


<p>DRAFT BOARD MEETING Minutes</p>	<p>Mon. April 25th, 2022 9:30-11:30 am Online / Phone Zoom Link (see invitation)</p>	
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Meeting Chair: CWB Co-Chair Lydia Hwitsu; **Board Participants:** CWB co-chair Lori Iannidinardo, Alison Nicholson, Linda Higgins, Shannon Waters, David Anderson, David Slade, David Froese, Kristine Sandhu, Cindy Williams, Stuart Pagaduan, Debra Toporowski. **Staff:** Tom Rutherford, Jill Thompson.

Regrets: Tim Kulchyski

Guests: Jeff Anderson, Geomorphic Consulting; Cheri Ayers, BioAyers Consulting - Twinned Watersheds Project

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

Minutes/Tech support: Jill 250-709-0492

9:00-9:30am – Open conversation/visiting for those interested. Meeting begins at 9:30am.

1	Welcome	Chief Hwitsum called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and welcomed the Board members.	Information
2	Agenda Review / Revisions	Chief Hwitsum reviewed the agenda. Motion to approve by David S, 2 nd by Debra. No opposition.	Approved without changes.
	Reflections from the Co-Chairs.	<p>Chief Hwitsum welcomed everyone to the meeting and reflected on the good work and commitment over the past 10 years that has led to the development of the Xwulq’selu Water Sustainability Plan and the Healthy Watersheds Initiative, and the Water Security Fund and other ways the CWB work has been leveraging provincial commitment in the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples here in BC.</p> <p>Chair Iannidinardo reflected on serving with Chief Hwitsum on the original Board 10 years ago. She expressed pride at seeing the Chief standing on the stage with Premier Horgan to announce watershed funding, and being happy to see the Koksilah getting the attention it needs after being left out of earlier</p>	

		<p>planning for the Cowichan watershed. Chair Iannidinardo also shared her observation that the tributaries around Cowichan Bay look like veins and a heart, mirroring how everything is connected.</p>	
3	New Board Appointments and round of introductions	<p>The Board members in attendance introduced themselves and their interest in serving on the CWB.</p>	Information
4	Orientation and refresher RE key Board documents and policies	<p>Tom provided a quick orientation/refresher presentation for the Board members RE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is on the Board - How decisions are made - When meetings happen - Where you can find out more - Core Principles - Targets 	Information
5	Review minutes of the Jan 31 Board meeting (no Feb or March meeting)	<p>Motion to approve the minutes as circulated by Kristine, 2nd by David S. No corrections, no opposition. Adopted.</p> <p>Chief Hwitsum inquired about action items and how those are handled. Tom confirmed that action items are brought forward embedded within subsequent agendas, not as a stand-alone agenda item.</p>	Minutes adopted.
6	Announcements and Correspondence	<p>Tom reviewed the announcements and correspondence as listed on the agenda.</p> <p>Alison added that Koksilah Connections research program at UVic is underway. Last year community volunteers helped with pilot sampling to look at water levels. Koksilah Watershed Working Group has been helping. It is fun and easy and she encouraged interested people to ask her to connect them.</p>	Information

		<p>Chief Hwitsum added that Minister Osborn came to the territory to see some of the work in the lower Cowichan. She encouraged us to invite her on a tour of the watershed.</p> <p>Shannon added that she sits at a provincial health advisory table and the priority setting exercise included a session around reconciliation with the environment and health, including drinking water. What are the different approaches we are taking to protect drinking water, including source water?</p>	
7	Public Input	No requests for public input. Tom reviewed the process for people requesting time for input.	Information
8	Draft CWB Annual Report and 2022 Business Plan for feedback and adoption.	<p>Tom presented a quick overview of the documents as circulated, and reminded the Board that these are the documents required through our Governance Manual Accountability Measures.</p> <p>Stuart asked about the confirmation of the hulq'umi'num language included in the Recognition Statement at the end of the Annual Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lydia and Tom replied that a process was undertaken with Chief and Council in 2018 to approve the development of that statement for the Governance Manual. <p>Alison asked about how sustainable our finances are given that they have remained stable for over 10 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom commented that there is a lot of work and it is a struggle and it is a bit tight. • Jill added that we make due with what we've got, but even that is becoming very tight with inflation and rising costs. We are as lean as we can be (no budget already for rent, mileage, or phone). We are forecasting an additional \$20k starting in 2023 hopefully from the Watershed Security Fund. • David S. added, as our Society Treasurer, that he feels it's a 'travesty' that there has not 	<p>Jill to correct Business Plan as per 2 comments at left.</p> <p>Tom to present both reports to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD councils.</p>

		<p>been better support from the province over the past decade, and that the process of receiving the CVRD contribution has been a struggle as well. He hopes we can address both of those things – amount and flow of funds – going forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lori responded that procedures at CVRD are complex and it’s a challenge and the water function is further complexity but we are working on it and she is encouraged. <p>Due to time considerations, the Business Plan was not reviewed in detail but has been previously circulated and input was sought.</p> <p>Lydia requested a change on page 4 in Background – Request change from “equal” to “shared decision-making” between the governments. That’s a fairer representation of what we’re doing.</p> <p>Debra – noted that on page 4 the draft reads: “CVRD is home to over 80,000 humans including 5000 indigenous people.” Actually, CVRD population in 2021 census was 89,013 and in the Federal 2016 census population for Indigenous residents was 9660.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Hwitsum suggested that 5000 is likely the approximate Quw’utsun mustimuhw, as opposed to total indigenous, population. <p>Debra moved to adopt both reports as circulated, with the change above, pending acceptance by Cowichan Tribes and CVRD councils. 2nd by Alison. No opposition. Motion carried. Both reports adopted with thanks from the Chief.</p>	
9	<p>Presentation: Findings of the Twinned Watersheds Project, Koksilah EFlows and Fish</p>	<p>Tom welcomed and introduced Jeff Anderson and Cheri Ayers and reviewed the innovative work and extensive field work in the Twinned Watershed project. Tom recognized the value of this project, being not only about flows but also the relationship between the water and the habitat it flows through. Tom also pointed out that Jeff’s report was</p>	Information

	Habitat components.	recognized as very strong science, peer reviewed by respected fishery biologists in the province. Watch the full presentation with Q & A here. https://youtu.be/CbzuZC7hP4Y	
10	Other	<p>Stuart requested the Board start with a humble beginning of a simple list of hul'qumi'num words and phrases about water and places, and start connecting the language to the land. Stuart also requested that we look at signage, and start using hul'qumi'num words on signs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Hwitsum agreed with that and suggested that some of the words and phrases in <i>Nutsamat kws yaay'us tth qa'</i> and the declaration statement might be a good place to start. 	Action – staff to follow up with Chief and Stuart on the proposal to develop hul'qumi'num language
11	Adjourn. Next meeting Mon. May 30	Chair Hwitsum reflected on the importance of this work to our watershed and ourselves and expressed her appreciation for the people around the table doing this good work. Meeting adjourned.	Meeting adjourned.