


<b>DRAFT</b> <b>MEETING</b> <b>MINUTES</b>	<b>Mon. June 24, 2019</b> <b>9:30-11:45 am</b> <b>CVRD Boardroom</b> <b>175 Ingram Street, Duncan</b>	 Cowichan Watershed Board
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**Co-Chair:** Chief William Seymour

**Participants** CVRD Chair Ian Morrison (Co-Chair), Shannon Waters, Alison Nicholson, Debra Toporowski, Darin George (until break), Tim Kulchyski, Lori Iannidardo, David Slade, David Froese, Kristine Sandhu, Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson.

**Regrets:** David Anderson, Laura Brown.

**Guests:** Ken Traynor, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society; TAC and Working Group members.

**Minutes:** Jill Thompson

1.	Welcome	Meeting called to order by Chief Seymour at 9:30	
2.	Approve Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Alison. Seconded by Kristine. No changes. Carried.	Approved
3.	Review and approve Minutes of May 27, 2019	Motion to approve agenda by Debra. Seconded by David Slade. No changes. Carried.	Approved
4.	Correspondence and Announcements - see below*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-See agenda for announcements and correspondence list.</li> <li>-CLRSS fundraising BBQ July 7</li> <li>-Q: should CWB be putting input into private forest management process? Discuss needed.</li> </ul>	Discuss CWB input to Private Forestry practices review under "Other:
5.	Opportunity for public comment.	<p>Paul Rickard spoke to the Board about the estuary. Paul began by establishing his background and credentials with the CWB and Stewardship Roundtable and his knowledge of the watershed. He provided a presentation and asked the CWB to take leadership on our water quality target by asking questions about the potential impacts of rezoning to industrial.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lori intervened on a point of order to establish that the CVRD appointed Board members would need to recuse themselves if the matter involved Western Stevedoring. She clarified that since the matter has gone through public hearing at the CVRD for a rezoning application, CVRD</li> </ul>	

		<p>directors must excuse themselves if any new information on the matter is presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CVRD directors Ian, Lori and Alison then left the room for the remainder of the presentation.</li> <li>- The presentation details are not included for distribution at this time for the reason above. They will be included in the public record once the rezoning process has been completed</li> </ul>	
6.	<p>Climate Change a) Endorsement of CWB Climate Change Emergency Declaration</p>	<p>David Slade reviewed the request that CWB sign on to an open letter to all local governments to declare a climate emergency.</p> <p>David explained that over 600 governments have now declared climate change emergencies including 20 in BC and over 400 across Canada. The best minds in the world say we have less than twelve years to turn the climate situation around. Local fire departments are preparing for fires similar to Fort McMurray's in the years ahead. David also spoke to the CVRD's "12 Big Ideas" which indicate that addressing climate change is in the Region's mandate but needs to be taken as seriously as it needs to be taken.</p> <p>David proposed a motion to endorse the draft declaration of a climate emergency by CWB as presented (see agenda package). Seconded by Tim. No discussion. Carried.</p> <p>David proposed a second motion to add CWB's name to the One Cowichan open letter to local governments in the Cowichan Region to declare a climate emergency (see agenda package). Moved by David S. Seconded by Tim.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Clarification sought on why we need both 2<sup>nd</sup> letter would be co-signing with 30 other organizations; the first is a declaration for ourselves.</li> </ul>	<p>Motion to endorse the draft declaration of a climate emergency by CWB as presented (see agenda package). Carried.</p> <p>Motion to add CWB's name to the One Cowichan open letter to local governments in the Cowichan Region to declare a climate emergency (see agenda package). Carried.</p>

		<p>Carried.</p> <p>Chief Seymour added that he shared the open sign-on letter with his staff; they are moving it forward within Cowichan Tribes as well.</p>	
7.	<p>Lake Cowichan Water Storage Updates</p> <p>a) BC Salmon Restoration &amp; Innovation Fund – weir proposal update.</p> <p>b) 2019 flows and water management update</p> <p>c) North Arm of Lower Cowichan</p>	<p>a) Tom gave a brief update on the BCSRIF funding application to complete design and impact analysis to replace the weir. Decision is expected by end of June.</p> <p>b) See presentation by Tom. Unprecedented situation. Zero water storage in the lake is predicted by Aug 7; pumping could continue into November until the lake recharges. There is potential for the lake be drawn down as much as two feet below zero storage.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lori suggested we work to reach the farmers about well water use.</li> <li>- Alison suggested that local government can play a role in reducing the expectation that new wells will be drilled.</li> <li>- Shannon asked whether anyone knows the effectiveness of the voluntary water use reduction letter sent by FLNRO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Tom relayed that in 2017 FLNRO measured the Koksilah in-river response to water levels after sending such letters and recorded a measurable improvement in river levels.</li> <li>o David S believes the farmers may have been cooperating informally to stage their irrigation to reduce spikes in use.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Shannon commented that it will be an emotionally and mentally difficult summer and requested advice on how to communicate what makes a difference?</li> <li>- Ray Dimarchi (audience) commented that a huge impact is expected at lake in the months ahead and asked whether the CWB has considered a public relations program to</li> </ul>	

educate people.

