


DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES	Mon. Sept 26 2022 9:30-11:30 am Location Siem Lelum Gym Dining Hall 5574 River Rd (Duncan)	
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Meeting Chair: Chief Lydia Hwitsum. **Attending:** CVRD Chair Lori Iannidinardo, Tim Kulchyski (from 10am), Alison Nicholson, Shannon Waters, David Anderson, David Slade, Kristine Sandhu. **Absent:** Debra Toporowski, Stuart Pagaduan, Linda Higgins, David Froese. **Staff:** Lisa Maria Fox, Jill Thompson, Tom Rutherford, Heather Pritchard/Chris Steeger. **Audience members:** Barry Hetschko, Kate Miller, Cole Smith, Kelly Loch, Rodger Hunter, Murray Ball.

Coffee time and visiting 9-9:30am.

1	Welcome.	Welcoming comments from Chair Chief Lydia Hwitsum. Chief acknowledged the changes in CWB team that will be reviewed during the meeting (#7)	Roundtable discussion
3	Agenda Review / Revisions	Chief noted that Item #4 – June minutes – would be deferred. Kristine moved approval of the agenda. 2 nd by Lori. No further changes.	Carried.
4	Review minutes of the June meeting	Deferred to next meeting	
5	Announcements and Correspondence	Jill reviewed the announcements and correspondence as noted in the agenda package. Lisa and Shannon announced an upcoming workshop.	Information
6	Public Input	None	Information
7	CWB Interim Leadership Team - members, purpose, and draft TOR for discussion and ratification.	Jill introduced the proposed Leadership Team model to support Lisa and Jill during this transition. This is not a decision-making committee. The role of this team is to provide guidance to staff to keep the organization on track and meeting our commitments while we undergo the Setting the Course process, and/or until a new Executive Director is secured. The Leadership Team members were approved by the Co-Chairs earlier and are Debra, Tim, and Kristine, representing both partners and the Society. They will meet every 2 weeks.	The Leadership Team is Debra, Kristine and Tim.

		<p>Lisa Fox, our new CWB Business Manager was welcomed by the Co-Chairs and introduced herself to the Board. Lisa’s work will include coordinating the Setting the Course Workshop project, creating an online file structure for the CWB, and taking over financial management. A roundtable of Board introductions followed. Contact Lisa at lisa@cowichanwatershedboard.ca.</p> <p>Jill reviewed the rest of the staff team – see Discussion Details below.</p>	
8	Setting the Course - planning workshops.	<p>Tom reminded the Board why we are undertaking internal planning at this time. Many of the people who were involved in the Watershed Co-Governance Conversations workshops in 2017-2018 have changed both within CWB, Cowichan Tribes and CVRD. The provincial policy landscape has changed. We have made major progress on files. This is a chance to examine who we are, what we want, and how we can best work together on that. Tom reflected that the 2018 workshop resulted in a comment from Chief Hwitsum that with the inclusion of hul’qumi’num language and principles, Cowichan people could now ‘see themselves’ in the CWB governance documents. This workshop series is about all you being able to see yourselves in the CWB’s work and future and Tom encouraged full participation, in person if possible. Lisa outlined that contract negotiations are underway with Jana Kotaska as facilitator.</p> <p>Two half-day workshops plus a meal are anticipated at the end of Oct or early Nov. The goal is to be wrapped up before December.</p> <p>There will also be a planning Zoom call to tighten the scope with Jana and a small committee</p> <p>Chief Hwitsum added that it will be good to clarify our authorities in preparation for what is happening now. We are taking on a whole lot more good work.</p>	<p>All CWB members are asked to attend two half-day workshops.</p> <p>Dates TBD but estimated end of Oct or early Nov.</p>
BREAK			

<p>9</p>	<p>CWB Target Review - Working Group Proposals for Updated Targets for Watershed Health. Riparian Health Target.</p> <p>Update on Providence Farm forest projects.</p>	<p>Heather Pritchard presented the proposal from the Riparian Health Working Group for updates to the CWB’s Riparian Health Target and Indicators for Board input and ratification.</p> <p>Target: The WG had flagged that the current language “enjoy the benefits of” means different things to different people so the WG recommended a more clear reference to ecological benefits. The WG also requested the inclusion of wetlands to the types of riparian habitats. The proposed revised target is: <i>“We want to protect and restore functioning of streamside, lakefront, wetland, and estuary habitats.”</i> See feedback below. Decision is that Heather will take this feedback back to the WG for a revision.</p> <p>Indicators: the current indicator is outdated. The group recommends indicators that can be measured in 5-year windows. They also recommend expanding the geographic context to include Cowichan River, Cowichan Lake and Koksilah River and changing the term ‘impacted’ to ‘disturbed’.</p> <p>Current: 50% of intact riparian habitat protected by 2021 10% of impacted riparian habitats restored by 2021. Recommendation: <i>By 2025, 10% of disturbed riparian habitats along Cowichan River, Cowichan Lake, Koksilah have undergone successful restoration treatments</i></p> <p>See feedback below. Decision is that we need some baseline information before a new indicator can be established. Action – Heather to propose that the WG develop an indicator about gathering the appropriate baseline data to measure progress toward this target.</p> <p>Heather also provided an update on the Providence Farm Forest lands, following up on the earlier request for guidance from the Providence Farm Board to the CWB. Providence Farm has contracted Heather and Chris to create a high-level forest mgmt. plan for the property,</p>	<p>Action: Heather will take the Board’s feedback on the Riparian Target and Indicator back to the Working Group.</p>
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		<p>using an ecological approach. There are very high values for therapy and spirituality, and ecology, being entirely within a red-listed ecological community Coastal Douglas Fir. Heather referred to the forest as containing the most amazing cedar she has seen in the area – with bedrock keeping the cedar roots damp and they are doing well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Hwitsum added that this property was cut out of the Cowichan reserve in a pre-confederation taking of 400 acres and included a residential school. 	
10	Weir and WSP updates	<p>Tom Rutherford provided an update on the Koksilah Watershed Sustainability Process, acknowledging the tremendous amount of good science being compiled to aid decision makers, such as the UVic team lead by Prof. Tom Gleeson looking at the connection between surface and groundwater.</p> <p>Similarly for the Cowichan River weir, thanks to the CVRD's BC Salmon Restoration Innovation Fund grant, we now know what the new weir will look like, including the documentation of upstream impacts. Tom outlined the current processes underway for the weir. See details below.</p>	Information
11	Other	Recognizing departing Board members and staff. CoChairs, Board members	Information
12	Next CWB meeting Mon Oct. 31 st . Adjourn.	Meeting adjourned 11:36 followed by a group photo outside and lunch in the dining hall.	Decision (October location)

