

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Mon. May 28 2018

9:15-11:30 am

Location: CVRD Board Room



Co-Chair: Chief Seymour

Participants: Board members: Co-Chair Jon Lefebure, Ian Morrison, Darin George, David Anderson, David Slade, Debra Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, Klaus Kuhn, David Froese; Staff: Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson (minutes)

Regrets: Ross Forrest, Lori Iannidinardo, Laura Brown

Guests: Dr. Shannon Waters, Technical Advisory and Working Group members; other guests. (Open to the public)

1.	Welcome	Called to order 9:25am	Information
2.	Approval of Agenda	Defer Chinook report. Jon moved to adopt agenda; Seconded by David S.	Carried
3.	Approval of Minutes of April 30. Business arising from Minutes.	Jon moved to adopt minutes; Seconded by David S.	Carried
4.	Correspondence and announcements	<p>Tom presented three items:</p> <p>1) Correspondence was received from Bob Kopp requesting that CWB participate as stakeholders in the Cowichan River Park planning process. Tom requested a decision from the Board.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom was asked whether he thinks activities in this park will affect water quality or quantity in the Cowichan River. - Tom responded that Mr. Kopp provided a technical report and a letter from Deb Curran about lead and potential impacts on water quality which he has not yet read but also doesn't have the technical knowledge to assess the level of impact that might indicate. - Ian pointed out that CVRD is going to consider this issue and that a presentation was made to CVRD; agreed that we should participate only if we believe it is significant to our mandate. -Tom committed to look into the report and ask for advice from Deb Epps and other specialist on the potential impact of lead from the Gun Range to groundwater, and seek direction from the co-chairs. <p>2) Water Conservation Challenge received good media coverage in Citizen. Thanks offered to David Slade and Jill.</p> <p>3) CWB helped to fund new buoys to mark the eelgrass conservation and navigation channel in Cowichan Bay to protect habitat. The project was coordinated in part through the CWB Estuary Health Working Group and we are contributing 1/3 of the costs through our grant from the Real</p>	<p>Information</p> <p>Tom to seek advice from Deb Epps on the potential impact of lead from the Gun Range to groundwater, then seek direction from the co-chairs. [Note: input deadline extended to July 15]</p>

		Estate Foundation of BC. The work is being coordinated by Graham Gidden from CVRD.	
5.	CWB Governance Manual Improvements arising from Watershed Co-Governance Conversation Workshops: "Accountability"	<p>Tom presented new proposed updates to the Governance Manual updates. See presentation (link).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the timeline seeks to have the entire Governance Manual update discussed at the next meeting and hopefully approved in principle to take forward to our partners for their approval. - discussion today is focussed on the new Accountability section and related updates throughout the manual. Three key points: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Worked to more clearly delineate between responsibility and accountability based on previous Board member feedback. 2) The manual is not intended to be an essay. We are trying to keep it concise. 3) It reflects the responsibilities we have now. If responsibilities change, we would revisit Manual. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewed the new Accountability Chapter (4.0) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction 4.1 transparency 4.2 reporting and evaluation 4.3 fiscal management 4.4 public representation <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Intro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Klaus felt that the Board can't be accountable to a mandate. Can only be accountable to a person or group. The Board is guided by its mandate and evaluates. Jon agreed and suggests "The Board is accountable for adherence to its mandate..." David S. suggests "The Board is guided by its mandate and evaluates..." Agreement. <p>4.1 Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jon suggested we formalize opportunities for comments/input from the public on any item on the agenda at the beginning of each meeting and opportunity for questions/comments at the end. Add to 3.3 as a procedure. <p>4.2 Reporting – no comment</p> <p>4.3 Fiscal management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Klaus expressed this section OK - David F expressed concern that by providing our fiscal accountability through the Society, it is less transparent because the Society has a lower level of public accountability and involvement without the CVRD members present. 	<p>Change first line in Chapter 4 to "The Board is guided by its mandate."</p> <p>Add public input items in meeting agendas. Sec. 3.3</p>

		<p>- Ian compared our composition to the AVICC which is made up of local government reps but the Local Government Act doesn't apply. The reps still have to meet the same standards that they would normally meet. While perhaps imperfect he believes this has worked well for decades and thinks our situation can work for us. Society Act is only tool available to us.</p> <p>-Tom agreed that Society must be adequately transparent. Society is accountable to funders and we're doing a good job with that. We could make the meetings public. Public is welcome but we haven't been posting agendas, minutes, etc. – mostly because no one has asked.</p> <p>- Jill agreed it's possible but flagged minor addition of time/resources to run a second set of public meetings and wondered we could post minutes on the CWB website or whether it would need its own Society website.</p> <p>-Ian – Society Act is only tool available to us. Proceed as recommended we'll be fine.</p> <p>-David A – the reason the CVRD wanted a society was to avoid conflict of interest around elected officials being involved in both levels of decision making so there is no way around that.</p> <p>-Klaus asked whether the CWS could withhold funds to CWB. IF so, CWB would be accountable to the CWS.</p> <p>- Jill clarified that all funds that Society handles are through funding agreements or grant agreements that specify that the funds are to support the work on the Board, so CWS can't spend the money on anything else.</p> <p>- Jill clarified that about half of the CWS members are elected Cowichan Tribes elected representatives (Correction: Debra, Darin are elected CT reps, Ross is elected rep; Tim, David A, David S, David F are not)</p> <p>- David F – ok to move on</p> <p>- Jon pointed out that we need a Society to handle money and the Board isn't a formal entity so we need it.</p> <p>- Tom clarified that by being Executive Director of both, he is accountable to both, and you can fire your E.D.</p> <p>4.4 Representation</p> <p>– concern was raised that we shouldn't claim to have all levels of gov't since representation from the province wasn't achieved.</p> <p>- Tim suggested that Cowichan Tribes experience is that it's tough to get the province to participate; we're lucky to have representation on the calls</p> <p>-Ian – suggested we edit to 'are invited'</p> <p>-Jill – suggested it may be time to try again to formally invite province to join the CWB and consider other ministries. Public Health, MoE, FLNRO, Min Ag, etc.</p>	<p>[At subsequent Society meeting, decision was made for Society to report to CWB more regularly. See Society minutes for detail.]</p> <p>Change to "All levels of elected government are invited to be represented on the Board, ..."</p>
6.	Drought and Public Health	Dr. Shannon Waters, Medical Health Officer Central	Information