- Tom responded that
  - o CWB and CLRSS are working on a public campaign to be discussed later in the agenda.
  - o CVRD is working with partners on progress on the solution with BCSRIF
  - o Catalyst, as license holder, is required to do education and notification at lake regarding the pumping.

c) Tim presented a recent photo of the North Arm from a weekend field visit by DFO officers and others.

- The water shown in the photo is tidal.
- Vultures are sitting in the riverbed.
- The logjam usually provides refugia if fish are stuck but there is no pool left.
- Remaining water is milky white.
- Temperature is too high; holding nothing.

Tim explained that 17500 m<sup>3</sup> of gravel that was removed last year has filled back in. Normally this spot is very fertile – birds, mink, etc. all feeding. Now there are dead crayfish. Crayfish can survive some degree of dryness by using the moisture in the riverbed to migrate to water. Cowichan Tribes is looking for funds for gravel removal. We need everyone working in the same direction.

Tim described the saline influence on the groundwater that happens, creating habitat where its not expected.

Discussion

- Q: Could CT sell the gravel to pay for the extraction?
  - o Tim replied that to date they have not been able to make money from a gravel extraction project. Costs

		<p>are too high.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Q: What about the overall river treatment? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Huge high water now keeps moving the gravel down. The sediment management plan from 2009 is on mark but we need to be doing at least what we said we would do in that plan (black bridge, JUB, Quamichan gravel removal)</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Q: What is the impact of machines in the river. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Everything is dying, there is very little habitat in dry riverbed until some flow returns.</li> <li>o Care is taken to not leave pools that will strand fish when it fills.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Chief Seymour added that we need to haul out 100,000 m3. 17,000 m3 was all that Cowichan could afford. Cowichan Tribes is the only one funding this. They are working with DFO and INAC on a five-year plan to continuously remove enough so that it can handle the 19,000 annual infill and redo it every five years.</li> <li>- Q: How can we facilitate permission with the five-year plan?</li> <li>- Q: What process did CT go through to decide its worth trying to keep the north arm open if there is only enough water for one arm? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Tim described the complication of this decision; the estuary is also filling in which impacts eelgrass. It is difficult to balance the needs of the north and south arm but the north arm is 5 km of habitat.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Tim also shared video footage from June at Allenby Rd bridge counting fence including predation of smolts by diving birds.</p>	
	Break and Board photo		

<p>8.</p>	<p>Communications: a) Weir Ready summer campaign</p>	<p>a) Presentation by Ken Traynor, President of Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society, and Jill Thompson, CWB Project Coordinator on the “Weir Ready” communications plan. The goal of this program is to improve public understanding of the need to replace the weir, and the risks and impacts of not doing so, and to provide links to more detailed studies and plans for more information.</p> <p>Discussion/input:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kate Miller (CVRD) requested more emphasis on the available climate science and links to available flood and climate projections.</li> <li>- Shannon offered to write a section on health impacts; what to do and where to go for help</li> <li>- Shannon corrected that salmon and culture is reciprocal for Indigenous people, not one way as indicated.</li> <li>- clarify weir vs dam</li> <li>- describe the pinch point to help people understand the weir’s impacts</li> </ul>	
<p>9.</p>	<p>Governance a) Internal - Target Review Process b) External I. Visit to weir by Honourable Scott Fraser, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation II. Presentation to Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services</p>	<p>a) Tom reported that Heather Pritchard has agreed to take on a contract to lead our Target Review Process in collaboration with the Working Groups and Technical Advisory Committee.</p> <p>b) i) Chief Seymour hosted Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation Scott Fraser when he visited Cowichan Tribes and the weir in June. Minister Fraser commented that he had heard the struggles but seeing it firsthand really opened his eyes. Chief is encouraging the Minister to work towards a solution and protect Indigenous title and rights.</p> <p>b) ii) Ian reported on the Co-Chairs brief presentation to the Budget 2020 consultations. The Co-Chairs made the point that the province needs to be funding groups like CWB that have boots on the ground and that it is a wise</p>	

		investment on their part, especially when so many responsibilities have been drawn down to local governments.	
10.	Draft Letter regarding sport fishing closure on Cowichan River	Kristine moved that the Board approve the letter as presented (see agenda package); seconded by Tim. No discussion Carried.	Motion that letter be approved as presented for signing by Co-Chairs and sending to Minister. Carried.
11.	Other	<p>Discussion about whether CWB should give input to private forest management process:</p> <p>CWB would like better access to information on plans for private forest land in the Cowichan watershed.</p> <p>This is a big issue for CWB - we have questions and concerns about private forestry practices.</p> <p>Kristine proposed a motion that staff prepare input concerning general well-being and impact on watershed health to be signed by the Co-Chairs. Motion seconded by David Slade. Carried.</p> <p>Chief added that this is important. Companies today are trying to be more environmentally friendly than ten years ago but its important that we know what they're doing.</p>	Motion that staff prepare input concerning general well-being and impact on watershed health to be signed by the Co-Chairs. Carried.
12.	Adjourn.	Adjourned 11:50pm. Next meeting Monday July 29 <sup>th</sup> .	Adjourned.