

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes



December 12, 2013
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Location: Location: Riverwalk Café,
200 Cowichan Way, Duncan, BC

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Co-chair: Co-chair Darin George

Guest: Craig Wightman, Living Rivers/BC Conservation Foundation

1. Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks

Co-chair Darin George welcomed members and guests and noted the value of working together within community. Rob Hutchins thanks Darin for his hard work with the Watershed Board and especially for chairing this, his last meeting as a Board member. Prior to the meeting those in attendance viewed a one minute preview of a film about the watershed that the Board had contributed to and for which shooting was almost complete.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as amended. The agenda item on water levels, water temperatures, pumps/siphons was deferred until the January 2014 meeting.

3. Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2013 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes

The minutes of November 7, 2013 were approved as presented.

4. Guest Speaker
Water levels, water temperatures,
pumps/siphons.

As above this agenda item was deferred to the January 2014 meeting.

<p>5. Brief Target Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Fisheries (Steelhead) • Summer Flows • Water Quality/Shellfish • Riparian 	<p>Craig Wightman gave an uplifting presentation on the relationship between young steelhead and their carrying capacity noting that for the past few years steelhead rearing in the watershed has exceeded the target that the watershed has adopted.</p> <p>Rodger Hunter reported that the Environmental Appeal Board Hearing has been set to take place in April 2014. Catalyst continues to assist with the establishment of webcams at the weir and at its pump station and we are still working on where it will be displayed. Rob Grant of the CVRD is assisting with the generation of statistics for the 20 cm water license scenario.</p> <p>Fall sampling is now complete and interviews have been completed with eight out of ten dairy farmers. Broadway run remains a major concern from an erosion/source perspective. Addressing the project will require significant funding from a number of sources. BCCF has submitted a number of funding requests. The Coordinator is working with the Cowichan Land Trust on an application to the RBC Bluewater Fund for ongoing monitoring funding.</p> <p>The Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society has had great success in engaging the community including high school students in a high profile demonstration riparian restoration project at Saywell Park in Lake Cowichan.</p> <p>There has been some progress on acquiring Shaw Creek project. That has been a recommendation that proceeds from the sale of surplus park lands be committed to the acquisition. The project is being referred to the Nature Trust's Board for discussion in January, however, the Coordinator reported difficulty in engaging the Nature Conservancy of Canada.</p>
<p>6. Watershed Snapshots</p>	<p>Gerald Thom, Ross Forrest, Craig Wightman, Lorna Medd, Tom Rutherford and Darin George showed slides of the watershed which identified watershed management challenges ranging from low flows to impacted or potentially impacted riparian habitats, to basic stewardship, fragmented responsibilities and accountabilities and difficulty in finding appropriate targets and how these challenges were being addressed through ingenuity, cooperation and collaboration in the watershed.</p> <p>Ray Demarchi encouraged the Board to consider pursuing significantly more storage than the 30 cm recommended in the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan.</p>

<p>7. Society Act Business Election of Treasurer and a Secretary.</p>	<p>David Slade was nominated and elected Treasurer of the Cowichan Watershed Society and Tim Kulchyski was nominated and elected Secretary of the Society. The Co-chair thanked David and Tim for stepping forward.</p>
<p>8. Other Issues</p>	<p>The Coordinator agreed to follow up with members to determine a feasible date in January 2014 for the next meeting.</p> <p>The Board approved a request to reallocate funding for projects that are consistent with Regional Gas Tax expenditure criteria e.g. additional required work related to the LiDAR related to the relationship between property boundaries and inundation related to additional water storage.</p>