


Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting	DRAFT Minutes Mon. April 4, 2016 / 9:15-noon Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2 nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC	
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Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board members and guests

Co-Chair: CVRD Chair Mayor Jon Lefebure

Minutes: Jill Thompson

		Decision / Action
1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks.	Welcome to guests from DFO, Tammy Norguard and Joy Wade.	
2) Approval of Agenda	Moved by D. Slade; 2 nd I. Morrison.	Approved
3) Approval of Minutes of Feb 29 th 2016. Business Arising from Minutes.	Moved by I. Morrison; 2 nd R. Forrest	Approved
4) Correspondence	Letter sent by Co-chairs in support of Cowichan Station Area Association application for Koksilah Watershed ecosystem research grant. Media Release sent on World Water Day (March 22) RE 2015 results of Cowichan Water Challenge	
5) Coordinator recruitment update	D. Slade – final resolution not yet achieved, expected before next meeting. R. Forrest – impressed by quality of candidates applying from outside the region who praise CWB highly; want to be part of leading edge of watershed governance. Compliments to Rodger.	Society to continue selection process.
6) Estuary Health – log boom update	Chief Seymour - Cowichan Tribes has spoken against the log boom grounding in Cowichan Bay. Spoke with Min. Thompson. Meeting to consult with Cowichan Tribes upcoming. Impacts include loss of Chinook habitat, eelgrass and woody debris. WFP study did not cover all of CT interests. CT wants to do independent study. Don't want WFP to leave the valley but "we need to make compromises, so do they." T. Kulchyski – booms also attract seals/predators.	
7) Summer Flow strategy - prioritizing increasing lake storage	R. Forrest – recent meeting with H. Norland, B. Carruthers, G. Kissack, Chief Seymour, J. Lefebure on this topic. G.Kissack/Catalyst – 3 stage approach: 1) Emergency pump-out – only if lake reaches 0. Report given to FLNRO last week. Decision expected in 4 weeks. 2) Temporary flashboards – up to 12" additional	

storage in recognized forecasted drought years. Dependent upon engineering showing current structure is safe for seismic and high flow events. Timing dependent on when divers can examine structure.

Following that, two applications needed:
a) WSA Sec. 10 – license for additional industrial water storage
b) WSA Sec 4 – permission to “modify the works” under Dam Safety Regs

Community engagement needed for both. FLNRO final decision not expected until spring 2017, possibly too late to install that year.

3) Permanent/long-term solution needs thorough consultation and collaboration.
Engineering could show existing weir can't hold more water and we would need to rebuild.

- Discussion about why weir wasn't closed before this week. Potential side channel habitat impacts of closing weir early discussed, as well as relative small water storage benefit from doing so. Also, DFO and FLNRO agreement needed. T, Rutherford notes Catalyst has come in good faith to regulatory table for DFO.

D. Slade – D. Thompson field verified Heather Mtn snow pillow on weekend (volunteer) – 2.3m deep correct but Water-Snow Equivalent reading is off 46% rather than 70%
D. Anderson – if weir integrity is questionable we will need to quickly get into collaboration – need a solid request in place for Fed Infrastructure program.

B. Carruthers/CVRD – CVRD needs to establish a function in order to be involved.

Need to hear the results of weir engineering studies.
Need to engage CVRD community RE options/feedback before we Board can make a decision or propose a solution (AAP). Must be consistent with local stewardship groups. This would be a significant new service of the CVRD.

I. Morrison –timing of public meetings is important to include seasonal residents

R. Hunter – need an overall structured work plan and more technical work to back it up (e.g. LIDAR). Define the goal and work back from there to set a game plan and decide who will do what.

J. Craig – field observation – Chinook using red-osier dogwood in wet side channels for habitat now – the extra flow in spring helps them fatten up so they have better survival rates at sea. Aiming for 70mm growth in 90 days. Can't get that in main stem. Chum, Coho also use edges as season progresses.

P. Jefferson – field observation – Steelhead spawn in high areas in Feb; eggs need high water until hatch.

8) Draft 2016 Workplan	<p>R. Hunter presented re-formatted work plan including priorities. D. Slade – best coordinator candidate not available until later. Would impact 2016 work plan. Which way does the Board want to go? Co-Chair Lefebure – wait for the best person (general agreement)</p>	<p>Motion – Adopt the 2016 work plan as presented with the understanding that timing may change subject to the hiring of a Coordinator. Moved by D. Slade; 2nd T. Kulchyski. Carried.</p>
9) Update on Watershed Governance Pilot Proposal	<p>R. Hunter. Needs to meet with a variety of people before he has 'green light' to share the pilot proposal. So far met with Oliver Brandes (POLIS), Deb Curran (U Vic Law), Cowichan Tribes Fish Cttee, Deb Epps (MoE), FLNRO, Brian Carruthers (CVRD) - Further meeting planned with Cowichan Tribes Environment Cttee and Treaty Cttee. Need complete comfort of Cowichan Tribes; CVRD Regional Services Cttee April 27; FLNRO will want to know about efficiencies for them; MoE (further questions). - also met with One Cowichan RE public engagement campaign proposed. Changing focus to public education RE the need. O.Brandes-recommends a thoughtful staged approach. Board and core allies need to be solidly behind a sound governance plan. Sequence of steps important, very clear specific ask. The proposal is as important internally as externally as Board's multi-year plan. C. Ayers - has shared a section of Chinook study with Rodger that characterizes watershed – could be helpful towards State of Watershed report.</p>	
10) Presentation – Cowichan Lake Lamprey	<p>See presentation by Joy Wade, DFO consultant</p>	
11) Water Sustainability Act – new Regulations	<p>See presentation by O. Brandes (POLIS) - Question: Would a Watershed Plan under WSA allow us to address retroactive water license decisions? Is it the right tool for us? Brandes: Yes – WSP is the Cadillac. Most places won't be able to get there but Cowichan could.</p>	
12) Other	<p>T. Rutherford- Stoltz Bluff needs regular maintenance/upkeep. BCCF funding is now over. How can we fund this? \$10,000-\$20,000 I. Morrison – shoreline degradation issues have arisen at lake. Seasonal residents unaware of regulations. R. Hunter – acknowledges Chris Morley and Parker Jefferson for following up on shoreline degradation issue at Greendale R. Hunter – draft Cowichan Lake Plan by Tracey Michelski could be of help RE lamprey if it can be located.</p>	
13) Next meeting - April 25, 9:15am		
Adjourn	<p>Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.</p>	