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| DRAFT BOARD MEETING Minutes | Mon. January 30 2023 9:30-11:30 am |  |
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Meeting Chair: CVRD Chair Aaron Stone Participants: Chief Lydia Hwitsum, Stuart Pagaduan, Alison Nicholson, Shannon Waters, David Slade, Kristine Sandhu, Michelle Staples, and Oliver Brandes (Advisor)
Regrets: David Anderson, David Froese, Linda Higgins, Tim Kulchyski
Staff/Project Leaders: Lisa Maria Fox, Jill Thompson, Tom Rutherford, Heather Pritchard
Guest Speakers: Oliver Brandes, POLIS Project for Watershed Governance; Natasha Overduin, Compass Facilitation (supporting Weir and WSP projects); Qwiahqultuhw Robert George, Sandra Thomson, and Rupert Koyote, Quw’utsun Cultural Connections/Indigenous Land Trust project; Judy Brayden, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society
Audience members: Working group members, volunteers, interested public. All welcome.

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| 1 | Welcome | Welcoming from Chair Aaron Stone, CVRD | |
| 2 | Agenda Review / Revisions | David Slade moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Kristine. No changes. Carried. | Carried. |
| 3 | Review October 2022 Minutes | Kristine moved to adopt the agenda, Seconded by David Slade. Carried. | Carried. |
| 4 | Announcements & Correspondence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron introduced the new CVRD Board Appointee Policy saying that the policy speaks for itself. It provides accountability back to the CVRD and helps to update the CVRD Board on what is happening in the community. The goal is to keep dialogue going and keep the rest of the CVRD Board in the loop on the work of the CWB Jill reviewed the other correspondence and announcements listed on the bottom of the agenda, and available in the agenda package. Chief Hwitsum announced that Cowichan Tribes is working to formalize steps in the Koksilah with regards to a Government-to-Government agreement (Provincial Government and Cowichan Tribes). | Information |
| 5 | Public Input | Judy Brayden, Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society Board member, presented their fundraising project to create a coffee table photography book: Witnessing the Water, an authentic relationship. Judy | Decision to draft a letter of support, subject to Cowichan |

