

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: Mon. Jan 28, 2019
Time: 9:30-11:45 am
Location: CVRD Board Room



Co-Chair: Ian Morrison.

Participants: Shannon Waters, Alison Nicholson, Debra Toporowski, Darin George, Tim Kulchyski, Lori Iannidinardo, David Slade, David Anderson, David Froese, Laura Brown, Tom Rutherford.

Regrets: Chief William Seymour. Tim McGonigle

Guests: Rod Davis (Managed Forest Council); Murray Ball (UVic PhD Student), Genevieve Singleton (knotweed volunteer)

Audience: 15 members of TAC, Working Groups, POLIS (Oliver Brandes, Rosie Simms), other.

Minutes: Jill Thompson

1	Welcoming new Board members	<p>Ian welcomed the new Board. There was roundtable discussion for Board member input on their interests and priorities for participation on CWB. Input included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public health - river, fish, weir being raised - environment, everything is connected - open mind, hearing collaboratively - excited by magnitude of this table - help each other understand what is needed - Koksilah and Cowichan watersheds - representing gov't body - fished trout and steelhead for many decades. - one of the places we can do something about climate change impacts – something that isn't available on most east island watersheds - water is connected to everything - in awe of skill and expertise brought to bear on issues through this table 	Information /Input
2	Approve Agenda		Approved
3	Review and approve Minutes of Oct 29 2018	Laura moved approval of minutes; Tim seconded.	Approved
4	Opportunity for public comment.	<p>- Clarification / discussion about how CWB members should handle public comment regarding issues that they have decision making responsibilities for at different table (e.g. CVRD rezoning application)</p> <p>- Webster Parker of 2370 Cow Bay Rd spoke:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - former Cow Bay resident, now in Chemainus - concern about BC roads and his property near lawn tennis court. A former landowner pushed in the river so that it now floods and is preventing ambulance access; fish are blocked from a big tributary. 	Information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - plans to write a letter to CVRD. Offering access through his property to dig it out if done properly with a survey. Requesting a culvert in his driveway. - thanked the Board for what you're doing. River belongs to all of us. 	
5	Correspondence /Announcements	<p>Tom reviewed the CWB appointment process. Tom reviewed the correspondence.</p> <p>See agenda for list of correspondence and announcements.</p> <p>Recommendation that Tom meet with Co-Chairs to prepare a proposal RE Municipality of North Cowichan letter requesting membership in CWB. Motion by Laura / 2nd by Darin. Passed.</p> <p>RE Koksilah swim results. There has been no stock assessment for decades. The swim revealed dozens to hundreds of chinook. Thanks to Jason Slade and Tim K for volunteer work.</p> <p>Discussion RE why letters RE issue before CVRD is on our agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lori/Darin expressed concern that letters that are sent to CWB are circulated when there is already a process via CVRD for that input. - Tom clarified that its open to discussion but currently, our principle is transparency. If someone shares correspondence with CWB about an issue in the Cowichan watershed, it is circulated to the Board members at monthly meetings, and posted on our website under meeting materials. Exceptions are made if the correspondence is considered disrespectful or offensive. - Debra added that there are CWB members who are not on the CVRD who would like to be informed if the issues affect Cowichan watershed. 	Information Letter from N.Cowichan RE CWB membership tabled until next month. Tom and Co-Chairs to bring a recommendation.
6	CWB / CWS Workplanning Review of workplanning process. Introduce 2019 draft work plan framework for Board feedback	<p>Tom presented a high level overview of strategic priorities for 2019. See presentation link. Round-table for input (see details below). Tom summarized that he heard:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) agreement on emphasis for raising weir; 2) don't abandon targets; 3) no major concerns about this approach <p>Will be calling Board members more; wants to engage you more in day to day.</p> <p>Clarification RE weir strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - sticky issue is who will hold the conservation license. - license 	Agreement on general direction. Tom to bring draft Annual Report and Strategic Business Plan to next meeting.