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

Discussion Details

7. Interim Leadership Team. Jill outlined the current contract staff leading our projects.

- Tom is remaining on contract to the CWB to lead our weir and Koksilah priority projects at about 2-3 days/week.
- Heather and Chris (Kennen Consulting) will be taking on a contract to complete the target review and re-activate the Target Working Groups around the new targets.

- Chris is supporting Elodie Roger to complete the 5-year attainment WQ sampling project due to an injury for Elodie. This project is work that CWB is undertaking for Cowichan Tribes and in collaboration with marine sampling. MoE supporting as well.
- Jana Kotaska will be contracted to facilitate the Setting the Course workshops.
- Jill is providing transition support to Lisa and then will be shifting back into communications and community engagement roles.

Tom added that Rodger Hunter's original vision for the Board saw a team of people supporting the work, and its great to see our capacity and team grow like this.

9 Riparian Health Target

The Board provided the following response to the Working Group's proposed target revision: ***"We want to protect and restore functioning of streamside, lakefront, wetland, and estuary habitats."***

- Shannon – is there a better word than 'restore' that is more bidirectional? Indicating how it goes two ways? Nourish? Seeking a better word.
- David S – understands this target to be about human degradation of riparian habitats – restoring what has been lost. Not a holding pattern for where we are but rolling the clock back to when there was so much destruction.
- Tim – trying to acknowledge that impacts are human impacts. Rejuvenate?
- Chief – it involves both taking from and doing to. We don't have to limit ourselves to one word.
- David A – "enhance" could also be included. For example, the weir is about compensating for, not restoration of, the original river. We are striving to achieve a better balance and more natural flow – something better. Can we work that in? Geo-engineering should be recognized as a positive benefit even though it's an interference with "natural" processes.

The Board provided the following response to the Working Group's proposed target indicator: "By 2025, 10% of disturbed riparian habitats along Cowichan River, Cowichan Lake, Koksilah have undergone successful restoration treatments

- Alison - What do we mean by protected?
 - Heather clarified that the WG decided to work on that on a project basis.
- Alison -have we been collecting info about this so far.
 - Heather clarified that different groups have collected their own info but it has not been brought all together. That would have to be the first step.
- Alison – suggested that we need a baseline before we can decide whether this is doable.
 - Heather – agreed that baseline data would be important first step.
- Shannon – agreed that the goal was percentage based and rolling that forward without a baseline isn't definable. Can we define what will be expanded by 50%?
 - Heather – suggested that based on this feedback, the next indicator could be the gathering of baseline data so we understand the starting place better, then in a couple years, reassess the indicator then.
- Chief – agreed that it would be arbitrary to just add 5 more years without understanding the baseline.

10. Weir licensing – Tom Rutherford

Current Process

- Cowichan Tribes has assembled a small working group, and larger decision-making table, facilitated by Compass Resource Management. The group includes staff from Cowichan Tribes, CVRD, CWB and Catalyst/Paper Excellence. The larger group includes CAOs and senior managers from these same partners.
- Last spring a MOU was signed to get the application submitted. The application has now been postponed until after the elections.

Challenges

- There is \$24 million available from the Federal government available to Cowichan Tribes, but it can't be freed up until all the funding is in place (additional \$14mil). Ownership is established. Timeline is very tight. We need to make progress in 2023.
- CWB CoChairs Hwitsum and Iannidinardo will be meeting with Min Osborne next month to ask for:
 - \$14million matching funds
 - MoF authorization staff to be resourced to deal with the significant scale of this licensing process.
 - Good faith negotiation around compensation.
- Provincial staffing changes. Happy to say that continued commitment seems to be there as new people take on the positions.
- There is no template for this, unlike the Water Use Plan. However, we will be ready – we will have TOR and a Workplan ready by the end of the year.
- Collaborative approach is new. This is very different to have Province making decisions over the watershed collaboratively.
- This is about both water and land – we need the right ministries at the table.
- Government to Government work needs to be resourced. Larry George estimates he needs 8 staff members.

David A – are our elected officials working to bridge that Infrastructure Canada gap?

- Tom replied that staff turnover for the DMAF funding management has been extreme – there have been 6 different project leaders so we are starting over every time we meet. We are organizing a Federal Government Relations strategy to figure this out with people who more experienced than him at this. We need not only operations staff but also elected officials at both levels of government.

Chief - acknowledged that these are huge bodies of work. Clarified that Tom is representing us (CWB) at these tables. Confirmed.