


DRAFT MEETING MINUTES	Mon. Nov 25 2019, 9:30-11:45 am CVRD Boardroom	
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Participants: Chair Dir. Ian Morrison, Dr. Shannon Waters, David Slade, Dir. Lori Iannidinaro, Coun. Kristine Sandhu, Debra Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, Alison Nicholson, David Froese, Tom Rutherford.

Regrets – Chief Seymour, Aaron Stone, Laura Brown, Darin George, David Anderson

Guests: [Oliver Brandes](#), Director, POLIS Water Sustainability Project (UVIC), Advisor to CWB; [Jeremy Koreski](#) (photographer/resident); Heather Pritchard (Consultant – Target Review); TAC and Working Group members, public. **Minutes:** Jill Thompson

	Agenda Item	Description / Discussion	Decision/ Action
1	Welcome		
2	Approve Agenda	Approved without changes.	Approved.
3	Review and approve the minutes of last meeting	Approved without changes.	Approved.
4	Correspondence/ announcements - see below*	<p>Tom reviewed announcements and correspondence as per items listed on agenda.</p> <p>Also new report from Watershed Watch Salmon Society called Tapped Out – page 11 RE Koksilah watershed. https://watershedwatch.ca/resource/tapped-out-a-special-report-on-water-scarcity-and-water-solutions-in-british-columbia/</p> <p>Lori added that there is series of workshops currently underway with the Vancouver Island Regional Adaptation Strategy that she is attending on behalf of CVRD. Relevant to Koksilah farming / drought issues. More info here: https://www.bcagclimateaction.ca/regional/report/vancouver-island/</p>	Information
5.	Opportunity for	Barry Hetschko introduced himself as a	Dir. Morrison

	<p>public comment.</p>	<p>photographer, citizen scientist, Board member of Somenos Marsh Society, and frequent photographer of CWB events. Thanked the Board for all he learns from it. Requesting that CWB participate in discussion about the best way to develop the new hospital with regards to impacts on the watershed.</p> <p>Genevieve Singleton, nature educator and CSRT Co-Chair, brought the Board's attention to the CVRD Parks Acquisition fund and the impact of proposal to decrease this budget. The fund was instrumental in securing Eagle Heights for parkland, and is needed for other important lands to be protected. Many people voted in favour of the fund when proposed, and there has been no public opposition to it. There are two rare ecosystems in the region, and they are well below recommended rates of protection.</p>	<p>recommended Barry also present to CVRD Board.</p> <p>Ian encouraged people to attend CVRD meetings and present their views. Budget consultations have not been concluded.</p>
	<p>E.D. Updates - Cowichan Weir, Koksilah WSP, Watershed Security Fund, Old Growth Strategic Review, Private Managed Forest Lands report</p>	<p>See presentation</p> <p>Tom introduced Leroy Van Wieren – newly hired manager of the BCSRIF weir engineering project.</p> <p>Koksilah – see slide. What we are doing now isn't working. Flows are down to 2% mean annual discharge in summer. Water Sustainability Plan is worth looking at.</p> <p>Old Growth Strategic Review – feedback is being sought by the BC Government until Jan. 31. The Board discussed and supported a motion for staff to prepare a draft written submission for review at the Jan 27 Board meeting. Board members also encourage each other and the audience to submit comments as individuals or through other organizations on this important issue.</p>	<p>Decision: Staff will prepare a draft submission to the Old Growth Strategic Review for review and decision at the Jan 27th meeting.</p>

		<p>Private Managed Forest Lands Review - Tom encouraged people to read the submissions online. Note that our submission was in the local gov't category.</p> <p>Cowichan Chum returns are normally very high and have been meeting targets. This year 93,000 came up river which is ½ of average over the past 12 years. In other rivers, returns were between 3-25% of average. Cowichan continues to buck the trend where things aren't good, but they are better than any other river on the island. We still have a pretty functional river and that is becoming more and more of an exception on the island.</p>	
	<p>Presentation - Watershed Security Fund; Our Water BC Decision RE Terms of Membership for OWBC.</p>	<p>Jill brought forward a presentation from Our Water BC (OWBC) and requested Board consideration of an invitation to join the OWBC network. See Terms of Reference and Freshwater Priorities.</p> <p>OWBC initiatives include advocating for a provincial Strategic Watershed Fund to support entities like the CWB, which Chief Seymour presented to the NDP Caucus at the Legislature in November with OWBC.</p> <p>Board members present generally in favour but decided to defer decision because neither co-Chair was present.</p>	<p>Decision deferred to January meeting.</p>
	<p>Target Review</p>	<p>Heather Pritchard provided an update on the process and progress to date with the CWB Working Groups to review and update the CWB's seven Targets for Watershed Health which were established in 2012. See presentation.</p> <p>The Board discussed reviewing Working Group membership and particularly ensuring that all CWB members are encouraged to sit on a Working Group.</p>	<p>For information and discussion.</p> <p>Board requested more communication from staff and/or Working Groups on targets.</p>

		<p>There was also a discussion about how to measure and achieve Target effectiveness.</p> <p>Board members requested more communication about the targets, perhaps an afternoon session with all Working Groups reporting out or regular reports during Board meetings.</p> <p>Underfunding was noted in that prioritizing the work to replace the weir in the past year(s) has meant less staff focus on targets.</p>	<p>Tom to facilitate engaging new Board members in Working Groups.</p>
	<p>Presentation - Underwater Video Footage - Koksilah Swim</p>	<p>Sarah Davies-Long, a member of the Koksilah Watershed Working Group (Cowichan Station Area Association), provided the Board with a verbal account of recent underwater swims and informal fish counts she did with her husband/photographer, Jeremy Koreski. Technical difficulties prevented showing the planned video clips during the meeting. They can now be seen here: https://jeremykoreski.com/NEW-WORK/KOKSILAH-SALMON-2019/1</p> <p>The swims took place in Oct –Nov 2019 between approximately Colvin Rd (end of pavement on Riverside) down to the bridge at Koksilah – including a rock canyon, gravel, and larger pools. They reported that there were more fish observed in October and early November (50-ish in each pool, with lots of chum; fewer fish observed in later swims.</p>	<p>For information and discussion.</p>
	<p>Presentation - Water Sustainability</p>	<p>Oliver Brandes, of the POLIS Project (UVic) thanked the Board for its leadership and being “a beacon in the darkness for many groups in BC and beyond.”</p> <p>Oliver provided an analogy of the BC Water Sustainability Act as the framework in an unfinished house. It provides a good</p>	<p>For information and discussion.</p> <p>See presentation.</p>

		<p>infrastructure but is incomplete without the regulations. He reviewed the spectrum of planning tools, and encouraged people to raise their expectations and use these tools to the best possible use for watershed health. See presentation for specifics on potential benefits and limitations of Water Sustainability Plans.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the challenges of this work, but the larger challenges that will occur if nothing is done to change watershed management.</p> <p>POLIS is willing and available to support the CWB if they see a likelihood of success, and if invited.</p> <p>Oliver added that the Koksilah Ecosystem Based planning done by the Cowichan Station group is helpful, because “if you can’t articulate what you want, then the law is a terrible tool to get it.”</p>	
	Other	<p>Lori provided a link to meeting notes from the Saanich Inlet Roundtable and work they have been doing on plastics in marine environments. http://saanichinletprotection.org/</p>	For information
	Adjourn	<p>Next meeting – correction Jan 27th (wrong on agenda)</p>	Adjourned