		<p>comes with liability associated with compensation and operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We can be effective 3 ways: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) political – Co-Chairs will meet with Ministers next month; 2) operational - work with staff at FLNRO Nanaimo; 3) local partnership - CT, Catalyst, CVRD, CWB to strategize together more regularly. 	Tom to organize meeting between Catalyst, CT and CVRD RE weir.
7	<p>Governance / Organizational Development</p> <p>a) Pathways report</p> <p>b) Proposed Nicola Chiefs visit</p> <p>c) Cultural Workshop</p>	<p>a) New Pathways and Partnerships co-governance framework report. Thanks to POLIS' Rosie and Oliver for writing help and many photographers for contributions. Thanks to Brooke Ballantyne for probono design work.</p> <p>b) Five Chiefs of Nicola watershed First Nations have been invited by Chief Seymour to come here for a learning exchange, planned for early April. The Nicola Chiefs were chosen as the pilot project to begin implementing Water Sustainability Act in partnership with the BC Government.</p> <p>c) Debra provided an overview of the Cultural Workshop in January.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thanked everyone for being there – most CVRD and CT reps attended. Chaired by Lydia Hwitsum. - Got to hear uncensored input from elders. Hoping this is the first of many such exchanges. - Focused on new parts of our CWB governance manual and the pathways document including Hul'q'umi'num' language, Cowichan ancient principle, and recognition of unceded territory. - Elders really appreciate that time – glad for the opportunity to share - In future suggest we invite Graham Kissack and Brian Houle 	Information
8	<p>Targets</p> <p>a) Fish/Flows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weir Update – Koksilah Critical flows 	<p>Tom gave an update on two projects aimed at sustainable summer flows target.</p> <p>Cowichan Lake Weir Replacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November meeting with Ministers did not happen. - Thanks to our MLA for working hard to get Ministers to the table to work with us. - CWB staff will continue meeting with FLNRO staff in Nanaimo - Key message is that this is what climate change adaptation looks like, and it's not the job of local government. As per WUP consensus, we need senior government to lead; local players will play a role. 	Information

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Min Wilkinson indicated a willingness to support funding if province did. - Optimistic that both levels of senior government are talking the talk but we need concrete progress. <p>Koksilah farm irrigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CWB is supporting FLNRO's workshop between FLNRO and ag sector in Feb. - CWB is working on Group Environmental Farm plan on irrigation efficiency which could provide money from province and feds to update irrigation systems. Moving from irrigation guns to pivots goes from 50% efficiency to 95% but a pivot costs in the range of \$100,000. If there is interest, we will try to make it possible through funding incentives. - Lots of family farmers who want to hand the family farm down; with climate change, they may have to update equipment to keep up. <p>Discussion – reminder that for funding for weir raising, before that \$15million construction bill, there is need for engineering feasibility work that will be an additional \$1.5 million.</p>	
	b) Riparian habitats - knotweed workshop	<p>Genevieve Singleton, Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable co-Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - See presentation file and discussion notes below. 	Information
9a	<p>Guest Presentations RE Forests/Headwaters:</p> <p>Introduction to Managed Forest Council</p>	<p>Tom updated the Board that Timberwest and Island Timberlands have now affiliated into Mosaic Forest Management, which is the major landowner in the valley. While the Board doesn't have a target specific to forestry, the Board has heard consistent concerns about the impact on the water and watersheds from forestry.</p> <p>Tom welcomed Dr. Rod Davis, Chair of Managed Forest Council and thanked him for coming to speak to the Board. See presentation link. Further discussion notes below.</p>	Information
b	Indigenous laws and private land forestry project.	<p>Tom welcomed Murray Ball, UVic PhD student. Murray gave a brief summary of his PhD study on Cowichan watershed and private land forestry in the E&N land grant areas. See Murray's study overview in the agenda package (link) and discussion notes below.</p>	Information
	Other	None	
	Adjourn. Next meeting – Mon. Feb 25	Co-chair adjourned meeting at 12:45	Adjourned

Detailed Discussion Notes:

6. Board input on draft Workplan priorities

Co-chairs had a discussion about this. We are thrilled with makeup of this Board. Looking forward to building on power of persuasion and bringing resources to bear on senior governments to get the weir project underway. Without forgetting the important work we do outside of that issue, both co-chairs the time to pursue the weir is now.

- prioritizing one target (weir) among the four makes sense;
- as long as weir is top priority – I’m happy
- also really the targets; avoid lobby groups and personal issues; focus on the river, not muddying the waters.
- pay attention to where community is; let First Nations know that letters have come to this Watershed Board. Good transparency.
- Like the plan that you have.
- likes the plan going forward, especially including Koksilah. Elders say it was one river at one time.
- there is a target for eating shellfish in 2020 so don’t see a problem with people writing letters about the estuary. It can be hard to hear this input when we sit at other tables but people might write to us here because there are other representatives at this table.
- water quality and quantity have always been the focus of work; more recently org development; habitat and ecosystem impacts. There are lots of issues there – curious why knotweed is prioritized and what’s falling off the table? What is grant money telling us we are required to do? What about public outreach?

