

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

December 13, 2014
9:30 pm to 1:00 pm

Location: Starting at the Black Bridge and moving to CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Chair: Rob Hutchins

Guests: Bruce Fraser Special Advisor, Tom Rutherford Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, Oliver Brandes Polis Project,

1) Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	Rob Hutchins welcomed members and guests.
2) Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved.
3) Approval of Minutes of October 2, 2014 meeting	The minutes were approved as presented.
4) Visit to Black Bridge –discussion of lower river	<p>Members met at the Black Bridge before the indoors part of the meeting. Discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the rationale for dredging at that location;• the dynamics of the river at that site;• the history of dredging at the site (Cowichan Tribes had been dredging at the site to address fisheries/flow issues for a number of years until approvals became too difficult to obtain)• the need for more flood protection work;• costs of dredging, ownership issues associated with the dredged material and possible uses of the material and, revenues associated with the dredging.
5) Regional Governance Update	Special Advisor Bruce Fraser presented the results of the CVRD's of a regional water governance study which took place during the spring and summer of 2015. Dr. Fraser's presentation is included at INSERT LINK . Meetings with First Nations and stakeholders regarding the report have been ongoing and will continue into the new year.
6) CWB Governance Exercise (Introduction)	Oliver Brandes briefly discussed the leadership position that the CWB is in regarding collaborative watershed governance. As a partnership between a First Nation and a local government well positioned to serve as a local watershed governance pilot under the new Water Sustainability Act. Mr. Brandes offered to participate in an exercise in the new year to examine areas where the CWB may wish to exercise more influence/authority. This would

	<p>help the CWB utilize MOE funding that was made available do describe the nature of a possible pilot.</p>
<p>7) Target Updates</p>	<p>Brief updates that were provided are summarized below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flows -There has still been no ruling on the Environmental Appeal regarding amendment of Catalyst's waters license. Due to lack of snow there is a chance the Snow Pillow could still be installed this winter. In the new year the Flows Working Group contribute to the development of a plan to help mitigate a possible drought in 2015.. • Water Quality -Tom Rutherford briefly summarized a presentation noting that progress that is being made regarding the Central Sector Liquid Waste Management plan, agriculture issues, moored vessels and marinas and monitoring. An updated work plan will be developed in the new year to ensure that progress continues. • Riparian -Rodger Hunter reported that TimberWest developed a map showing the ownership of properties bordering Cowicahn Lake. It will be useful in making plans to pursue the Board's riparian protection target. The map will be posted on the Watershed Board's website. • Conservation/Communications –The summer and fall public outreach conducted by the CWB was very successful. The Board continues to work with water purveyors on the Challenge to meet or beat Ladysmith (and Mill Bay's) per capita domestic water consumption. • Fish –Discussion was deferred. However it was reiterated that it was another very strong year for Cowichan chum salmon despite a declining trend in chum escapement for the rest of the island.
<p>8) 2014 Watershed Snapshots</p>	<p>Three brief snapshots were shown. The first was a brief video illustrating the benefits of the Stoltz Bluff project particularly during a significant mass-wasting event. The second reminded members of the very effective water conservation communications including the Water Woman initiative that the CWB led this past summer and fall. The third was reflected on the inspiration that Gerald Thom provided continues to provide to all who are working for a healthy resilient watershed.</p>