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| | | <p>described how the project aligns with and advances the CWS Watershed Connections Target around recognition and understanding that water and health are linked, and everything is interconnected. Judy shared an excerpt from the Preface and requested a letter from CWB expressing support in principle for this project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lydia - suggests grounding the book in the recognition and existence of Cowichan rights in our territory - suggest there be an acknowledgement of Quw'utsun Mustimuhw rights in the watershed. Judy clarified that there is a draft acknowledgement, but she would appreciate help. Lydia will connect Judy with Hilda Page to finalize. • David Slade proposed a motion: CWB will draft a letter of support, subject to approval of Cowichan Tribes, that we have an appropriate and adequate recognition of the Cowichan Tribes rights and title, and recognition of relationship to the Cowichan River. Second by Kristine. Carried. | Tribes approval as per motion. |
| 6 | Setting the Course Highlights & Next Steps | <p>Lisa provided an overview of the Setting the Course workshop on January 19th, which brought together the key partners in the Cowichan Watershed Board to reaffirm the mandate, priorities, and role of the Board. We recognized key champions of the work of the Board, honouring Chip Seymour, Larry George, and Kate Miller for their valuable contributions over the years.</p> <p>We then reviewed the current state and environmental conditions we are working in; current commitments; and what we heard during the survey and scoping interviews. We also explored the term “governance” and how we view the role of the Board going forward. A common theme throughout the day was the guiding principle nutsalmat qws yaay'us tth qa'. Board reflections on the day are captured in the notes below.</p> | Discussion |
| 7 | Overview of Advisory Role | <p>Oliver Brandes Addressed the Board, recognizing that the CWB has had many advisors over the years. He sees value in having advisors in a more formal way. They have expertise and links to the wider community (not employed by, nor representing), have long term relationship (continuity/depth), have some special knowledge or contribution.</p> | Action - Staff to circulate the MOU and the recommendations for the Role of Advisor. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff recommends adding the Role of Advisor to the governance manual to formalize the process and role. The Advisor would be appointed by co-chairs and include a number of formalized or indicated responsibilities. • Responsibilities would also include sharing the progress, achievements, and knowledge gained by the CWB with others to inspire and gain support of the wider community; helping to identify strategic partnerships, and; regular participation in CWB activities and meetings, and supporting Staff. <p>Board Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron - it's good to have a formal policy that guides us on how we work together with advisors in the future. • Chief Hwitsum - part of the success of the Watershed Board, has been building the relationship and connections with POLIS, and linkages to the work. We want to be able to mirror this success and how we build success for others, build relationships, and find those intersections and overlaps, and have the opportunity to influence government policy. Good to have this formalized, value in the formalized. • Direction for Staff: Circulate both the MOU and the recommendations for the Role of Advisor. Note that the MOU is an agreement between Board and Advisors. | |
| 8 | <p>Operational Updates - CWB Draft Annual Report - CWB Draft Business Plan Priorities -Communications Plan</p> | <p>Jill / Lisa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to time constraints, Jill recommended deferral of the Annual Report update and asked the Board to review the draft in the agenda package and provide any feedback. • Lisa reviewed the layout of the Business Plan, reviewed each of the priority areas in terms of Objectives and Activities being planned for. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This summary sent to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD Staff for review February 6th • Draft Plan presented to Leadership Team for February 16th • Draft Final for Board Review/Approval February 27th | <p>Action - Board members invited to review the draft Annual Report, Business Plan and Communications Plan and provide feedback to staff.</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Year Budget to Society for February 27th AGM • Due to time constraints, Jill asked the Board to refer to the Communications Plan presentation in the Agenda package. | |
| 9 | <p>Project Updates</p> <p>Cowichan Weir</p> <p>Koksilah Watershed Sustainability Plan</p> <p>Data Sharing Collaborative - Deferred to BP</p> <p>Water Quality Study - Deferred to BP</p> | <p>Natasha Overduin</p> <p>Weir: the conservation water license is in, and the ball is getting rolling on the license process. Kate Miller is on point for the license. We have made modest gains in progress and are currently modifying timelines and funding. We are cautiously optimistic with future funding. February is direction-seeking month, looking forward to going to both Boards for leadership. The CWB needs to keep driving the process (convening and driving the process forward. The committee advises reinstating the senior level table, to provide oversight and direction. We need a clear sense about Cowichan Tribes and CVRD interests in ownership. Not asking for final decisions on being an owner, we do need clear sense of interests and winning conditions to bring this to the negotiations.</p> <p>Role of CWB is to provide oversight, centering around the health of the river. Continue to press the issues, ask for updates, ask hard questions, discuss and advocate for this project for the watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Hwitsum – regarding next steps, is there something more we need to do with regards to advocacy? Have we received Federal Resources? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natasha - the Feds haven't released the resources, we are trying to establish the amount of matching funding through the province. Staff also put in an application for BC Salmon Restoration Initiative Funding to support staff resources on this project. The amount of federal funding is contingent on who the new weir owner is. • Need to discuss with the CVRD Board and CT Tumuhw' Committee and raise the profile of this across the board. • Chief Hwitsum – Is the federal funding subject to provincial funding or settling the issue of ownership? What does it mean the "license is in"? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Natasha - The application is in, and it is moving along. First steps are getting going, | Information/ Discussion |