Tom replied:

- knotweed is an example of what a working group is working on.
- most grants terminating so we have an opportunity to decide what new grants we are seeking.
- public outreach is part of every piece; underpins everything.
- how could one not look at those 3 ‘bins’? They are interconnected. The question is which of the tasks under those themes (targets) are going to be the best use of our limited skill sets at this time. Otherwise likes the structure.
- can only have so many priorities – agree with that. First priority is the weir, no question. Work towards a decision on senior government funding. We have a unique situation. If we can do something here it may be a model for elsewhere.
- would be nice to have a commitment and timeframe to raise the weir
- targets are a good lens to keep momentum going.

8b) Discussion RE knotweed workshop with Genevieve Singleton

- Workshop was funded by Canadian Heritage Rivers grant; Co-hosted by CT, CSRT and CWB
- invited experts to examine on how we can find a way forward on this aggressive plant. Thanks to Dr. Tim Miller, Dr. David Clements, Dr. Jennifer Grants
- knotweed species here are Giant, Bohemian, Japanese – most of ours are Bohemium
- flowers proceed seeds. Viability of seeds last several days and up to 90km so it’s complicated.
- herbicides are sometimes used but there are other concerns about those.
- “Knock back the Knotweed” committee has been working for several years.
- Tom summarized that the workshop concluded with consensus that:
 - 1) mapping exercise is needed to address knotweed at watershed scale; feasible with drones;
 - 2) an active education campaign is needed;
 - 3) a group is needed to figure out a plan once its mapped. Will need to work with Cowichan Tribes and address the herbicide question.

Q: Have you seen such large seedpods- what time of year?

A: - don't know – look forward to telling you more; males are sterile -not every plant.

Q: CVRD working with invasive species council in Cow Bay – took 3 years – 5 or 6 spots they have been working on. What about herbicide?

A: Herbicide of choice is roundup and it's not allowed in BC. Pulling every 2 weeks during season. Need to hire a large group of people for 5 years if we're not using herbicide. Not noxious to handle; have been bagging it and burning it.

Q: farmers can use roundup, why can't it be used in riparian areas?

Q: has this gone to CT environment committee? Where do we fit in to help out?

A: elders have said they don't want herbicide; Ken Elliot had a team; hot spots crew was funded by BC invasive plant council.

Q: why are we not utilizing the invasive species council – not taking it on but working collaboratively with them?

A: they have capacity problems – we want to be engaging them.

9a) Introduction to Managed Forest Council. Presentation by Dr. Rod Davis

- Role of the Council is to make the regulations ([Private Managed Forest Land Regulation](#)) ; enforce them; assign penalties; stop work orders; inspect and audit; inspect every property once every 5 years min; revoke MFL status in some cases.
- Regulation requires:
 - o protecting soil productivity
 - o rehabilitating (roads?)
 - o protecting human drinking water and fish habitat
 - o allowing province to assess critical wildlife habitat
 - o regenerating timber
- High rate of compliance. Can issue remediation orders where not in compliance. Also have access to courts. Penalty of being removed from MFL Forestry Assessment Tax
- 70% of BC's Managed Forest Land is on VI; 20% Kootenays; 10% other areas.
- Forestry operators range from 2.1 ha to 165,000 ha in size.
- 20% of PMFL owners own 80% of the land
- Significant economic impact - 4.7 million m3 harvest – 7% of provincial harvest; on coast 28% of harvest

Q: What are the major differences between public and private forestry

A: Quite a bit of difference – there are 14 objectives in Forest Land Practices Act and only 5 in Private Managed Forest Land legislation. Where there are common objectives, the provisions are similar. For example there are no objectives around broad biodiversity objectives, public access, viewscapes.

Q: Where there is a determination made, do you have to fund that yourself? Is it like the Riparian Area Regulation where municipal gov't are not able to fund enforcement?

A: We pay 100% of our costs to follow through on investigations via a landowner fee levy. All fines paid go to Min Finance. The landowner gets preferential tax treatment so gov't felt they should pay for the council.

9b) Indigenous laws and private land forestry project, Murray Ball

- role is to offer research time
- working on background piece about how Private Managed Forests fit with watershed governance. So far they are treated separately. How can they be brought together better?
- Will examine what information is out there and what the roles and expectations of each party is.
- Would like to reach out to people at Cowichan Tribes and CVRD throughout.