

**Cowichan Watershed  
Board Technical  
Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

**DRAFT Minutes**



January 30, 2015  
10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Location: Education Board Room,  
Cowichan Tribes  
5760 Allenby Road, Duncan, BC

**Participants:** Cowichan Watershed Board Technical Advisory Committee Members

**Co-chairs:** Rodger Hunter/Helen Reid

1. Welcome; Introductions; Opening Remarks	Rodger Hunter welcomed members.
2. Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
3. Approval of Minutes of November 28, 2014 meeting and Business arising from the minutes	The minutes were approved as presented.
4. Cowichan Tribes Update	Helen Reid gave an update on the First Nations Fisheries Council Forum on Water Governance which was a very informative meeting with lots of interest in the Cowichan Watershed Board.
5. CWB Water Conservation/Communications Update	Jill Thomson reported on the communications meeting. March 22 is Water Week and drinking water week is in May. A thank you event is being considered for participating water purveyors at the beginning of Water Week. The intent is to establish 7 super heroes for the summer one for each targets and use them strategically. This would be achieved through hiring 8 summer students –(If we are successful in accessing Canada Student program funding). Speaker Series: Robyn Brown, director of the Institute of Ocean Sciences is expected to be the March speaker.

<p>6. Flows and Fish Related Updates</p>	<p>Rodger Hunter updated that the snow pack is at zero and worrying given the forecast.</p> <p>Brian Houle updated that FLNRO requested a meeting with Catalyst for January 21<sup>st</sup>. FLNRO and DFO have looked back at 1998, looking at flows for that year. Steve Baillie and Mike McCullough have put thoughts down on paper to begin a process. Brian is working with Kerr Wood Leidel (KWL) re: exploring an option to drop flows below the spring protocol if lower flows are determined to be appropriate. He noted opportunities for better utilizing Canada Water Survey data.</p> <p>Kate Miller provided a snow pillow update noting that FLNRO's \$40,000 contribution resulting from the Minister's watershed tour is being used to help establish a Heather Mtn. snow pillow. Kate handed out a historical summary of options (up to 2007) to support flows in the Cowichan River that were compiled by KWL. There is an April 15 funding application deadline. The CVRD will seek funding for more detailed engineering and an environmental Impact analysis and plus construction.</p>
<p>7. Riparian update</p>	<p>Rodger updated that an application for Habitat Conservation Trust Fund is coming up and should be directed toward Shaw Creek if required. CLRSS is forging ahead with funding applications and reporting to wrap of 2014 and prepare for this years field season.</p>
<p>8. Water Quality update</p>	<p>Tom Rutherford reported to following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water Quality sampling: Deb Epps is scheduled to deliver the results of the 3 year water quality study.</li> <li>2. Group based environmental farm plan: One farmer is reported to be purchasing equipment that will process manure into bedding. It as noted that success in this area should be profiled.</li> <li>3. The Working Group met with DFO Resource Management staff about CWB shellfish initiative.</li> </ol>
<p>9) Other Business – Application for water licence on Somenos</p>	<p>Organics and phosphorous need to be removed from the bottom of the lake to improve water quality. One school of thought was that given temperature and water quality issues an irrigation license may not have serious negative consequences. Others indicated that long-term licenses should be kept available for farming only and that people should pay for water or that a possible moratorium on water licenses should be considered unless use was to address human health and safety issues.</p>