


<p>DRAFT BOARD MEETING AGENDA</p>	<p>Mon. Sept 27th 2021 9:30-11:30 am Online / Phone Zoom Link (see invitation)</p>	
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Meeting Chair: Chief Seymour. **Participants:** CVRD Chair Aaron Stone, Acting Chief Cindy Daniels, Debra Toporowski, David Anderson, Lori Iannidinardo, David Slade, Tim Kulchyski, David Froese, Kristine Sandhu, Linda Higgins, Alison Nicholson, Shannon Waters. **Staff:** Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson. **Absent:** Stuart Pagaduan. **Audience members:** advisors, working group members, volunteers, interested public. **Minutes/Tech support:** Jill

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

Presentations and materials can be found here: <https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/meetings/>

1.	Chief Seymour called the meeting to order at 9:25am.	Chief Seymour welcomed everyone and commented that he was anxious to see everyone in person. It is good to see everyone. It has been a long break.	Information
2.	Agenda Review / Revisions.	Debra moved to approve. Aaron seconded. No changes. Approved	Carried.
3.	Review minutes of the June meeting (no meeting in July or August).	Debra moved to approve. Aaron seconded. No changes. Approved	Carried.
4.	Announcements, Correspondence	Tom reviewed the announcements and correspondence. See Agenda for details.	Information
5.	Public Input.	No requests received.	Information
6.	Update: Process to determine new weir ownership and licensing underway.	See presentation from Tom Rutherford. Tom advised the Board that staff time to support and participate in this process is not currently funded by a project grant; savings are being used in the short term.	Information

		<p>Chief Seymour told the Board that he signed a G-to-G agreement with Minister Rankin and Conroy last week on behalf of Cowichan Tribes with other Cowichan Nation Chiefs. The agreement commits to look at the UNDRIP policy and ways we can work together. Chief Seymour said this is a good agreement, and it will help us with the weir.</p>	
7.	<p>Update: Twinned Watershed Project. Summary of Outreach Activities</p>	<p>See presentation by Jill Thompson.</p>	Information
8.	<p>Update: Drought Management 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cowichan - Koksilah 	<p>Koksilah - Alison Nicholson welcomed Chief Seymour back and provided an update on the Koksilah Drought Management Group's work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Koksilah is a First Nations rights issue as well as a water issue. Province is addressing that now. - In 2019 when water was shut down for agriculture it was a wake-up call. FLNRO then requested help from CWB and Alison as a local CVRD rep to set up regular meetings. Drought Management Group. - More groups have been joining the group including Dairy association, Fed water manager, ARDCorp, Estuary Nature Center, Farmland Advantage, Mosaic, Private Managed Forest Landowners Assoc. CVRD. - Meeting monthly to biweekly. - Funding from province allowed us to reach consensus on communications framework. - Collaborated on two good zoom community meetings (2020, 2021) - Building relationships that were not there before. <p>Key Points:</p>	Information

-	-	<p>Competing interests and perspectives are inevitable. This is a good forum for bringing perspectives together. A shift is happening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The best interests of the whole community can get lost, particularly when most people participating don't live here. - Getting agreement on the science can be difficult. - Enormous time and effort by CWB staff to make these processes succeed. Not easy, but that's what the CWB does. In 2014 when CWB worked with Dairy community to work collaboratively on water pollution, that may have helped lay the groundwork. David Tattam was engaged then and has been a key success factor in building bridges within farm community. - Not seeing enough focus on changing land use practices to help solve this problem. Focus so far is more on the water extraction. <p>See discussion details below.</p> <p>Cowichan - Tom gave an update on drought impacts on Cowichan this year. (Brian Houle unavailable. Lake levels presentation cancelled.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good snowpack – all the juveniles got out. - Rain arrived before we had to use the pumps. - Worked out as well as it could have, and that is because we were talking together. - But we absolutely need to improve the water storage. If we hadn't been lucky with the snowpack, which was rare, the Cowichan would have had a terrible year. 	
	Cowichan		

