

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes

Mon. Oct 31, 2016 / 9:15-11:30 am
 Location: CVRD Boardroom,
 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC



Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board members, Technical Advisory Committee, and guests
Co-Chair: Mayor Jon Lefebure

1) Welcome; Introductions, opening remarks.	Genevieve Singleton - shared her experience accepting a paddle in honour of Gerald Thom National River Conservation Award of Merit at the recent Canadian River Heritage Conference in honour of the late Gerald Thom	
2) Approval of Agenda		Approved
3) Approval of Minutes of Sept 12 2016 Business arising from Minutes.	No changes.	Approved
4) Correspondence and announcements*	Tom Rutherford - reflected on highlights from the recent Watersheds 2016 Conference which 4 CWB representatives attended. CWB is known and admired across BC.	Decision – invite Val Napoleon to speak about the UVic Indigenous Water Laws project.
5) CWB Governance Manual changes	Confirmation received from both Cowichan Tribes council and CVRD Council RE Sept 12 motion: <i>that CWB membership be extended to “up to 14” members to allow for the appointment of “up to 3” Cowichan Tribes members to equal CVRD representation</i> Changes to Governance Manual (Sections 3.1.1 and 3.3.1) accepted as presented except to remove the words “up to” in the number of Cowichan Tribes appointees so that the wording is the same for CVRD and Cowichan Tribes.	Remove the words “up to” in the proposed change. Changes to Governance Manual approved as attached. [LINK]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Cowichan Tribes appointment 	Chief Seymour appoints Darin George as new Board member.	Darin George is new Board member.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarifying Decision-Making Process 	Tom Rutherford - reviewed the section of the Manual on decision making to clarify our process. Encourages being candid and open and free to disagree during discussion.	Information
6) Weir/Water Storage update	Brian Carruthers – CVRD Board has approved \$20k for expenditures for establishment of new water management bylaw. Communications work to engage communities this fall to learn what they want. - pursuing funding from BC Clean Water and Wastewater Fund – good fit. - FLNRO meeting Nov 23 RE weir/flows - resuming legal work on joint arrangement models for ownership and operation of weir. - all contingent on CVRD establishing bylaw.	Information
7) Fish/Flows WG – Fish update; Optimal Flows process update	Tim Kulchyski –counting fence destroyed by high water. 9200 Chinook est, (adult + jack) – best return in 16 years. Giving thanks. Chum 93,000 est – quite good. Coho - > 5000 before	Information

	<p>fence lost – reasonable return. BCCF is using pit tags to detect outmigration, predation.</p> <p>Laura Brown- DFO plans to recover fence. Cautiously optimistic – one good year does not mean success.</p> <p>Hatchery got their quota.</p> <p>Tom – Chinook forecast hadn't been good this year.</p> <p>Cheri Ayers- Cowichan Tribes Chinook goal is 12,000-15,000</p> <p>- Optimal Flows methodology – small group of experts coming together on various sets of flows – target, minimum, drought.</p> <p>Should talk about Critical Env Flows because default for Cowichan is about 2.6 cms. Hope to be done spring 2017 with info to feed into larger decision making process with broader interests (lead by CVRD).</p> <p>- Laura – commended Cheri's work. Objective-based decision making tools. Best management practice for managing fisheries- well done.</p> <p>- Brian – CVRD applying for funding (\$30k) for consultant to undertake broader structured decision making process to ensure decision is defensible.</p> <p>- Tim – acknowledge much is unknown. Data is 30 yrs old. Consecutive droughts are new.</p>	
8) Watershed Governance Pilot Proposal update	<p>Tom reviewed process to date. \$15,000 grant awarded in 2014 to prepare proposal for province. Meeting Nov 8 to present that proposal to MoE, MFLNRO senior staff. Pursue meeting between Co-Chairs and Ministers to follow. Focus on partnership with province. Province is only planning to support one pilot project of several proposed.</p>	Information
9) Sustainable Funding for Watershed Governance Initiative	<p>David Slade – our LOI was accepted and they decided to accept us based on that. MOU is forthcoming with details of the pilot.</p> <p>-Society is getting legal advice about whether we can gain charitable status.</p>	Information.
10) Communications	<p>Jill Thompson – new targets brochure available.</p> <p>Confirming Comms Team members - Lori, David S.</p>	Information
11) Other	<p>Lori Iannidardo – Water Quality target update – passed Marine Zoning bylaw. Working on prioritizing sewer hookups for marine outlets not yet on sewer. 2 marinas are not hooked up. Derelict vessels remain an issue (SSBeaver 130' down). Fundraising for lighted navigation buoys to mark the protected channel and the eelgrass. 20 buoys needed - \$3k lit, \$2.5k unlit.</p> <p>Co-Chairs - Presentation of Cowichan Tribes print to Rodger Hunter in thanks for his leadership.</p> <p>Tom - Acknowledgement of Cowichan Tribes for leadership in pulling agencies together for habitat restoration this fall.</p> <p>- Acknowledgement of Deb Epps, MoE, for building on CWB water quality work to advise Squamish group.</p> <p>Ian- Acknowledgement of Honeymoon Bay aggregate removal project in Sutton Creek for migrating salmon. Thanking TimberWest for funds to remove log jam.</p>	Information
Next meeting	Different date needed – Nov 28 is CVRD budget sessions.	Jill to set new date.
Adjourn	10:50	