

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Mon. July 31 2017

9:15-11:30 am

Location: CVRD Board Room



Co-Chair: Chief Seymour

Participants: Co-Chair Jon Lefebure, Ian Morrison, David Anderson, Laura Brown, Ross Forrest, Tim Kulchyski, Klaus Kuhn, Darin George, David Froese, David Slade, Tom Rutherford

Regrets: Debra Toporowski, Lori Iannidardo

Minutes: Jill Thompson

1.	Welcome		
2.	Approval of Agenda	Add item – update on SDM from Tom.	Approved
3.	Approval of Minutes of June 26, 2017. Business arising from Minutes.	No business arising from minutes.	Approved
4.	Correspondence and announcements	2 River Clean-ups coming – see poster. Letter sent to DFO to thank for refinancing.	
5.	Outreach and Events updates a) River Clean-up Plans b) Low Flow irrigation workshops c) Watershed Ed outreach team d) EcoAction plans	J. Thompson provided summary – face to face outreach RE “Know your Flow, Slow your Flow, Grow your Flow” topics. Workshops, videos, songs, etc. Discussion: - are there are any municipal rebates currently for irrigation or storage. None municipally yet – but will discuss. RDN does.	Check our Facebook pages for images. CowichanWatershedBoard CowichanWaterChallenge
6.	Water Storage updates a) current lake levels/flows b) lake storage process update – CVRD Structured Decision Making (SDM) process RE determining how much water we really need.	a) T. Rutherford gave presentation. (LINK) T. Kulchyski pointed out that the graphs show that this year is like the old normal year. A new weir will serve more than Catalyst – it can restore the kind of summers we used to have routinely where there is enough water for ecosystems and fish. Kudos to Tim and Margaret for catching an issue with flow calibration affecting the North Arm. DFO equipment and data were able to confirm and Catalyst fixed the issue. I.Morrison reported that groundwater well in Honeymoon Bay hasn’t hit the “kick-down” yet – aquifer good shape.	Information
		b) SDM committee (including CVRD, Catalyst, Cowichan Tribes and CWB) is choosing consulting firm to lead the process. Work will begin in August. Will look at	

		<p>environmental, industrial, agricultural, cultural, and recreational needs to determine the lake level needed. Might take close to a year. Needed to bring everyone on the same page with a common, scientifically-sound understanding of the levels of water needed at what times of year and why.</p> <p>Next step will be determining a license holder. (Options: Feds, Prov, CVRD, CT, Catalyst).</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - questions RE whether we can work on licensing concurrently with the science. - CVRD can't engage until/unless a function is created. CVRD Board has decided that any big question like that needs a strong public dialogue, and a referendum, which Board has indicated will happen in Fall 2018. - acknowledgement of MP Alistair MacGregor present, and doing his best to secure funding from Fed gov't. - clarification that the referendum is about CVRD mandate to work on watersheds in general, including to support CWB, not a referendum about the weir. - clarification that option to hold a referendum has not been finalized yet. - encouragement to advance the licensing question more quickly if possible. Attractive opportunities coming for funding from province and we should get in the cue. If we delay more than a year, we could miss the window. - CWB is working on setting up a meeting between the MoE and FLNRO Ministers and Co-Chairs in Sept. Will give a strong statement then about the necessity of the weir. - frustration expressed at why CVRD didn't organize this sooner. 	
		<p>Chief – Cowichan Tribes is removing 16,000-18,000 tonnes gravel at CR1. Huge volumes of gravel every winter. Part of flood mgmt to remove it. CVRD unable to do that maintenance this year. CT has funds to fill the gap but it's tough.</p> <p>Fines from Stoltz have already been observed in the lower end – lighter than gravel. Moving more quickly.</p>	
7.	<p>Watershed co-governance progress. Set tentative dates for two ½-day workshops this fall.</p>	<p>Tom gave update (LINK). Grant funds supported Cowichan Tribes to contract former Chief and founding CWB co-Chair Lydia Hwitsum to lead its Watershed co-Governance work.</p> <p>Funds also fully support Tom/Jill time to work on this so it doesn't take from core priorities.</p> <p>Tentative dates: heads up thinking of tacking them on to</p>	Information

		Sept and Oct board meetings.	
8.	Coastal Restoration Fund update - grant submitted for technical work on watershed restoration with Chinook lens.	<p>Tim Kulchyski, Cowichan Tribes presented the proposal See presentation [LINK]</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DFO received 83 proposals in Pacific Region. Total ask was 3-4x the full National budget. Priority listing has gone to national committee. Hope to have decisions end of August. - question RE whether publicity would help support the proposal. - acknowledgement of Tim, Cheri, Craig Whiteman's hard work. - unique broad partnership lead by First Nation with a "whole of watershed" approach. i.e. What happens in upper watershed affects the orcas. Estuarine, riparian, water quality elements with working groups to support each of those aspects. If successful it will provide a lot of good work and training opportunities for those in the valley, particularly First Nations. Successful or not, should be really proud of the proposal - suggestion that we write a news release echoing positive comments above. - clarity sought RE why weir wasn't included in proposal. It didn't fit parameters of the proposal process. 	Information
9.	Building Knowledge – introduction to paddling recreation values on the Cowichan River	<p>Presentation by Edmond Duggan (LINKS: HI-RES, LO-RES), member of the Cowichan/Koksilah recreational paddling community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30-60cms is the most fun but we can do any flow. <p>Regulating flow not a priority.</p> <p>- Events / activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Running of the Cow – 16 yrs. Top to bottom in 1-2 days. ● Cowichan Youth Kayak Festival – 6 yrs. Largest youth kayak festival in NA – 60 students. Volunteer supporters. ● CowFest – Uvic – end of season. ● BC Summer games – hosting 2 Olympic events. July 22. ● Connect youth to river. ● Monitoring – on the river 20-30 times /year. ● Stewardship – clean-up often ● Safety and training. <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -value of education and getting people on the water. <p>Encouragement to work together to promote the</p>	Information

		<p>education/events more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - group is able to do workshops with kids on tubing safety if someone organizes it. Ready to involve people. - respect of private landowners along the river is a consideration, and whether more river traffic is always welcome. - system to detect and address hazards/sweeper logs - group alerts their own community about hazards and does its best to work with BC Parks and Search and Rescue to remove them. 	
10.	Other	<p>Comments from Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable - Sept 30th will be Quw'utsun-Cowichan Heritage River Celebration Day. Co-hosting with Cowichan Tribes, 10-3 on river. Parking at old VIU on Cowichan Way. Christina Tinoca organizing cultural events and games; elder story telling; traditional fishing methods; free lunch. Volunteers needed. Acknowledgement to David Anderson for designating the Heritage River in 2004.</p> <p>D. Froese reported that despite the good flow this summer, the temperature in the upper river is 23.1, and lower is 24.3 degrees. Indication that higher temperatures aren't necessarily tied to low flows. Agreement by T. Kulchyski - Chinook are in the river and it's an issue.</p>	Come/volunteer on Sept 30 th if possible.
	Next meeting – August 28 th CVRD Boardroom	Many people will be absent for this meeting. Consider cancelling. September meeting also has a conflict for CVRD (UBCM)	Co-chairs to consider cancelling Aug meeting.
	Adjourn		