

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

Draft Minutes



September 9, 2010

Participants: Rob Hutchins & Lydia Hwitsum Co-chairs, David Anderson, Ross Forrest, Darin George, Lori Iannidinardo, Klaus Kuhn, Tim Kulchyski, Lorna Medd, Don Radford, David Slade

Coordinator: Rodger Hunter

Guests: Kevin Visscher, CVRD Environment Commission, Arthur Caldicott, Consultant

Meeting called to order at 5:48 pm at the Cowichan Tribes, Chief and Council Chambers, 5760 Allenby Road, Duncan BC, Chief Lydia Hwitsum in the Chair

1. Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	Co-Chair Lydia Hwitsum welcomed guests and thanked members and others for their ongoing commitment to the work of the Board. Rob Hutchins offered the invocation.
2. Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
3. Approval of Minutes of June 3/2010 meeting and update on Business Arising from Minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional Gas Tax Issue• Watershed Celebration and Tour	Minutes were approved as presented. It was noted that there was stiff competition for gas tax dollars; the storm water initiative the Cowichan Watershed Board supported was not approved for this component of the gas tax funding. Furthermore it was noted that awarding of Regional Gas Tax funding to a number of projects by the CVRD had been premature as the funding has not yet been forwarded by the federal government. This includes the \$150,000 in funding that had previously been allocated to the Cowichan Watershed Board. Discussion of this issue and the watershed celebration and tour were deferred to agenda items 10 and 8 respectively.
4. The CVRD's State of the Environment Report	Kevin Visscher presented a summary of the recently completed State of the Environment report emphasizing the components of it that relate to water. Decisions/Actions: The coordinator will forward a link to a summary of the SOE report. The link is as follows. http://www.12things.ca/12things/uploads/eCVRD_ReportCard_001.pdf The Board expressed a desire to support a post doctoral project, subject to available funds, that would research and develop indicators for the well-being of the Cowichan watershed. The Board is willing to provide a letter of support for an application for project funding.
5. Integrated Flood Management Plan Project Applications	The Coordinator presented a summary of the Integrated Flood Management Plan project applications for endorsement by the Board. Decisions: The coordinator is to draft a letter to INAC on behalf of the Board to ensure that the Cowichan/Koksilah Integrated Flood Management Plan is implemented in a fulsome manner that addresses the interests of all parties

	<p>including those of Cowichan Tribes.</p> <p>(Board Member Don Radford abstained from voting on this Issue.)</p>
6. Report on the Cowichan Watershed Public Health Tour	<p>Lorna Medd and Tim Kulchyski summarized an August 25, 2010 public health field trip of the Cowichan Lake area and the lower part of the watershed. Issues raised included isolated water quality issues at Cowichan Lake as well as what appeared to be zoning and riparian area violations. Issues of concern in the lower portion of the watershed included flood management and protection related issues that potentially affect human health and safety as well as septic, wetland infilling, shellfish contamination and general water contamination issues.</p> <p>Actions: The Board requested that the Technical Advisory Committee discuss the public health tour and pursue options and opportunities regarding public health issues that are identified and elicit any support that is required from the Board.</p>
7. Feedback on the Cowichan Lake Information Session and Field trip – verbal update	<p>The coordinator reported that based on feedback this July 24, 2010 event was a success. The fisheries talk, inclusion of i-clickers and general discussions were deemed to be especially valuable as was the understanding gained on the field trip. Further outreach is considered to be a very important component of Board activities.</p>
8. Communications Committee update	<p>A report from the Communications Committee was distributed at the meeting.</p> <p>Decision/Actions:</p> <p>Due to lack of funds the Board supported the Communication Committee’s recommendation not to proceed with a Rivers Day celebration of the watershed. The coordinator however was directed to continue to explore future opportunities for a watershed celebration.</p> <p>The Board believes that a field trip is still important though and directed the coordinator is to make plans for a fall field trip including Board and Technical Advisory Committee members and senior federal/provincial people.</p> <p>Arthur Caldicott provided demonstrated progress to date on development of the website. The site was to be left open for one day so that members who wished to could view it on their own.</p>
9. Work Plan verbal update	<p>The coordinator provided an abbreviated update on that status of key Cowichan Watershed Board projects.</p>
10. Finance Committee	<p>The Finance Committee discussed the state of the Watershed Board’s finances in the absence of the regional gas tax money that the CVRD had allocated to the Board prior to learning that the funding was not yet available from UBCM.</p> <p>Decision: The Board approved a short term budget that</p>

	<p>would allocate its remaining budget over the Sept.-Nov, 2010 period. In light of this turn of events the coordinator was directed to make fund-raising his first priority until funding for the next three years has been secured.</p>
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