

<b>Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting</b>	<b>DRAFT Minutes</b> Mon. June 27 , 2016 / 9:15am  Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC	 Cowichan Watershed Board
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**Participants:** Cowichan Watershed Board members, TAC, and guests  
**Board Members Present:** Chief Seymour, Mayor Lefebure, Ian Morrison, Lori Iannidardo, Deborah Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, David Slade, David Froese, Ross Forrest, Laura Brown  
**Absent:** David Anderson, Klaus Kuhn  
**Co-Chair :** Chief William Seymour  
**Minutes:** Jill Thompson

		Decision / Action
1) Welcome; Introductions, opening remarks.		
2) Approval of Agenda	J. Lefebure moved. R. Forrest 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Approved
3) Approval of Minutes of April 25. Business arising from Minutes.	D. Froese moved. D. Slade 2 <sup>nd</sup> .	Approved.
4) Correspondence and announcements.	New POLIS report on governance Watersheds 2016 conference announcement	
5) Watershed Governance Pilot Proposal – discussion	<p>Chief Seymour introduced 9 issues for discussion indicated in Rodger’s presentation.</p> <p>Presentation [link] by Rodger Hunter of draft proposed pilot model for local watershed governance, as requested and funded by the Province.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b>            Agreement that First Nations maintaining all powers of rights and title should be recognized in the document. CWB discussions and/or decisions are not a substitute for legal requirement for consultation. The Board recognizes that while we operate on consensus, significant issues would go back to Cowichan Tribes for agreement.</p> <p>Concerns expressed over potential for increased taxation. Others commented that we need to invest in solutions locally before we can expect support from other levels of gov’t, and that all residents feel impacts and benefits of a healthy watershed. Also noted that funding issues will be addressed later – first step is to tell BC Gov’t what we propose would work better for everyone. Details about how and whether to fund it will come later if the</p>	<p>Motion by D. Slade; 2<sup>nd</sup> Ross Forrest.            That Cowichan Watershed Board endorse the pilot proposal and encourage Rodger to move forward subject to supporting resolutions by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD.</p> <p>Approved by consensus.</p> <p>Individuals were named to meet with Rodger to complete the editing of the proposal in advance of the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting and to form a Negotiating Team</p>

	<p>province agrees with the direction. Agreement that consultation with the public will be critical.</p> <p>Clarity sought around administration of tax dollars raised if a CVRD function was established. CVRD would raise funds from property owners within the watershed boundary and also control those funds.</p> <p>Interest expressed in expanding the types of issues that come to CWB, such as estuary foreshore applications.</p> <p>Supportive comments made about the advantages of working together as CWB to improve attention to cumulative impacts of development.</p> <p>Clarity sought on operating details of how governance would work. Response was that much will be related to details of Water Sustainability Act, and other details will need to be worked out later through an iterative process with the province and other agencies if Province accepts the basic concept of the pilot.</p> <p>First step is clear endorsement of the core elements by Cowichan Tribes, CVRD and CWB.</p> <p>Recommendation that a negotiating team be named to finalize the proposal and bring it forward to the province as our “ambition”. Open discussion with the province to follow RE the opportunity to pilot this aspect of the legislation together.</p> <p>Concerns expressed that the work and expense to gain local control of the watershed will detract from the critical need and priority of increasing water storage to ensure the health of the Cowichan River. Should focus on the weir as the priority. Others felt that the weir issue and local governance are inter-related, and experience has shown are both needed to achieve full goals of CWB, and we should take advantage of the opportunity being offered to become a pilot of increased local control. The weir is important but won’t solve all issues, and we don’t have the power to raise the weir ourselves – we are doing all we can for that.</p> <p>Motion proposed by D.Slade (see right). R. Forrest 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p>	<p>from amongst them that will approach the province in early Fall.</p>
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	<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ongoing concerns about funding but need to move forward in sincere discussion.</li> <li>- concerns remain about whether it might slow progress on the weir but supports the group.</li> <li>- Concerns about whether this is going to make things any different. Will this make the Fed and Prov gov'ts listen to us more?</li> <li>- Support expressed that if we don't take this opportunity, we will never know, and status quo isn't good enough.</li> </ul> <p>None opposed – motion carries.</p> <p>Recommendation that a negotiating team be named to finalize the proposal and bring it forward to the province as our “ambition”. Open discussion with the province to follow RE the opportunity to pilot this complex piece of legislation together.</p> <p>Members suggested by R. Hunter were: Eamon Gaunt, Ross Forrest, David Slade, David Anderson, Tom Rutherford and Deborah Toporowski. Ian Morrison and Lori Iannidinado offered to serve as local gov't representatives as well. Decision for these people to meet with Rodger over editing the document and bring it to July Board meeting to confirm the negotiating team and the final document.</p>	
<p>6) Fish/Flows WG – Optimal Flows process update</p>	<p>Cheri Ayers presented Principles and Vision statement regarding the Fish and Flows working group's Optimal (Needed) Flows process. Link D.Froese moved that Board endorse principles and vision statement as outlined by the Fish and Flows Working Group. L. Brown 2<sup>nd</sup>. Carried.</p>	
<p>7) Weir/Water Storage update</p>	<p>Jon Lefebure reported that Graham Kissack (Catalyst), Chief Seymour and himself were invited to meet with FLNRO Deputy Minister Tim Sheldon, ADM Craig Sutherland, and Glen Davidson, Comptroller of Water Rights for BC last week (Chief didn't make it due to traffic jam).</p> <p>Graham presented the slides here. [link].</p> <p>They discussed a joint ownership structure for weir. Requested up to \$2mil for engineering</p>	

	<p>work that will be required to determine the final weir height. Next step is to develop an action plan and then meet with the Minister. Emphasized the project must be a) shovel ready and b) shovel worthy so we need to answer key questions to get shovel ready.</p> <p>Advice was provided on 'who' should apply for the license – Catalyst could but they have enough license already, CVRD can, or potentially Cowichan Tribes – Prov is working on making it a possibility for First Nations to hold the license.</p> <p>Discussion  – local govt shouldn't have to work so hard for this – infrastructure is provincial responsibility  - question from audience RE whether a law suit has ever been contemplated: Board members replied that would probably be counter-productive and slower than working together with the province.</p>	
8) Weir – Federal funding campaign	<p>Rosalie Sawrie presented on behalf of One Cowichan to brief the Board on their Federal petition campaign to build public awareness and a contact list in support of raising the weir. Asked Board to define a process to answer the question of who will take out the license so that the funding can be received.</p> <p>Discussion  -- I. Morrison very supportive to see One Cowichan doing public outreach at the Lake – very needed.  - Mayor Lefebure offered to help any way he can.</p>	
9) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) update RE role and membership	<p>Tom Rutherford updated the Board on work being undertaken to clarify the role of the TAC. Will present results at next meeting.</p>	
LUNCH SERVED		
10) Presentation - Tree-Rings and Climate	<p>Bethany Coulthard presented her research showing that drought records evidenced in tree rings indicate droughts here will likely be more frequent and worse than projected, but that Cowichan is relatively very well positioned to prepare for that. Offered to do a study focusing on the Cowichan if requested by CWB. All reports on her website are available for public use.  <a href="http://bethanycoulthard.strikingly.com/">http://bethanycoulthard.strikingly.com/</a></p>	
11) Other		
12) Next meeting – Mon. July 25th 9:15-11:30am		
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned 1pm.	