Vancouver Island -Cowichan Area presented on the relationships between drought and public health. See presentation ([link](#))

-Shannon began by sharing her own ancestral story, including a photo of Luchiim and Jenny George and acknowledged that our ancestors are all around us and in this room.

- she acknowledged the significance of this Board having Cowichan members and co-chair having an equal voice.

- cited the river as integral to health in this valley and the First Nations perspective on wellness includes being surrounded by a community where everyone is well.

- explained that she has been sharing the connection between drought, flooding and health impacts with audiences across the province. Trying to bring forward knowledge of where water comes from where our water is from underground, and to appreciate what's there and how it is connected.

- Drought impacts can be delayed and harder to connect – impacts on food; livelihoods; migration; mental health; waterborne diseases etc.

- Shannon has an interest in mental health impacts in particular, which have not been quantified. E.g. suicide rates in farming communities during drought.

- she reviewed MHO's role in drought – prevention/migration – preparedness – response- recovery.

- MHO has a role in regulating water re-use and needs a structure to enable that. MHO looking at writing a document on that but it has been slow.

- Shannon asked how we can bring out the CWB targets more – eating shellfish by 2020 – that was life here; it's a health aspiration.

- suggested interest and opportunities for collaboration:

-Stacey Sowa is moving and has been on our WQ working group; hope that someone can be determined for the role soon.

-There is a Cowichan Water Committee. Jennifer Jones has time to test for recreational water quality and we could collaborate on where we test with FN, CWB. We could share WQ data.

-Ecological Determinants of Health committee – is looking at research into mental health impacts of climate change (e.g. fire, droughts)

Discussion:

David A asked about whether MHO is encouraging inoculation for diseases that are migrating due to climate?

E.g. Lyme disease

Shannon replied that yes, they are measuring vector borne diseases and whether vaccines are effective when available. She commented that there is a lot of

		<p>money that goes to things like West Nile outbreaks etc. but she feels we need to balance that out with a focus on mental health and other areas.</p> <p>Ian – question about recreation water testing; seasonal overuse of antiquated septic systems; is there an opportunity to do more testing in more populated areas at Lake Cowichan?</p> <p>Shannon replied that will need to evolve. Historically recreational water testing has started on the May long weekend but now the swimming window is earlier. We need to be more adaptable year to year. She'd like to bring summaries to this table and collaborate on next year's testing.</p> <p>David F – offered this Board as a pilot study group on the impacts of drought on mental health ;0)</p>	
7.	2017 Cowichan Chinook Escapement Summary	Deferred. Presenter not available.	Deferred to Next month
8	Target working group updates:		
a	Riparian Health – update on CRF Riparian restoration program	<p>Deferred. Presenter not available.</p> <p>James Craig is retiring which is a huge loss to the watershed. He has been stellar. Sandy Fauxall will speak to the riparian piece next month. We were hoping to acknowledge James today but Tom will catch him elsewhere to do that.</p>	Deferred to Next month
b	<p>Fish / Flows</p> <p>i. Cowichan Weir Management update</p> <p>ii. Cowichan Water Use Planning (WUP) update</p>	<p>See Tom's presentation for the following two items here.</p> <p>i) Tom presented the recent water level graphs from Catalyst. -Snow is melting faster this year than last year so even though we had lots of snow, we could be running out of lake storage earlier than last year, depending on rain.</p> <p>ii) Tom gave an update on the WUP. - The May meeting was long with great difficulty reaching consensus. - there was an agreement that the details will be presented at a Public Info Session in Lake Cowichan; consultant will meet with FN first - key outcomes Tom can share today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reached agreement on a 2 phased storage approach to provide ecological gains and respect other interests as well - Includes in-season management to better meet the defined target levels with consideration to triggers like snow pack, environmental field work, etc. We need a mechanism that allows us to be flexible. - The partners (CT, CVRD, CWB, Catalyst) will be encouraged to petition the provincial and federal 	<p>Everyone encouraged to attend Public Info Session, June 11th, 5:30-8:30pm Centennial Hall, Lake Cowichan.</p> <p>More info here</p>

		<p>government to take responsibility and follow through with the consensus recommendation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PAG agreement needs to go forward to partners for ratification. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - concern was raised over a scheduling conflict with another CVRD meeting that night. - Jon asked about in-season management, and whether we don't already have that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Tom clarified yes but it would be better to have a system where there are triggers set up at the outset so that we don't need to make decisions under stress but get on top of it from the outset. -Cheri added that the goal is to be more adaptable and have a structure that can react more quickly – e.g. if a large rainstorm is coming our way, we would be able consider and risk manage for that. - questions were raised about the format and goal of the meeting, and how the information from the PAG would be shared. -Tom expressed that he is cautiously optimistic that the first big step for ensuring sustainable flows for the river has been accomplished. 	
9	Other	Next meeting – June 25 @ 9:15am	Information
10	Adjourn		Carried