


DRAFT MEETING MINUTES	Mon. Sept 28 2020 9:30-11:00 am Online / Phone Zoom Line	
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Meeting Chair: CVRD Director Lori Iannidinaro and Chair Aaron Stone (Chair Stone delayed).

Participants: Shannon Waters, Alison Nicholson, David Anderson, Debra Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, Kristine Sandhu, Dale Desrochers, Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson. **Guest Speaker:** David Belezny, RPF, EIT. Manager, Hydrology & Terrain, Mosaic Forest Resources; **Audience:** advisors, working group members, volunteers; **Minutes:** Jill

9:00-9:30am – Open conversation/visiting before meeting.

1	Welcome. Roundtable check-in and sound-check	9:30	Lori opened the meeting. Acknowledged that we are meeting on the territory of the Coast Salish people. Regrets were received from Chair Stone (technical delays!)	
2	Approve agenda	9:35	All in favour – none opposed	Approved
3	Review and approve July minutes	9:36	All in favour – none opposed	Approved
4	Correspondence and Announcements	9:38	Tom reviewed the correspondence and announcements as outlined below.	
5	Public Input	9:40	None	

Aaron Stone joined the meeting and assumed Chair role.

6	Updates from Executive Director	9:45	<p>See presentation.</p> <p>Suggestion that FLNRO’s Cali Melnechenko be invited to give her presentation on the Koksilah, as presented to CVRD.</p> <p>Dale clarified that Halalt and Cowichan will work together on the application for Koksilah and Chemainus fisheries research.</p> <p>Dale asked for details on the lakeshore inventory at Lake Cowichan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1100 letters went to lakeshore owners. • Survey crews are currently on the ground. • Work is being done by Kerr Wood 	Action – staff to invite Cali to present to future CWB meeting on Koksilah drought / critically low water flows.
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			<p>Liedal. We could invite a KWL speaker if we want more detail.</p> <p>David A asked about the coldwater release issue. [sound issues]</p> <p>Tom expressed optimism in progress made in recent years on a) Cowichan weir – design is better than he anticipated –e.g. coldwater intake, natural fishway; b) how to make water decisions closer to home, and c) the working relationship of the Board to support indigenous leadership.</p>	
7	Presentation - Mosaic Forest plans	10:00	<p>David Belezney introduced himself as Mosaic’s Manager of Hydrology and Terrain for the past 10 months. Previously, Dave did research in Koksilah and Cowichan 15 years ago working on sediment studies on roads, so he is familiar with our watersheds.</p> <p>See presentation file here and discussion details below.</p>	
8	Cowichan Lake Conservation License update / Environmental Law Clinic student research.	10:30	<p>Jill gave an overview of the Environment Law Clinic research project into weir licensing, and specifically any perceived information barriers to moving forward as quickly as possible to determine a licensee so the partners can be ready to approach the next phase in the weir replacement.</p> <p>David A asked about the timeline, and suggested that establishing the legal mechanism for government to address any perceived conflict of interest (i.e. when they both hold a license and regulate it) should be relatively quick and easy. This is done in government frequently.</p> <p>A: ELC indicated the same and expects to have that defined within 3 months.</p>	
9	Update from Our Water BC meeting	10:45	<p>Kristine attended this meeting on behalf of CWB and enjoyed hearing about watersheds around the province; exciting announcement</p>	

			about watershed funding came just after the meeting. (Media Release - \$27 million for BC Watersheds)	
10	Other	10:50	<p>Shannon – has been invited by the Watershed Security Coalition to make a presentation to Min. Wilkinson Oct 6. They will ask the Feds to match \$27 million in watershed funding. This will not be advocacy but speaking to importance of investing in watersheds for human health and health overall.</p> <p>Debra thanked Shannon for “always answering the call.”</p> <p>Jill reminded the group about the non-partisan nature of CWB and that during the upcoming provincial election, it should be understood that we are all acting as individuals, and use care to ensure that no comment or activity by individuals is portrayed as a CWB position.</p>	
	Adjourn. Next meeting October 26th 9:30am	11:00	Adjourned 11 am.	

