

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes



March 6, 2014
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location: Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council Chambers, 5760 Allenby Road, Duncan, BC

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Co-chair: Co-chair Rob Hutchins

Guest: Laura Brandes, Polis Project and Oliver Brandes, Polis Project (Remotely)

1. Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks	Co-chair Rob Hutchins called the meeting to order and welcomed introduced new Cowichan Tribes representative Matthew Louie and special guest Laura Brandes from the Polis Project.
2. Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented and it was noted that an update on the Environmental Appeal Board (EAB) process would be included as part of the Target updates under Summer Flows.
3. Approval of Minutes of January 21, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	The minutes of the January 21, 2014 meeting were approved as presented.
4. Guest Speaker Watersheds 2014 –Watershed Governance Forum Debrief	Laura Brandes and Oliver Brandes (via telephone). Laura provided a summary of the Watersheds 2014 Forum that was held at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre. Laura presented information on the great success of the forum including participant feedback (Insert link) and requested that the Board endorse “The Watersheds 2014 Forum Declaration”. The Board noted that it would feel comfortable endorsing the document if the word Declaration was changed to Consensus. That was agreed to and the Board endorsed the Consensus document (Insert link).
5. Brief Target Updates and Review of Target Working Group Membership Summer Flows	The EAB process is scheduled for the week before and the week after the Easter weekend in April. It was noted that there are 6 appellants and that some other lakeshore property owners with similar views may make presentations. After initial statements it is anticipated that the appellants will go first followed by the Province, the Cowichan Watershed Society (CWS) and Catalyst. CWS witnesses will be Craig Sutherland of KWL, Brian Tutty (Fisheries Biologist) and possibly the Coordinator. It is possible that Rob Grant will also be called as a witness to describe how the LiDAR works. It is proposed that the Flows working group meet immediately after the hearing to discuss next steps. Catalyst still continues to work on web-cams toward a target date of June 30.

Riparian Protection and Restoration	Gerald Thom and the Cowichan Lake and River Stewards continue to do great work and are having significant success fund-raising for riparian restoration initiatives. A planned tour of Shaw Creek with two conservation groups was postponed until March 18. It was also noted that an anonymous donor may be interested in donating some river riparian habitat within the region.
Water Quality/Estuarine Health	The Coordinator thanked David Slade, Wayne Haddow, Deb Epps and David Tattam for participating in a Group Based Environmental Farm Plan (GBEFP) with local dairy farmers who are participating in the Plan. At a meeting earlier on March 6, 2014 farmers agreed on a number of beneficial management practices which will potentially be eligible for significant financial assistance. It was noted that 2 farmers in the study area had declined to participate and that they would be contacted about participating before the final GBEFP is submitted. Alison Nicholson intends to request that unexpended funds from the contract be used for future water quality testing and development of outreach materials for environmental farm management in the area. The CVRD still continues efforts on a marine water quality bylaw and the BCCF continues to pursue funding to address sedimentation issues at Broadway run on the river.
Communications/Water Conservation	The CWB/VIU Speakers Series will resume this month with Rob Hutchins and Tom Rutherford speaking about the Watershed Board and its Targets. Dr. Nancy Turner will be the featured speaker in April and in May we will use the series to roll out a water conservation challenge/strategy. Ross Forrest reported that as a result of its metering initiative the town is achieving significant water savings.
6. 2014 Work plan	The Coordinator distributed copies of a draft work plan for comment noting it is organized by target as well as operations and UBCM REFBC projects. The work plan will be updated for discussion the next meeting.
7. Other Issues: Next meeting.	The next meeting will be held on May 1, 2014 at the CVRD.