

Cowichan Watershed Board Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

Draft Minutes



September 15, 2011

Location: Cowichan Tribes Chief and Council Chambers, 5760 Allenby Road, Duncan BC.

Meeting Chair Cheri Ayers

<p>1. Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks</p>	<p>Cheri thanked members for taking time out of busy schedules to attend the meeting.</p>
<p>2. Approval of Agenda</p>	<p>Decision: The agenda was approved with the addition of an update the flood management initiative.</p>
<p>3. Approval of Minutes of the June and August Meetings and Business Arising</p>	<p>Decision: The minutes of the June minutes were approved and August minutes were approved subject to corrections of typos and removal of Services from the Ministry of Health's name in the June 29, 2011 minutes. Rodger Hunter committed to sending out an electronic copy of Bruce Fraser's comments on Targets to Committee members who missed the previous meeting. In relation to Bruce Fraser's discussion paper on the Targets, Committee members were generally sympathetic to including the Koksilah watershed within the mandate of the Watershed Board but concerns were expressed about including the Chemainus because of the complexities and expectations that would involve at this stage. More responsibility and expectations must be supported by more resources.</p>
<p>4. Update on Watershed Survey, LiDAR, and Groundwater work etc.</p>	<p>Rodger Hunter reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The watershed knowledge and conservation survey is going well. Surveyors are doing a good job and participation rates are high. Preliminary results should be ready for the next meeting. There may be an opportunity to expand the survey to include farmers. We hope to host another water conservation, irrigation management workshop for farmers in November. • Ground-truthing has begun on the LiDAR project to align property boundaries with the LiDAR and accompanying aerial photography. This appears to be going very well. The goal is to present progress to date at the next Watershed Board meeting. • MFLNRO hired a student to assemble groundwater records this past summer. Much of that work is complete and a second student will be hired this fall to conduct analysis. Some flow work is also expected to be undertaken. • Early work has started on the watershed IQ kids field trip and we anticipate that VIU will conduct an annual watershed survey as part of a geography research methods course.

<p>5. Next Steps on Targets including possible Public Health Target</p>	<p>Steve Baumber provided and hand out on and discussed factors that should be considered if we are to establish a Human Health Target related to drinking water. Steve's presentation can be found at INSERT LINK. A general discussion on the seven targets followed.</p> <p>Decisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A working group should be established to develop a Human Public Health Target. Possible members include Geneen Russo, Lynne Magee, Mike Zemanek, Rory Beise, and Lorna Medd. 2. Chairs of working groups should call their groups together with the goal of fleshing out actions, plans, projected costs and next steps. It was noted that in a number of cases working groups may find it beneficial to seek additional expert support.
<p>6. Pacific Salmon Commission Application</p>	<p>It was reported that the Watershed Board application (conceptual stage) has been submitted to the Commission seeking approximately \$75,000 per year for 3 years to classify and map juvenile salmon habitat in the lower river. Results of the initial screening are expected in October.</p>
<p>7. North Arm Status Update</p>	<p>There is a significant log jam and gravel deposit in the North Arm which has essentially block flow and salmon migration there. It is not clear what flow would be required to reinstate flow through the North Arm. This issue links directly to the need to take a holistic watershed based approach to flood management and the item below.</p>
<p>8. Update of Flood Management</p>	<p>It was recommended that Kate Miller and Clay Rietsma be invited to the next meeting to provide a detailed update for the Committee.</p>
<p>9. General Discussion/Information Sharing</p>	<p>It was noted that the Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship led river clean-up had been very successful again that year. Approval is being sought from Cowichan Tribes who control most of the access to the lower river to have a clean-up event on the lower river on September 24, 2011.</p>

The next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will be held on October 20, 2011 at the usual location.