


<p style="text-align: center;">Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DRAFT Minutes Mon. Jan. 25, 2016 / 9:15-11:30 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC</p>	
<p>Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board members and guests Co-Chair: Chief William Seymour Minutes: Jill Thompson</p>		
<p>1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks.</p>	<p>Welcome Gerry Kelly in attendance today for DFO</p>	
<p>2) Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>Approved</p>	
<p>3) Approval of Minutes of Nov. 30, 2015.</p> <p>Business Arising from Minutes</p>	<p>Minutes Correction – spelling of Kulchyski. Approved</p> <p><u>Dinsdale Farm</u> – David Anderson pursued answers to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How much longer does the Dinsdale Farm lease run? 2. Why is the lease not directly between the Nature Trust and Ducks Unlimited as owners and the farmer? 3. Are there any environmental requirements or restrictions on the leaseholder? 4. Did the donor of the land, or the donors of the money to buy the land, receive any assurances as to what use the land would be put or how the land would be farmed? <p>Main response received is that as long as the property is being run as a farm, that is the accepted use.</p> <p>Letter of appreciation to dairy farmer delayed – will do in conjunction with REFBC water quality project with farmers.</p>	
<p>4) Correspondence *</p>	<p>C. Ayers requested use of CWB logo on Chinook Salmon workshop invitation. Moved by I. Morrison. 2nd Co-Chair Lefebure. No opposition. Approved.</p>	
<p>5) Resourcing CWB for Success</p>	<p>D. Slade - Current funding strategy for core operations is joint contribution from Cowichan Tribes and CVRD totalling \$70,000. Based on the operations work undertaken to date as well as the need to provide sufficient compensation to successfully recruit a new coordinator, there is a need to fund the operating budget more vigorously. An additional \$30,000 per year is projected to be required. We are not currently funded for long-term success.</p> <p>Roundtable Discussion –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • not a surprise that operations have been underfunded. • work is underway at the CVRD to explore options for providing sustainable funding for Cowichan water management issues. • other areas learning and benefitting from leadership work in Cowichan watershed. Important to recognize the broader value of this initiative. • The province benefits from CWB and the pilot governance 	

	proposal is also an opportunity to explore the issue of adequate sustainable funding with them.
6) Updates on weir, water license (legal opinions), pump-out, and flashboard initiatives.	<p>B. Carruthers – The CVRD is considering how to move forward with a water management initiative for the Cowichan. Regarding raising the weir, Catalyst is working on alternative short term storage solution using flashboards.</p> <p>G. Kissack – Flashboards can't be ready in time for this year therefore the last resort option in the fall of 2016, if there is extreme drought, is to pump water into the river from the lake. Engineering for flashboards will inform permanent weir upgrade requirements. Engineer's report is expected end of March then there will be an opportunity for public input.</p> <p>Chief Seymour – CT has requested meeting with Minister TooToo RE low flows.</p> <p>I. Morrison – Catalyst made a presentation to Lake Cowichan District Chamber of Commerce on the mill and weir which was well received.</p>
7) Water Conservation proposal for 2016	<p>D. Slade reviewed Water Conservation activities to date.</p> <p>J. Thompson reviewed plans for 2016. In addition to the water purveyor's conservation challenge, two initiatives are planned dependent on fundraising: 1) Partner with water suppliers to employ a VIU Horticulture summer student for 8 weeks to offer workshops on water wise gardening and adjusting irrigation systems for best water use (we pay, partners support and supervise). 2) Small budget for super-hero appearances throughout summer.</p> <p>Moved by D.Slade to approve plan if funding permits. 2nd by Co-Chair Lefebure. No opposition. Approved.</p> <p>I. Morrison suggests CVRD Directors can use grant in aid funds for specific super-hero appearances in their regions.</p>
8) TAC update. Business arising from Jan. 18th TAC meeting	See 9.
9) Update on Watershed Governance Pilot Proposal. Presentation by Rodger Hunter.	<p>R. Hunter: Provided a summary of the pilot governance proposal under development and the comments provided to date by the Technical Advisory Committee. Draft proposal will be available for review shortly. Advised that useful background reading regarding governance issues can be found in Awash with Opportunity report.</p> <p>Points made RE proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - important distinction between water and watersheds. Water Act and Water Sustainability Act focus on water as economic resource. CWB will seek authority to develop a Water Sustainability Plan (WSP), that would reflect our 'whole of watershed' thinking. If approved, the WSP would become law under S.126 - prior to that, seeking funding for a State of the Watershed report as a benchmark and to track progress. - critical flows are usually handled via a drought plan rather than a Water Mgmt Plan – propose to incorporate drought/critical flows into our Water Mgmt Plan to be proactive. - FITFIR – Cowichan Tribes is obviously FIT, but what about rights? Plan provides opportunity to address this locally. - Licensing – CWB members wanted to take over licensing. Rodger recommends veto power instead. Less resources. Water Sustainability Plan could include a moratorium on future water licenses if needed. - Water Quality – similarly recommend veto power to protect water

	<p>quality, as per prescriptions in WSP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat – CWB role would be to include targets in the plan and provide education. Recommends formal input from Board with mandatory consideration and response from province. Cost prohibitive for us to do compliance and enforcement (e.g. court costs). – will need to be consistent with CVRD and Cowichan Tribes initiatives - Rights and Title - terms and conditions will specify ‘without prejudice’ – Rodger is to work with Cowichan Tribes staff on this issue -Habitat crosses all boundaries so we need to work together to ensure whole watershed integrity regardless of jurisdiction. Anticipate protocols would be developed to clarify working relationships and accountability. - Plan to include Koksilah in the pilot - First Nations access “integrity” of the watershed in different ways including culturally and spiritually e.g., traditional medicines. - any obligations or burdens we should be aware of with S126? Are there issues with not taking on enforcement? – WSA regulations aren’t set yet which could either make it harder or easier to assume local authority. A pilot agreement would specify which powers we are drawing down.
10) Recruitment of new CWB Coordinator	<p>Chief Seymour introduced resignation letter from CWB Coordinator R. Hunter.</p> <p>Decision that D. Slade will lead committee of all Society members to recruit, screen and shortlist (with admin assistance).</p> <p>I. Morrison moved that the Society proceed with process of recruiting and hiring a Coordinator/ E.D. 2nd D. Slade.</p> <p>Approved.</p>
11) Other	<p>T. Kulchyski - Please read 11 recommendations in the Low Flow report – page 30.</p> <p>Snow Pillow on heather Mountain is experiencing technical issues. Keith Lawrence, CVRD is working with Ministry of Environment to resolve.</p>
12) Next meeting	Mon. Feb 29 (Leap meeting!) 9:15-11:30am
Adjourn	Meeting Adjourned at 11:25

***Correspondence**

- letter RE Rodger Hunter’s Proposed Role with the Cowichan Watershed Board and Society
- Cowichan River Low Flow Mitigation Strategy, Catalyst
- Chinook workshop