

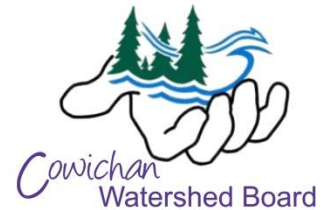
Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Agenda

Mon. July 30, 2018

8:45 – 11 am

Location: CVRD Board Room



Co-Chair: Co-Chair Jon Lefebure

Participants: Ian Morrison, David Slade, Klaus Kuhn, David Froese, Debra Toporowski, Darin George, Tim Kulchyski, Ross Forrest, Lori Iannidinaro; Tom Rutherford

Regrets: Chief William Seymour, David Anderson, Laura Brown,

Guests: Technical Advisory and Working Group members; other guests. (Open to the public.)

Minutes: Jill Thompson

1.	Welcome	8:45	Co-chair	Information
2.	Approval of Agenda	8:46	Board	Decision
3.	Approval of Minutes of May 28; review of notes from non-quorum gathering on June 25. Business arising from minutes.	8:47	Board	Decision
4.	Correspondence and announcements* - see * below	8:48	Tom Rutherford	Information
5.	Proposed sport fishing closure June 15- Sept 15 to protect trout - draft letter from CWB (attached)	8:55	Tom Rutherford	Decision
6.	Governance Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Revised CWB Governance Manual – seeking approval in principle to share with partners. Draft "Pathways and Partnerships" Framework Report – seeking endorsement of content for layout. Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meeting with MLA Furstenau RE storage and governance June 14 (see notes from June 25) - meeting with FLNRO senior staff July 18 	9:10	Tom Rutherford	Information / Decisions
7.	Lake Levels update	9:20	Graham Kissack, Catalyst	Information
8.	CVRD's proposed Water and Watershed Services Bylaw and relevance for CWB. Staff seeking direction on role.	9:35	-Kate Miller, CVRD – update on current service proposal -Tom – clarification of how it will/won't/might help CWB mandate. Our role in supporting?	Information / Decision

9.	Target working group updates:			
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tech Advisory Committee (TAC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July meeting update; Target Review process New “Target Briefs” 	10:00	TAC co-chair(s) Jill	
b	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fish / Flows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weir In! Prep for meeting with MLA and Ministers 	10:20	Tom	
c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WQ Attainment sampling CABIN benthic invertebrate sampling (sunscreen issue) 	10:30	Ken Traynor, CLRSS Tom	
10.	Other	10:40	Co-chair	Information
11.	Adjourn. . Next meeting – Mon. Sept 24 (no August meeting)	11:-00	Co-chair	

***Correspondence and announcements:**

1. Action Plan for the Vancouver Lamprey

Thank you for your interest in the *Action Plan for Vancouver Lamprey (Lampetra macrostoma) in Canada [Proposed]*.

The proposed Vancouver Lamprey action plan was posted to the SARA registry on June 12, 2018. Consultations on the proposed document are open and will run through August 11, 2018. Copies of the proposed action plan (html/pdf) are available at this address:

- https://www.registrellep-sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=3326

Additional information on the species (e.g., COSEWIC Assessments, Recovery Strategy) is located on the Vancouver Lamprey species profile page:

- https://www.registrellep-sararegistry.gc.ca/species/speciesDetails_e.cfm?sid=103

Comments on the proposed action plan may be sent to the following email address:

- SARA/LEP.XNCR@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Jonathan Fershau

Regional Coordinator – Species at Risk
Fisheries and Oceans Canada/Pêches et Océans Canada
200-401 rue Burrard Street
Vancouver BC / C-B V6C 3S4
Tel: 604-666-2344
e-mail/courriel: Jonathan.Fershau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

2. Species at Risk

From: **Heather Pritchard** <hdpritchard@shaw.ca>

Date: 15 May 2018 at 12:14

Subject: New species at risk legislation

This is an important initiative in BC. So far, there has never been a single piece of legislation guiding protection of species at risk in BC. Instead, there have been different rules for different industries on different land classes (e.g., private versus public). The BC *Wildlife Act* only provides for protection of 4 species!

I would like to encourage anyone and everyone to provide comments.

