Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting	DRAFT Minutes Feb. 7, 2013 6:00 pm to 9:30 pm		
	Location:	CVRD Boardroom	
	175 Ingrai	n, Duncan, BC	
1. Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks		Co-chair Rob Hutchins led a ro which included members of the	
2. Approval of Agenda		The agenda was approved as presented.	
3. Approval of Minutes of November 30, 2012 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes		The minutes were approved as presented.	
4. Update on Lower Watershed Water Quality Assessment		Deb Epps of MOE made a presentation on the water quality assessment for the Lower Cowichan River, the Lower Koksilah River and its tributaries, tributaries to the southern shore of Cowichan Bay and Cowichan Bay itself. Summer samples were generally within standards set for water quality. However fall samples raised concerns for all of the areas except the Cowichan River. Preliminary DNA analysis identified land use practices (notabley agriculture) as a concern. The presentation (link) includes a several short term and long term recommendation to address problems that were identified. One specific item involved inclusion of non-point source pollution within the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan. Action Item: The Cowichan Watershed Board Co-chairs will write to the Chair of the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management Plan Steering Committee requesting that the Steering Committee consider including non-point source pollution within the Plan and offering the services of the Cowichan Watershed Board to manage the non-point source component of the Plan.	
5. Protecting Limnological Jewels		 Watershed Board Special Advisor Dr. Rick Nordin made a presentation and the value of lakes and particularly the importance of Cowichan Lake as the engine of the watershed. His presentation can be found at (link). Action Item: The Cowichan Watershed Board Coordinator will work with Dr. Nordin in attempt to garner interest is reestablishing a research presence at the University of Victoria research facility at Cowichan Lake. 	

6. Target Updates	
Summer Flows Update	Rob Hutchins informed the Board that progress by of Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) regarding implementing a rule band had been slow. Andrew Thomson reported on a meeting between Department of Fisheries and Oceans and MFLNRO. In addition, the Coordinator summarized a recent legal opinion that was prepared by Krista Robertson of JFK Law of Victoria. The opinion discussed: three potential processes for seasonally raising water levels; the process for contesting a decision derived from those processes and the possible requirement for the licensee to pay compensation. The Chair acknowledged the participation of Deborah Curran of the University of Victoria Law faculty for phoning in to assist with the explanation of the legal opinion.
Riparian Protection and Restoration	It was noted that vents have overtaken the Riparian Working Group. With the support of DFO a Riparian Workshop is being planned for April 24- 25, 2013 at the Cowichan Lake Education Centre to develop a plan for riparian protection, restoration and education. The Coordinator sought affirmation that \$5000 from Gas Tax Funding could be allocated to riparian initiatives. Decision: The Board affirmed an allocation of \$5000 to support protection and restoration of riparian (shoreline) habitats.
7. General Comments, Upcoming events	<u>Climate Change and Agriculture Workshop</u> -It was noted that this workshop, is be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Somenos Hall on February 12, 2013. <u>Polis Institute Conference on Watershed</u> <u>Governance</u> -Rob Hutchins noted that the Polis Institute is scheduling an international conference on Watershed Governance and wishes to offer a workshop experience featuring the Cowichan watershed. Details regarding the conference are not yet complete. Decision: <i>The Coordinator was directed to</i> <i>contact the Polis Institute that it consider co-</i> <i>hosting the event with the Board and staging it</i> <i>at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference</i> <i>Centre.</i> <u>Heritage Rivers Conference</u> –It was noted that the federal Heritage River agency is hosting a conference in PEI in June 2013. One of the featured topics at the conference will be watershed governance.