


<p align="center">Cowichan Watershed Board / Technical Advisory Committee Meeting</p>	<p align="center">DRAFT Minutes Tues. October 20, 2015 9:15 to 11:30 am</p> <p align="center">Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC</p>	
<p>Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board and the Technical Advisory Committee</p> <p>Chair: Chief William C. Seymour</p> <p>Guests: Graham Kissack, Catalyst</p>		
<p>1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks</p>		
<p>2) Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>Approved.</p>	
<p>3) Approval of Minutes of Aug 31, 2015 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes</p>	<p>The minutes were approved as presented.</p>	
<p>4) Review of river flows and fish activity Aug. 31 to Oct.20</p>	<p>Tim Kulchyski reported that the mid-river Didson counter shut down 2-3 weeks ago; new Didson is in the lower river 1 km above N-S split. DFO counting fence removed last Fri. due to high flows. Cowichan funded “dead pitch” crew starts next week, including Koksilah.</p> <p>Tom Rutherford acknowledged cooperation and good work of Tribes, BCCF and funding by Catalyst to provide for this year’s drought monitoring and mitigation program on the river. Also JR Hatchery successfully harvested, and stayed safe, thanks to cooperation of Catalyst who got Province onside to ramp down flow during harvest.</p> <p>Chinook – 2300 adult; 1300 jack; numbers will get higher when DFO does more in-depth analysis. Well short of 6500 target but could have been worse. Tim noted observations of spawned out doe washed up at counting fence, dark phase Chinook out in ocean- possible sign of stress.</p> <p>Coho – starting now. <100 at counting fence so far. Projections good.</p> <p>Chum – sizeable fish observed in estuary, moving through</p> <p>Pink – Cowichan doesn’t have ideal conditions for Pink but traditionally when runs are high elsewhere, we get 100s.</p> <p>Flows – Ross Forrest emphasized that our goal of 7cms min. flow has not been achieved in 2 years, and that 4.5 cms is the new norm. Our priority is increasing storage and getting a license to store more water.</p>	
<p>5) Catalyst initiatives: a. License to pump water b. License to use/feasibility of 'flash boards' over next 24 months</p>	<p>Graham Kissack (Catalyst):</p> <p>a) Rains began 2 days after Catalyst applied for 2015 pump-out license, so amended the application to cover 2016 and 2017 in case it is needed. Public input process begins next week - ads / Open House Nov. 5 6-8pm, Centennial Hall, Lake Cowichan. Public display will focus on pump-out but include climate conditions, and need for more storage overall, and the benefits of 12” flashboards temporarily, raising the weir long term. Tribes and CVRD invited to join. Pump-out decision is expected end of 2015.</p> <p>b) Installing flashboards is considered an ‘alteration to a dam’ and requires structural</p>	

	<p>engineering studies – expected by end of November.</p> <p>Tom R. noted negative storage may impact littoral habitat/coho. Advised early referral to Tribes and DFO to allow time for input. Graham indicated intent to begin next week.</p> <p>David S. inquired RE LIDAR/Betheymetry. Kate Miller indicated CVRD has both but there is a band of unknown area – need funding to cover that gap.</p> <p>Ian M. asked whether CLRSS has position on pump-out. Diana G. indicated it would be on next CLRSS agenda.</p> <p>Tim K. encouraged Catalyst to ensure Tribes are given a meaningful way to participate in the Open House.</p>
<p>6) CVRD initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Grant application for raising weir. b. Establish CVRD function to be able to handle funds and projects 	<p>Brian Carruthers (CVRD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -optimistic RE \$7million gas tax grant in early 2016. Expected total cost of raising weir is \$10 million. - CVRD Board approved an Alternate Approval Process to create a Service Bylaw to enable CVRD to participate in watershed management – financially and otherwise. Will give CVRD ability to requisition up to \$600,000 / year in taxes. AAP will pass unless 10% of residents in service area (29,992 people) vote against it. - Discussion Re timing of grants/license application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brian C. - CVRD can't expend weir funds until they have a license. Weir grant likely to expire by 2018. Therefore need to apply for long term license ASAP. - Graham K - Application needs to stand up to potential EAB scrutiny. Must clearly establish the need and how much water needs to be stored. - Agreement by Brian that temporary measures should buy us 2 years. -Graham – timeline is pump-out 2016-17; flashboards 2016-17; new weir expected 2019 at earliest after engineering, appeal, construction. David Anderson – suggest we look at Federal infrastructure funding. The weir lines up well with new gov't objectives.
<p>7) Legal review of who could/should apply for a Water License to store water behind a raised weir</p>	<p>Chief Seymour indicated that Catalyst has sent its template for Terms of Reference to Cowichan Tribes. Tribes has some concerns they need to discuss but looking forward to this joint agreement.</p>
<p>8) Summary of summer conservation activities/ visible effects - observation wells</p>	<p>David Slade presented a brief slideshow outlining the conservation and community engagement work this summer, and showing how some local observation wells are responding. http://www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca/sites/default/files/Oct2015-Water-Conservation-summary_fnl.pdf</p> <p>Kate Miller shared weekly water use charts showing results of water restrictions staging. – see http://cvrldnewnormalcowichan.ca/total-water-withdrawal/</p> <p>Ian Morrison- undergoing petition process to establish a new well. A common question is whether CVRD can guarantee they will never have stage 3 restrictions again. Jon L. indicated that using surface (lake) water instead of well would likely cost 2-3x more.</p>
<p>9) Other Issues</p>	<p>Tom R. – indicated that Gerry Kelly will attend CWB for DFO (Andy Thompson) if desired. Co-Chair Seymour expressed that we are glad to hear that and we will send an email inviting him to join.</p> <p>Kate M. – Heather Mtn snow pillow is being repaired. Precipitation monitoring equipment will be added to help us predict water levels.</p> <p>David A.– recommends inviting political candidates, and elected Gov. Ministers and Critics of Natural Resources, Fisheries, Environment, and Indian Affairs. Work to get them all onside.</p>
<p>10) Next meetings (dates, times).</p>	<p>Monday November 30th @ 9:15-11:30am (last Monday of every month)</p>