Heather

Public Consultation Begins on *New Species at Risk Legislation*

The BC government has begun a three-stage approach to gathering feedback that will inform policy development for new species at risk legislation. Currently, the province has 231 species listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

- Phase 1 will consist of a series of one-to-one conversations with key stakeholder groups, online discussions with members of the public and regional engagements with Indigenous communities.
- Phase 2 is a collaborative, multi-day workshop with key stakeholders in spring 2018.
- Phase 3 will be an intentions paper, issued for public comment in the fall of 2018, which will outline specific details of BC's proposed species at risk legislation.

Members of the public can have their say on the [government's engagement website](#).

For more information, please see the [government's news release](#).

3. Correspondence RE logging concerns

On 19 July 2018 at 16:04, RE JAMES <rejames@shaw.ca> wrote:

Jill:

Please share the article below with directors and membership.

And do note many communities that have been absolutely sickened about 'what's gone down' throughout the province have banded together in the B.C. Coalition for Forestry Reform...You all need to get on board!

Rick James
Royston, B.C.

<https://islandword.com/logging-watersheds/> (article was shared with Directors last week)

4. Annual River Clean-ups Sat Aug 18 and Sun Aug 26!

10TH ANNUAL COWICHAN RIVER CLEANUP

DIVE IN, HAVE FUN AND HELP KEEP THE COWICHAN RIVER CLEAN!



**AUGUST
18 &
AUGUST
26**

Opportunities for all ages and abilities on shore or in the water.
Free lunch for all participants thanks to our local partners.

- Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Please bring your own gloves and appropriate footwear.
- If helping in the water bring water gear, flotation devices, dive or snorkel gear, small row boats, etc.
- Volunteers with trucks needed to haul material to the dump.

COWICHAN RIVER CLEAN-UP AND BOTTLE DRIVE

Saturday, August 18
9 AM to 2 PM

Continental Breakfast and BBQ Lunch
Central Park, Lake Cowichan
(10022 Park Drive, Honeymoon Bay) FREE
www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca



LOWER COWICHAN RIVER CLEAN-UP

Sunday, August 26
9:30 AM TO 2 PM

Continental Breakfast and BBQ Lunch
5536 River Rd, Duncan
(Mini Big House) FREE
www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca

www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca

www.cowichanwatershedboard.ca

The organizers gratefully acknowledge these watershed supporters



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5. FYI - Letter from Friends of Cowichan to Province

Friends of the Cowichan
Joe Saysell
Box 169
Lake Cowichan, B.C. V0R 2G0

July 1, 2018

Mr. Doug Donaldson
Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Parliament Buildings
Victoria, B.C. V8V 2L8

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Friends of the Cowichan, I am writing to you to express disappointment in the government's Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Advisory Committee (FFRAC) process. I have written to the ministry in the past hoping that the process would change, but to no avail.

In the past, government administration has limited regulatory changes to fishing regulation proposals by waiting five years before revisiting any proposals that were brought forward. In a letter of August 14, 2014, Mike Stalberg, deputy regional manager, wrote to us explaining the government's position of the day. Is this still the case, or has the government's views changed and realized that rivers change year by year or even month by month, especially with climate change coming faster than previously predicted? To wait five years before revisiting proposals is, in our opinion, not a conservation, scientific, good way of dealing with the health of our fish populations.

We believe that all government's processes should be completely transparent, yet the Vancouver Island region seems to be a closed shop and always has been. In other regions of the province observers are allowed to attend the FFRAC meetings, yet in region 1 observers have not been allowed. To the best of our knowledge, minutes are not distributed to the general public. How does our group find out when the meetings are, what the outcomes are of decisions and the rationale for decisions?

We would suggest that:

- Observers be allowed to attend region 1 meetings and that a schedule of meeting dates be distributed to the public,
- All minutes be distributed or at least be easy to obtain,
- Outcomes of decisions be readily available.