11:00-11:30am - Open conversation/visiting after meeting.

Agenda Item 7 (con't) - Details of Mosaic Presentation

- Mosaic is a Canadian owned company – primary BC, Alberta and Federal pension funds.
- Certifications – SFI, Progressive Aboriginal Relations, Carbon Trust, etc.
- Big focus on minimizing net carbon emissions.
- Regulations and professional statutes that apply on private land.
- Looking at how Mosaic’s objectives align with CWB Fish and Flows target indicators. What is an indicator for Mosaic that helps us make sure we are aligning with these targets?
- new strategy for riparian management being adopted based on new EBI study including looking more closely at small feeder streams.
 - Dale acknowledged this good direction and asked for more detail, and a copy of the report.
 - o PFLMA uses a tree count; Mosaic is moving toward more hard buffers for streams and wetlands.
 - o David offered to discuss the approach on the ground through a partnership like this but the report is not available publicly.
- Equivalent Clear-cut Area images were shared. ECA provides spatial representation of how regenerating forest is intercepting rainfall and snowfall relative to mature forest. David acknowledged

impacts of past logging; acknowledged that low flows is not well understood – “over recovery factor” needs to be explored;

- Climate change needs to be considered. Research is 30 years old but models need to change with climate change.
- trying to track our effects on low flows – research is ongoing – Ashley Coble et co. Looking to bring them up to do research to look at impacts of stand age and aquatic health- will include Koksilah and Chemainus in this 3rd party research.
- supporting research by Bill Floyd on snow impacts.
- need more site-specific research in Koksilah and Chemainus.
- acknowledged Alison’s previous challenge to him to say “what is it Mosaic can do now?” We’re not in the business of making dams and doing water storage but we do have an impact on the trees and trees are thirsty. How do we manage the low flows more? Focus has been on water quality and peak flows – need to turn our minds to low flows.
- spoke to Regional District of Nanaimo partnership where they are supporting the community watershed monitoring network; supporting people to come out on Mosaic lands in collaboration with MoE water quality system. Good partnership.
- referenced broader studies ongoing in the watershed, including Heather Pritchard’s study in the Koksilah, engaging in the WSP process and Mosaic working to understand what standards to consider incorporating. Need to make sure we are aligned with watershed priorities.
- Have lots of data. Open to sharing data in a model that we are comfortable with.
- Can’t tell what’s happening in the sub-surface for example, but can look at stand age, crown closure – trying to use this data for decision making going forward.

Discussion / Q&A

Q: What is Mosaic’s strategy for putting roads to bed?

A: David agreed that hydrologically this is where we need to focus our efforts. Cumulative impact of roads acknowledged to be an issue by Forest Practices Board. Objective is to decrease road density and look at deactivation. It is too dense for what they need now with modern machinery.

Q: What is the relative road density?

A: Depends how you measure it. Internal metric discounts if a road is. Density is not as high as in the Jump watershed. Generally – more dense than we need today. Some roads are along rivers – do we relocate – different impact of that.

Q: How open is Mosaic to consider longer rotation? Where are we going with that?

A: Need to know what the appropriate age is; how can we make changes through carbon financing; 20% more genetic gain; trees are getting to an age we need to harvest them earlier. There could be an opportunity for change through carbon financing. We need to know what is needed in specific sub-basins. Tough question.

Comment: great opportunity now that Mosaic owns most of the forest lands in the watershed now.

A: agreed that alignment /affiliation is beneficial.

Q: Should we expect Mosaic to continue to sell forestry land for other uses?

A: When communities want and support it, yes we will do that but it’s not our core business. David added that this isn’t his expertise - can’t fully answer that.

Meeting materials will be uploaded to: <https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/meetings/>