

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

Minutes



January 6, 2011
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom, 175
Ingram St., Duncan

Participants: Rob Hutchins & Lydia Hwitsum Co-chairs, Ross Forrest, Bruce Fraser, Darin George, Lori Iannidinardo, Tim Kulchyski, Lorna Medd, Don Radford, David Slade

Coordinator: Rodger Hunter

Guests Presenters: Oliver Brandes, POLIS Institute, University of Victoria

Regrets: David Anderson and Klaus Kuhn

1. Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	<p>Meeting Chair Chief Lydia Hwitsum thanked the CVRD for the use of the Boardroom noting that the Board had returned to the Boardroom for the first time since the spring of 2010.</p> <p>The Board expressed best wishes to Board member Tim Kulchyski and his wife on the occasion of the birth of their daughter in December.</p> <p>David Slade provided an inspiring invocation.</p>
2. Approval of Agenda	<p>The agenda was approved as presented.</p>
3. Approval of Minutes of November 6 th and update on Business Arising from Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundraising	<p>The minutes were approved as presented. The Coordinator noted that progress on fundraising has been slow owing in part a complete change in senior staff we were negotiating with at the province. Potential sources of funds identified included the CVRD base budget, Cowichan Tribes, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, Gas Tax Funds (coordinated by the Union of British Columbia Municipalities).</p> <p>Decision: Coordinator to keep Finance Committee and Board posted on fund-raising progress.</p>

4. Presentation on Water Governance and Law	Oliver Brandes, Senior Research Associate and Associate Director of the Polis Project on Ecological Governance, University of Victoria made a presentation to the Board and addressed a number of their questions regarding watershed governance. The presentation which was extremely well received can be found by going to http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/resources/Presentation and clicking on LINK opposite the Thinking Like a Watershed title line.
5. Proposed Participation in watershed Eco-health study	Lorna Medd made a presentation regarding and invitation that the Cowichan Watershed Board has received to participate in a Network for Ecological Sustainability and Health's proposed initiative involving assessments of 5 or 6 Canadian watersheds. The assessments are being conducted to better understand the potential for, and limitations to, governing watersheds as settings for health and well-being. Decision: The Board supported participation in the initiative.
6. Target Setting for the Watershed	The Board discussed possible targets related to sustained environmental health of the watershed and approaches to establishing them. Examples of preliminary suggestions included: developing a 200 year drought plan, reversing trends in ground water levels, public awareness/understanding, target dates for edible shellfish in the estuary, forestry related targets, success rates for juvenile salmon, water conservation targets and public health related targets. Decision: The Board requested the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to propose a set of target for the Board's consideration. The Board requested that the TAC consider measurability, integration of a variety environmental health factors, importance, and meaningfulness to the public, complexity and difficulty/barriers to success as they develop proposed targets.
7. Next meeting – Date and Agenda Items	The first Thursday of each month will remain the regular meeting date for the Board. The next meeting is planned for February 3, 2011. Location to be determined.