Lastly, how are individuals picked for the committee, and for how long are they on the committee? We would hope that the ministry would want to have very knowledgeable, experienced people who truly know the rivers and watersheds in their area so that good conservation-based decisions can be made.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Saysell

Cc Tim Sheldan, Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Sonia Furstenu, MLA

7. Request for participation in graduate study interview.

Excerpt – letter requesting academic research participation

College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Doctor of Social Sciences Program
Royal Roads University
Victoria, BC V9B 5Y2

Letter of Information and Consent Form Food Security Evaluation: Research Interview

Dear Participant,

Vanessa Daether, a doctoral candidate at Royal Roads University (RRU), in partnership with the Cowichan Green Community Society (CGC) and Nanaimo FoodShare (NFS), (henceforth, the “research team”), would like to invite you to participate in a food security research project that we are leading entitled *Food Security Evaluation: Conceptualizing the Impacts of Local Food Initiatives on Central Vancouver Island*. This project is being conducted in fulfillment of the requirements for Vanessa Daether’s Doctor of Social Sciences degree and her credentials with RRU can be established by contacting her research supervisor, Dr. Catherine Etmanski, Professor and Director of the School of Leadership Studies at RRU at 1-250-391-2600 ext. 4162 or Catherine.Etmanski@RoyalRoads.ca.

Purpose of Research: To investigate how the impacts of local food initiatives on Central Vancouver Island, such as community gardens and cooking programs, can be evaluated from a food security perspective. Through an analysis of food security indicators and relevant evaluation methods, this research project intends to result in the development of a food security-focused evaluation framework that organizations, such as CGC and NFS, can use in determining how their local food initiatives affect food security at the individual and/or community levels.

Your Role: As a component of this project, we are hosting interviews with leaders of local food initiatives from across Vancouver Island/Gulf Islands to better understand if/how other organizations who run local food initiatives have faced similar challenges around evaluation and, if so, what strategies have been undertaken. The interview is estimated to require 45-60 minutes of your time and can be conducted in person at a mutually agreeable location, or over the phone/Skype. The interview will consist of a series of questions related to your organization’s experience in evaluating the impacts of its’ work in the field of food security.

Risks: This interview is deemed to be of minimal risk.

Benefits: By participating in this interview, you may directly assist other organizations in the field of food security to better understand the impacts of their work. Further, you may benefit by having access to the project’s final results which may highlight new understandings related to evaluation within the context of local food initiatives.

(...remainder of letter to be provided – please let Jill know if you are interested. Vanessa understands the CWB is not a food organization but feels our water mandate is relevant.)

8. Regarding Agenda Item #5 – sport fishing closure

(DRAFT LETTER FROM CWB)

Honourable Doug Donaldson
Minister, Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
PO Box 9428 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1

Dear Honourable Minister Donaldson

I (we) are writing you today to regarding an important fish conservation matter on the Cowichan River. As you know, The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) is a local governance model created in 2010 to promote water and watershed sustainability in the Cowichan/Koksilah watersheds, ancestral home of the Quw'utsun First Nation.

The CWB is co-chaired by Cowichan Tribes and the Cowichan Valley Regional District and represents a unique partnership between First Nations and local government. Through this model, Cowichan Tribes and the CVRD work together to advance whole-of- watershed health, demonstrating a commitment to moving down the path of reconciliation.

Current flow conditions on the Cowichan River are 5.5 CMS but even these low flows are expected to be unsustainable as we enter yet another drought year on Southern Vancouver Island. As river flows drop, resident trout in the Cowichan River are concentrated in a limited number of groundwater fed pools that provide suitable wetted, moderate temperature habitats. The unnaturally high concentrations of game fish resulting from drought flows leave them particularly vulnerable to the additional stress associated with sport fishing.

Accordingly, we would like to encourage your Ministry to consider a sport fishing closure on the Cowichan River from June 15 to September 15 in order to protect vulnerable trout species during low flow high temperature conditions when they are concentrated in refuge habitats and under considerable stress.

With the reality of climate change and associated impacts on our resident trout populations and the habitats that support them, we see a need to adjust our fishery management strategies in order to ensure a sustainable resource for the enjoyment of future generations.

We appreciate the efforts of Fisheries, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development operational staff to protect and conserve our natural heritage and urge you to consider providing them with the tools they need to do their job in the face of climate change effects and increasing demand for access to a precious and finite resource.

Sincerely,