


<p>DRAFT BOARD MEETING Minutes</p>	<p>Mon. June 28th 2021 9:30-11:30 am Location: Zoom Webinar</p>	
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Meeting Chair: CVRD Chair Aaron Stone

Attendees: Acting Chief Cindy Daniels (9:45), David Anderson, David Slade, Debra Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, David Froese, Kristine Sandhu, Alison Nicholson, Lori Iannidinaro, Shannon Waters, Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson.

Regrets: Linda Higgins, Stuart Pagaduan

Audience members: advisors, working group members, volunteers, interested public.

Minutes/Tech support: Jill 250-709-0492

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

1.	Welcome.	Aaron opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and appreciation.	
2.	Agenda Review / Revisions.	Lori moved to approve the agenda; 2 nd by Kristine.	Carried.
3.	Review minutes of the May meeting.	Lori moved to adopt the May minutes. 2 nd by Alison.	Carried.
4.	Announcements and Correspondence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom provided an overview of the correspondence and announcements as per agenda package. • CWB is taking its lead from Cowichan Tribes on signing a UVic MOU regarding the Koksilah Connections project. No objections from the Board. Tom will work with Tracy, Candace and Tom Gleeson to complete. • Tom introduced Nora Livingstone from our CESI outreach team. The Board was shown a video clip of our new Chinook mascot at work. 	Tom will work with Cowichan Tribes and Tom Gleeson to complete the MOU with UVic for Koksilah Connections project.
5.	Public Input.	None.	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Quick updates from Exec.Dir.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Weir - Koksilah WSP - Twinned Watershed project 	<p>Please see presentation.</p> <p>Weir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Engineer and design work is complete. New fish passage built into island and south abutment. Some components will stay with new equipment. Weir will be replaced with step down for safety. Remote operability of gatehouse. ○ Shoreline assessment is complicated due to fetch etc so that elevation is not the same on all properties. Different effects on different land. Map product for property owners to view their own property is being developed by Kerr Wood Liedel. ○ Owner/license holder question will be discussed between all parties with the help of a facilitator, currently being sought. Complicated arrangement will be needed with 2 licenses on one structure. Will be good for everyone to work together. <p>Twinned Watershed Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On track. 	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Discussion - New Cowichan District Hospital plan; invitation for input.</p>	<p>Shannon welcomed discussion into whether the CWB could be providing advice to the hospital planning process regarding water considerations and also how to build a hospital on indigenous land. Shannon has made some connections with the project planners about this.</p> <p>David S added that he has personally been advocating for the committee to contemplate carbon impact in the new building.</p> <p>Debra spoke to stormwater run-off pressures on Somenos Marsh and Lake. Elders say we have to pay attention to what happens to the water. Taking down the trees is a concern. Debra welcomed the direction of CDH in including elders in development to incorporate indigenous knowledge. "When we respect the</p>	<p>Jill will post the invitation to the hospital planning input session on the watershed board website.</p> <p>Tom and Shannon will craft a letter to the committee with this input.</p>

		<p>knowledge of the elders, it benefits the whole. “</p> <p>Tim added that if we continue to add phosphorous into the ecosystem, the long-term impacts are significant. There have been 2 50-year floods recently and it was 42 degrees in Duncan today, which has never happened in my lifetime, or my parents, or my grandparents. This is an opportunity for us to showcase what can be done differently.</p> <p>Tom suggested that the CWB could craft a letter to highlight these thoughts.</p>	
8.	<p>Discussion – Watershed Security Coalition’s request for updated member commitment.</p>	<p>David A. and David S spoke to the request from the WSC as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the document should include the rationale for the \$75 million price tag to increase the chances of getting it. - it is a low figure when we think of the needs across the province. - there was little reference to agriculture and forestry. i.e. What do the forest practices of BC do to the watersheds, especially in the context of climate change. - support CWB signing but the statement is quite general and would like to see it stronger with the above changes. - David S pointed out the content of the website that supports local water governance bodies to make their own priorities. We want to support that. - David F stated that our mandate needs to focus on the Cowichan watershed, not a provincial coalition of watersheds. It could potentially dilute attention and funding for Cowichan. In its current format, without looking at the website, he feels we need more information to be comfortable Cowichan is gaining anything. -Shannon reminded us that the Province was committing to fund watershed security before the election and this is an 	<p>CWB will offer our support along with all the other watershed organizations to encourage the provincial government to provide annual sustainable funding.</p> <p>Jill will contact the editor and other groups to share the points raised by the Board members.</p> <p>Shannon will discuss directly with Tim Morris.</p>