		<p>Q: David F asked whether the cold-water intake at the weir is included in the present plans/budget?</p> <p>A: Stantec looked at this. The pipe would need to be about a km. Estimate of cost is about 20 million dollars. Weir has been designed so that the siphon can be added via a retrofit, but there is not funding for that yet. Tom is working on funding for thermal modelling to assess how far downstream those effects would be a significant help.</p>	
9.	<p>Discussion – Revisioning. Setting the Course for the Next 10 years. How would Board members like to be involved?</p>	<p>See presentation from Tom. Setting the Course for the best path forward. Asked for input on 4 questions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Is this important? 2. What would this look like? 3. Would you (CWB member) commit? 4. Do you support us looking for funding for this? <p>See discussion details below.</p>	<p>Decision - Tom will seek resources over the next year for a face-to-face process but format will be determined later.</p> <p>Ongoing discussion.</p>
10.	<p>Other</p>	<p>Chief Seymour asked for an update on the gravel removal.</p> <p>Tim – participants at River Day could see CR1 sediment removal pile. CR6 is also done. Believes there was some in the Koksilah as well. Many projects underway. One of the biggest problems was trying to find large woody debris to use.</p> <p>John Charlie’s across from sewage lagoons is an important management area with effluent pipe, sedimentation, erosion – complex. Trying to improve side channel habitat, very helpful for chinook.</p> <p>Tim added that it is usually him ringing the bell on drought issues, but it’s more like a foghorn now. He said that we have turned a page. Its no longer an issue we fear is coming – its here. Cowichan</p>	-

		<p>River was 27 degrees. Significant tracts of the river Steelhead have moved or been wiped out. In Nanaimo River the heat dome killed chinook.</p> <p>Tim felt we had an adequate response to the drought this year, but we don't have an adequate representation of sampling. We had temperature at Allenby Road but what about the rest of the river. He added that we can't be scared off by a price tag. Keep the momentum going. Maximize all that we are doing to get a holistic management system for the Cowichan. Covid was the least of our issues this year. We are in a better place because of these discussions.</p>	
11.	Adjourn	Chief Seymour adjourned the meeting at 11:20	Adjourned

Discussion Details

8. Drought Management

Q: Lori asked for clarification about wells and water use. Cow Bay is 70% is farmland and as CVRD rep she gets complaints that farmers water 24/7 while CowBay residents are on Stage 3 restrictions.

A: Irrigation from wells was also shut down, as well as 2 industrial users. Alison added that many people don't even know if they get their water from Koksilah or not.

- Tim clarified that extraction wells for irrigation are licensed. However, it's not well understood how the wells and surface extraction interact.
- Alison added that when the 17 irrigators went on alternating 5-day schedule, water managers could see the difference in water levels. It did work but wasn't enough this year.

9 Revisioning

- Cindy supports an in person facilitated session, and that its important to keep doors open.
- Lori agreed that it's a good idea to stop and reevaluate.
- Shannon agreed it is important and prefers a facilitated retreat. She committed to participate and supports looking for funding.
- David S spoke in support of looking for resources to support this discussion as our core funding is stretched very thin.
- Oliver Brandes – added that there will be a significant reorganization with FLNRO and the Watershed Security process means that the CWB model will become more significant, not less. Getting organized is important. Don't underestimate the role the CWB plays as a model. Keep

in mind the Canada Water Agency and the potential for a federal version of the Water Security Act.

- David F. said he felt compelled to point out that our success is only theoretical. We have not been successful in looking after our watershed. Practical decisions about what we do in our watershed are based on an industrial corporation in Malaysia. Its not doing the organisms in the watershed any good. Practical improvements like removing gravel have been Cowichan Tribes, not the CWB.
- Tim said the timing is great for us to talk about the successes we have had. At the flows committee we have tangible successes like the ability to look at flows together and have a meaningful discussion. Cowichan views are a strength. It's equally important for Cowichan to have the discussion within Cowichan. This (CWB) has worked well and has strength. We will need to help people understand that moving the watershed goals forward isn't prejudicial to advancing Cowichan interests. We are the pilot for many initiatives so there is greater uncertainty.
- [David Anderson - tech difficulties.]
- Tom added that David F's comment are good reason to stop and rethink. There is no better model, so if we're not doing a good enough job, then we either pick our game up, or drop it. We need to do something, and since there isn't better option out there, we better keep at it.
- Aaron – making progress at levels that will make a difference. Movement of senior government to support and fund the weir. Could do a lot of good work in person.
- Decision - Tom will seek resources over the next year for a face-to-face process but format will be determined later.