring. Weir is not scheduled to go on control until mid-May. 2 meters of snow in the mountains! Tom presented photos from Easter ski trip to Heather Mtn. See link</p> <p>Tim commented that the fish are also delayed. They are emerging later as confirmed by Bob Crandall. Chinook usually peak roughly mid-June so it may be later this year. We need to learn more about this.</p>	<p>For information only.</p>
<p>b) defining long-term desired flow regime/levels – grant progress</p>	<p>Tom presented in lieu of CVRD to give a brief update on the Structured Decision Making process to support optimal flows. An admin team has been established (Tom, CT, Catalyst) to guide the development of the RFP for a consultant to undertake the project. The consultant will lead the process. It is important that this is neutral and objective and that CVRD and agencies don't interfere.</p> <p>There will be multi-stakeholder participation.</p> <p>Question RE whether is DFO will be involved helping to shape the RFP since DFO staff will need to provide much of the data. Laura offered to help.</p>	<p>For information only.</p> <p>Tom to connect Laura (DFO) with Kate RE consultant RPF process.</p>
<p>9) Other</p>	<p>Stoltz Creek: James Craig gave an update on situation. Around March 26-28 a "chunk of land" came down primarily through Clearwater Creek gully. Approximately 500,000-700,000 m³ of soil fell. Most landed on built terrace which stopped it from entering Cowichan River but some is going into the creek as it passes through the pile and into the river. The pile is about 4-5 times the volume of the CVRD Boardroom. Berms are full or over-topped. On the access road about 80m is covered by material which is unstable and possibly dangerous so Parks have blocked access. If nothing is done, a higher amount of sediment is likely to go into river by next winter, which would be different from the last 11 years.</p> <p>Tom commended the way that people have come together quickly on this, reflecting that this is special across the province. Advocating a cautious approach – start with a technical memo to make sure it's safe to work there and recommended interventions</p>	<p>Tom to request funds via Cowichan Watershed Society to support contract for a technical memo.</p>

	<p>to stabilize. Estimates >\$100,000 to fix.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - scientists should decide this – not layman. -Laura clarified that gov't scientists don't make decisions. They provide information about risks, consequences but not decisions. <p>River as Citizen: Tom shared a clipping from New Zealand where the country's 3rd largest river has been granted the rights of as citizens under law. See link</p>	
Next meeting – May 29		Information
Adjourn		

*Announcements

Speakers Series:

April 27 - "Humpback Comeback" Jackie Hildering, education director and humpback researcher with the Marine Education and Research Society. Co-hosted by Cowichan Valley Naturalists

May 25 - "Sources and Contemporary Uses of Indigenous Law" Dr. John Borrows, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Law.

River Clean-up Upper River Aug 20 / Lower Aug 27.