		<p>effort to restart that conversation and commitment. This body pushes the provincial and federal government to create readily available funds for indigenous watershed co-governance.</p> <p>David S – clarified that the coalition is a group of groups, including the CWB. Annual contribution of \$75 million would come to groups like the CWB, and could potentially provide financial security to CWB and similar groups so we can do more to support sustainable watersheds.</p> <p>David S moved that the CWB offer our support along with all the other watershed organizations to encourage the provincial government to provide annual sustainable funding.</p> <p>Alison added that we provide feedback to the editor and the other groups about the points raised by the Board members.</p> <p>Tom reminded us of the process of consensus outlined in our Governance manual.</p> <p>Motion passed – no dissent.</p> <p>Shannon offered that she would be speaking with Tim Morris this afternoon and would share this in person as well.</p>	
Break			
9.	Discussion – North Cowichan’s request for Official Community Plan input.	<p>Tom provided his draft input for the Board’s consideration and welcomed additional feedback</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alison thanked Tom for all the work. • Aaron reiterated appreciation and suggested asking MNC how they plan to incorporate the feedback; whether there is a feedback loop. • Members suggested the letter be cc’d to other levels of local government. • Aaron suggests the appropriate people at CVRD are the Board, CAO, and Anne Cheryl, General Manager of Planning, as well as Lori Iannidinardo. 	Tom will forward the letter to MNC and cc other local governments, particularly CVRD including the recommended recipients.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support was confirmed for Tom to send it in as suggested. 	
10.	Discussion – CWB support for sport fishing closure on upper Cowichan (see May meeting correspondence from Joe Saysell)	<p>Tom reviewed the issue as raised by Joe Saysell’s letter last month and welcomed direction on possible actions from the Board.</p> <p>Please see below for Discussion notes.</p>	<p>-Dave Froese to talk to Joe Saysell about making a more broad request – can support this but make it better first;</p> <p>-Tom to organize a speaker from FLNRO RE closing the fishery in December.</p>
11.	Other	None	-
12.	Adjourn.	Closing remark: The extreme temperature today puts a sharp point on the climate. Let’s take advantage of what we can.	<p>Meeting adjourned 11:10</p> <p>July 26th = field demo day for Board members.</p> <p>No August meeting.</p>

Discussion Notes - Agenda Item 10

Tom reviewed the issue as raised by Joe Saysell’s letter last month and welcomed direction on possible actions from the Board.

- David A suggested we send a letter today and ask the Minister why they aren’t instituting a closure like they did in 1988. Chinook is in such dire condition and Cowichan is one of the bright spots. We should be doing everything we can.
- David F raised the issue that Joe’s position is not unanimously supported and that there will be opposition in the Lake Cowichan and sport fishing communities to this. For example, drift boating in Jan-Feb does not tread on redds. Perhaps it should be drift boating we ask to stop. There is a significant fishery in March. Steelhead in Jan-Feb including very ethical fly fisherman. Dave stated that without meaning any disrespect to Joe. that he does not support the position put forward.
- Tim spoke about trying to develop a collective voice and collaboration on all of these processes. Steelhead is a big issue; hot topic for many decades. There has been a lack of conversation with the province. As far as Koksilah, despite all the good work, Cowichan Tribes and the Province still have a lot of work yet to do. A community member asked about fishing on the Koksilah, Tim didn’t know what to say. We need to get to a place where we start collaborating.
- Tom added that he appreciates this conversation. These are not simple issues. He is in favour of everything that gives the salmon a better chance. However, with respect, this Board mostly does not have the technical knowledge to weigh in on this which is why I recommend we bring in guest presenters so that the whole Board can be involved in the decision.
- David Slade stated that he supports using the precautionary principal.
- David Froese offered to talk to Joe about changing the request a bit.

- David Anderson supports that we invite fish professionals to come before us to explain why this has not been done previously. There is time to get that done before next year.
- Debra added that Cowichan Tribes uses its own regulations to restrict fishing of our own members when necessary, and it is discussed by the Fisheries Committee. "I hear Joe." He is sounding an alarm of increased angling fishing. It's not just one factor – there is also sunscreen, and other stresses, like the anchorage issue. Politicians have piles on their desk. What is the message box we can hit? Elders talk about how plentiful food was. Debra supports that Dave F talk to Joe and seek a more direct message.
- Alison supported inviting Ministry staff to explain how they make this decision, and how can we make this most effective in moving a conversation forward, as Tim flagged.
- Tim supports this as well. The issue is lack of discussion and answers to questions that were already brought forward. There was a huge spotlight on chinook after the collapse in 2009 but an unspoken part of the conversation is other species (trout). It shouldn't matter if it's a provincial fish or a federal fish. For years we just didn't get answers but hopefully CWB can have a better outcome than we have had.