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| | | <p>and it looks like good resources are being put forward.</p> <p>Kate - There is the drought side and the flood side – these are two issues that need to be reviewed in terms of ownership of the weir. Trying to move both of those pieces together at the same time. Depending on who the owner is, it will be a different portion of the funding (FN / Local Gov / Provincial). The province is working hard to move this forward.</p> <p>Koksilah WSP – We are making good progress, encouraged to see the effort from the province to move this forward. Cowichan Tribes has a clear line of sight, and through its teachings is guiding the province. We will be finalizing briefings and approvals in the coming weeks. The upfront investment to establish a G2G should help make this a transparent and efficient process going forward. There is recognition of the urgency of the issues in the watershed. Looking forward to the next phase, where we will be meeting with CVRD, and Mosaic (to help build solutions).</p> <p>Role of the CWB - provide continuity on the strategic vision and purpose. Thinking ahead, the end game, where we want to be. Provide administrative support. Also, getting into the watershed, engaging stakeholders, and communicating. The planning team is leaning on the CWB for that.</p> | |
| 10 | Presentation: Quw’utsun Cultural Connections | <p>Qwiahqultuhw Robert George, Sandra Thomson, and Rupert Koyote Board invitation to Xpey’ workshop - Feb 28-March 2nd</p> <p>Sandra outlined that a group of Quw’utsun elders have initiated a project to address the plight of Xpey’ Cedar trees in regions like Cowichan valley, where biologists have predicted their extinction. Xpey’ is a very valuable and interconnected part of Quw’utsun culture, and this predicted outcome is unacceptable to the elders. The Xpey’ Project will be seeking ways and means of ensuring Cedar can survive.</p> <p>Rupert What sets this Indigenous Land Trust apart, is its cultural conservation covenant - adaptive conservation covenant (stewardship and its importance to the</p> | Information |

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| | | <p>community culturally can create flexibility). More scope for active use of land (active conservation), including opportunities for restoration and other.</p> <p>What we need in the present day is an ecological baseline study of the Cowichan watershed. We would like to bring the cultural piece, identify areas that have cultural significance. Including the best opportunities (in the future) for Cedar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jill asked whether the ILT might be able to address smaller covenant areas because the minimum size of a covenant is quite large, and people might be able to protect small stands of cedar this way. | |
| 11 | Other | <p>David: February 25th - united for old-growth rally in Victoria.</p> <p>Lydia: Intentions Paper coming out with regards to the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund. Co-Development with FN and Province.</p> | Information |
| 12 | Adjourn | <p>Next CWB meeting - Mon Feb 27th. [The Cowichan Watershed Society AGM will follow the Feb meeting.]</p> | Chair adjourned the meeting. |

Setting the Course – Reflections by the Board on the Workshop January 19th, 2023

David Slade - Inspired by the number of people and stature of people engaged and have been engaged for 11 years of the board. There was a timeline on the wall that showed what had been accomplished, which ballooned over time. It's inspiring to show the trajectory of stewardship successes that have occurred in our community with the CWB as a guiding entity. Reinforced the value that the CWB and the people bring to our community.

Aaron – It's important to realize how so many people worked so hard in the lead up to the formation of the board. In the community, the reputation and work has created awareness of the importance of the Board and the watershed. We have so far to go but it's important to reflect on how much progress we have made. Momentum is such an important thing.

Chief Hwitsum – The timeline showed a lead up to an explosion of activity, with clear linkages to what the CWB influenced or helped to create collaboratively. Key takeaway is that we need to take time to reinforce our collaboration and our relations. We need to reinforce and reaffirm our authorities we are bringing forward, recognize the good work we are doing, and the strength of our collaboration and the relationship which is fundamental to keep going with this work. Another takeaway is that Cowichan Tribes drinking water issues, and the questions raised in the community: what are we doing to take care of our water? We need to do more with our Cowichan Tribes newsletter about the collaboration we have with our partners and messaging of the good work, projects, commitments, and efforts. At a higher level, we need to continue to find ways to shine a light on our collaborative approach and the outcomes that result from that. Others are looking to find ways to work together as indigenous people and local government - there are many contentious issues that we need to find ways through. These are the next steps to our relationship piece.

Oliver – It's critical to recognize how important it is to keep those points of connections. 5 years ago, we did some important work before COVID, we need these types of retreats regularly. Reinforce the key narratives

and principles on how you want to operate. Working on many of these issues around the province, and the country – I find it's a combination of the heart and the long-term commitment that this group has that makes it special. But it needs to be nurtured, the respect and the relationships - this is the special sauce. Keep doing that and be mindful of that. Jill is part of this (providing all the little touches) this will keep you successful.

David Slade – It is people like Kate, Gerry Giles, and Lydia, these inspirational women that played a role in launching the Board, and then Alison and Rodger – who are some of the unsung heroes of this organization. Jill has carried this Watershed Board through some very critical times. Jill guided us to the next stage, to bring in Tom Rutherford, Jill has been again doing the lion's share of the heavy lifting, keeping the Board moving forward, she really guides the heart and soul for the CWB.