


<p align="center"><b>Cowichan Watershed Board / Technical Advisory Committee Meeting</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>DRAFT Minutes</b> Mon. Nov. 30, 2015 9:15 to 12:30 pm</p> <p align="center">Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC</p>	
<p><b>Participants:</b> Cowichan Watershed Board and Technical Advisory Committee  <b>Co-Chair:</b> Mayor Jon Lefebure, Chair of CVRD  <b>Minutes:</b> Jill Thompson</p>		
<p>1) Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks.</p>	<p>Gerry Kelly has accepted appointment to Board on behalf of DFO.</p>	
<p>2) Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>Move #9 before #5</p>	
<p>3) Approval of Minutes of Oct. 20, 2015 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes</p>	<p>Approved</p>	
<p>4) Correspondence</p>	<p>David Slade addressed REFBC communications indicating that we (CWS) has been given permission to re-allocate their grant funds to other priorities as requested.</p>	
<p>9) Updates - CVRD service establishment bylaw, weir, license, pump-out</p>	<p>B. Carruthers – CVRD’s AAP withdrawn due to issue with Catalyst being located outside the boundaries of the AAP area. Retry in Jan.; Gas Tax decision expected in Jan.; working with Cowichan Tribes, Catalyst on license options for weir upgrades.  G. Kissack –public comment RE pumping application now closed; engineering process underway to confirm structural viability (seismic, flood conditions) of 12” temporary flashboards for short-term emergency water supply. Results expected Jan/Feb. Can’t rush it. No guarantee it will be ready for 2016.  D. Froese – will original weir meet current seismic standards?  Kissack – Science will tell us.</p>	
<p>5) Presentation – CWB’s proposal to the Province to become a watershed governance pilot under the new Water Sustainability Act</p>	<p>R. Hunter presenting – See <a href="#">LINK</a>  <u>Discussion</u> -- costs for taxpayers; local vs provincial funding; importance of getting residents onside more; reasonability of timeline; importance of engaging BC gov’t staff early, cultural and ecological costs of doing nothing; obligation as leaders to do everything we can to add value to our watershed. It was clarified that the funding to complete the work to prepare the pilot proposal is already in place.  <u>Decision</u> – unanimous support of conceptual approach presented, and approval to prepare Governance Pilot Proposal (See Slide 18 for detail)</p>	
<p>6) Presentation - Management of Nature Trust of BC’s Dinsdale Farm</p>	<p>Presentation by P. Rickard, assisted by R. Demarchi, C. Hartwig. See <a href="#">LINK</a>. Proposal to strike Restoration Steering Committee to restore some ecological attributes over time – not proposing to remove farm.  <u>Discussion</u>—issue relates to CWB mandate and targets – riparian habitat, water quality, estuary; review of other agencies approached and their response/ position (FLNRO, DU, TNC, CSRT, Estuary Mgmt Cttee). Chief Seymour expressed</p>	

	<p>importance of every little creek for Cowichan Tribes, and re-open dykes. Would like to see Nature Trust step up. BCCF (J. Craig) also supports.</p> <p><u>Decision</u>—TAC Estuarine Health Committee to consider and advise CWB on next steps.</p>
7) TAC sub-committees – Check-in/ updating work plans. Set TAC meeting date.	<p>H. Reid, TAC Co-Chair, proposed reconvening TAC as separate meeting every 2 mo.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u>: Stand-alone meetings valuable – more technical/detailed. Time demand is worth it.</p> <p><u>Decision</u>: Agreed. Helen will set meeting time via Doodle Poll.</p>
8) Fish and Flows – updates Oct.21-Nov. 30	<p>T. Kulchesky and T. Rutherford reporting:</p> <p><b>Chinook</b> – no dramatic decline. Summer run Chinook most significant. Thanks to leadership of Cowichan Tribes in improving understanding of this.</p> <p><b>Coho</b> - poor returns – some hope they may be late. Dismal returns all along Coast (10% of expected) with exception in Shawnigan Creek which is high (most “man-touched” system Tom has seen)</p> <p><b>Chum</b>-not meeting escapement numbers. Commercial catch in Bay was better than return – Cowichan Tribes needs to discuss this with DFO. Hopeful for better communication under new Fisheries regime.</p> <p><b>Other</b> – cutting edge new DNA program to ID parents of any fish. T. Rutherford Could invite a speaker to talk about this at future meeting.</p>
10) Presentation – Report on the Cowichan Watershed Gas Tax program	<p>K. Miller presenting. See <a href="#">[LINK]</a> &amp; <a href="#">[LINK]</a>. No discussion.</p>
11) Other	<p>Question from floor RE whether spring flows need to be as high as they are. T.Rutherford replied RE stages of water needs for various species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 cms – Steelhead spawn; Chinook need wetted edge habitat March to May</li> <li>• 15cms – connectivity with side channels for Coho juveniles;</li> <li>• 7cms – many other fish needs</li> </ul> <p>R. Hunter – Dairy farmer Fred Wickerink has purchased a manure processor and covered his manure pit as part of Environmental Farm Management Plan work.</p> <p><u>Decision</u> – send letter to acknowledge with certificate, (+ David’s CWB toque!)</p> <p>C.Ayers – request from watershed governance researcher to speak with interested parties. See attached. <a href="#">[LINK]</a></p>
12) Next meeting	<p>January 25, 2016 - 9:15-11:30 am</p>
13) Adjourn	<p>12:30 pm</p>