

Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

July 27, 2015
9:15 am to 12:00 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom,
2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC



Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board and the Technical Advisory Committee

Chair: Jon Lefebure

Guests: Craig Sutherland KWL Engineering and Brian Houle Catalyst,

1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks	The Co-Chair led a round of introductions and acknowledged our good fortune to live within Cowichan Tribes traditional territory. Debra Toporowski and Andy Thomson sent their regrets.
2) Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
3) Approval of Minutes of June 29, 2015 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	The minutes were approved with the provision that it be noted that Brian Houle was unable to attend the first part of the June 29 meeting.
4) Target Updates and Related Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flows Modelling Update • Flows Update • Conservation/Communication • Riparian Update – Youbou Shaw Creek Open House	<p>Craig Sutherland summarized the modeling that KWL had completed regarding the ability of specific weir heights to support specific seasonal flows for fish populations. Craig’s presentation is at [LINK] and the 2011 paper that it is based on is at [LINK].</p> <p>Brian Houle provided an update on flows [LINK] noting that the lake level is now 65 cm below the top of the weir and that if 5.5 cms flow in the river is continued then that flow can be maintained until Sept. 16 and would fall to 4.5 cms on Sept. 22. Based on current modeling reducing the flow to 4.5 cms on July 31 could possibly extend the flow at 4.5 cms until Oct. 3d. Brian also discussed significant efforts that Catalyst has undertaken to conserve water and will be taking to respond to concerns raised by DFO regarding the effects of low flows on salmon.</p> <p>Rodger Hunter summarized efforts that the Cowichan Watershed Society has been pursuing and intends to pursue in support of water conservation. [LINK]</p> <p>Klaus Kuhn noted that the owners of properties located at and adjacent to the mouth of Shaw Creek had put on an information session at the Community Hall in Youbou on July 25.</p>

5) Water Quality/Estuarine Health	<p>Tom Rutherford summarized activities regarding Water/Quality and Estuarine Health targets that are anticipated to continue to be pursued and/or initiated. Those include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuing to monitor water quality in areas where water quality issues have been detected (largely the lower Koksilah watershed, tributaries to Cowichan Bay and the Bay itself;• Re-engaging with farmers to encourage better manure management practices;• Supporting relocation of the JUB sewage discharge and supporting other activities to reduce human introduced pollutants into Cowichan Bay; and• Initiating a clam garden in a selected area of the Bay.
6) Other Issues –Project Update, Next meetings –dates, times etc.	<p>The next Watershed Board meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2015.</p>