


DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES	Monday February 27th 2023 9:30-11:30am CVRD Boardroom, 175 Ingram Street, 2nd Floor	
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Meeting Chair: Chief Lydia Hwitsum; **Participants:** CVRD Chair Aaron Stone, Alison Nicholson, Michelle Staples, Tim Kulchyski, Shannon Waters, Kristine Sandhu, David Slade

Regrets: David Froese, Stuart Pagaduan, David Anderson, Linda Higgins, Oliver Brandes

Staff/Project Leaders: Jill Thompson, Lisa Maria Fox, Tom Rutherford, Heather Pritchard.

Guest Speakers: Jana Kotaska, Setting the Course Workshop Facilitator

1	Welcome	Welcome from Chief Lydia Hwitsum Cowichan Tribes	
2	Agenda Review / Revisions	Aaron Stone moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Kristine. No changes.	Carried
3	Review Jan 30th 2023 Minutes	Aaron Stone moved to adopt the minutes. Seconded by Michelle Staples.	Carried
4	Announcements & Correspondence	<p>Jill thanked Ellen Campbell for bringing water from across the Watershed to our meeting today.</p> <p>Meetings will now rotate between in-person meetings at Siem Lelum, CVRD, and online using Zoom.</p> <p>Jill reviewed the correspondence - see below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chief Hwitsum and Chair Stone indicated they would check their calendars RE attending the High Ground Conference next month. This would be an opportunity to showcase the example of partnership between local government and First Nations working together. <p>VIU-Cowichan has reinstated the use of the lecture hall for the Speaker Series on the 3rd Monday of the month from 7-9pm, during the months the campus is open at night.</p> <p>A member of the community suggested that the CWB be nominated for a Community Excellent Award.</p>	<p>Action for Staff: Follow up with CoChairs regarding speaking engagement at the High Ground Conference.</p>

5	Public Input	<p>Alistair MacGregor, MP Cowichan-Malahat-Langford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alistair noted that since election in 2015 he has been advocating for the weir in Ottawa and he encouraged the Board to consider him a resource if they need further assistance. ● Alistair is corresponding with the Ministry of Transport and Port of Vancouver on the issue of anchorages. He has introduced a Private Members Bill, to ban anchorages in our bays. Alistair noted that these bays should not be used as an industrial parking lot for the port of Vancouver. The bill follows engagement with First Nations. Alistair is encouraging First Nation Chiefs, stakeholders and concerned citizens to write letters. Alistair invited the Board to take an interest and join in the advocacy and letter writing campaign. Freighter traffic is only going to get worse. <p>Genevieve Singleton, Cowichan Stewardship Round Table</p> <p>Genevieve thanked the Board and Jill for helping to raise funds for the 2022 River Day events. She noted that remaining funds are being used to support guided nature walks. There is still space on March 8th with Jared Williams and March 18th with Della Rice. Genevieve noted that the Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable will not host a River Day this year, as they will be taking a gap year.</p> <p>Chief Hwitsum noted she is thankful for the work of the Round Table.</p>	Information
6	Confirm Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CWB Advisor Oliver Brandes	<p>Motion to approve the MOU in principle subject to final review by Co-Chairs. Moved by Aaron Stone, seconded by Michelle Staples.</p> <p>Discussion: This MOU is the first time we have formalized the role of the Advisor. This is proposed as a format to clarify the expectations and terms of the relationship between the Board and Advisors.</p>	<p>Action for Staff: Circulate the Advisor MOU to CO-Chairs for review and signature.</p>

7	<p>Presentation: Setting the Course Conclusions, Confirmations, and Next Steps</p>	<p>Jana Kotaska presented an overview of the Setting the Course Report, including goals and methods of the workshop series, watershed governance concepts, proposed future roles of the Board, a draft Mission Statement, next steps and recommendations.</p> <p>See Detailed Discussion Notes below.</p> <p>Motion to accept the report and move forward to our primary partners. Moved by Aaron Stone. Seconded by Michelle Staples. Carried.</p> <p>Motion to direct staff to work with the Leadership Team to review all the recommendations and develop a plan for implementation (operationalize with budget considerations). Moved by Aaron Stone. Seconded by Michelle Staples. Carried.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● while core funding has not increased, the scope, role, and inflation has. Having a business case will help to increase funding. ● there is a need for additional staff, and a need to engage elders and youth. ● as seen in the 2022 Annual Report, Cowichan Tribes are supporting a great deal of the staffing and administration budget through project contracts and administrative fees for grant admin, with more anticipated with the Koksilah WSP. Currently a discussion is underway with CVRD to increase their contribution, relative to Cowichan Tribes contribution. ● Jana suggested that Board members could volunteer to meet and finalize a working Mission statement based on existing draft to be reviewed during future strategic planning session. 	<p>Action for Staff: Draft a cover letter for the STC report for the Co-Chairs; distribute STC report and letter to Cowichan Tribes and to CVRD Board and Staff.</p> <p>Action for Staff: Review recommendations in Report, draft operational plan for review with Leadership Team.</p> <p>Action for Board Members: Volunteer to participate in a review of the Mission Statement.</p>
8	<p>Operational Updates a) Review draft Annual Report for completion</p>	<p>Due to time constraints, Jill briefly referenced the Annual Report. Staff are seeking the Board’s approval to complete a final edit and present the Annual Report as a final product to partners, rather than as a draft to seek further input.</p>	<p>Action for Staff: Edit and finalize Annual Report for Co-Chair signature. Circulate and present to</p>

	and presentation to CWB, CVRD and Cowichan Tribes.	<p>Motion to move the Annual Report forward and circulate to partners. Moved by Aaron Stone. Seconded by Kristine, Carried.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Jill noted that there are a few steps left to do, such as include a Co-chair message and including a section on challenges.</p>	Cowichan Tribes and CVRD.
	b) Approve draft Business Plan for presentation to CVRD and Cowichan Tribes.	<p>Lisa presented highlights of the Draft Business Plan, saying that it was fairly consistent with last year, noting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a renewed focus on communications and community engagement, ● work on watershed information, knowledge, and data (WIKD). ● organizational resilience is a pen-to-paper exercise to include language that addresses the administrative work required for organizational health. <p>Lisa reviewed the planning, noting the priorities have been shared multiple times since November with the Board, the Leadership Team, and recently with Cowichan Tribes. CVRD staff also received a copy of the working table of priority activities.</p> <p>Motion to accept and approve the 2023-2025 Business plan (with amendments as requested), and direct Staff to Present to Tumuhw Committee, CVRD Board, and Cowichan Tribes Council. Moved by David Slade. Seconded by Michelle Staples. Carried.</p>	<p>Action for Staff:</p> <p>Prepare Draft Final Business Plan. Present to CVRD Board and Cowichan Tribes Tumuhw Committee for feedback and approval.</p>
	c) Draft new logo/branding concepts for feedback.	Deferred due to time constraints.	
9	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>a) Concluding the Targets Review -</p>	Heather Pritchard presented progress on Watershed Targets and explained that staff are seeking approval for whatever is final, including those still “pending” further	<p>Action for Staff:</p> <p>Revise Fish Health Indicator.</p>

<p>confirming new Targets and Indicators. Next Steps.</p>	<p>changes, and a motion to develop a Whole of Watershed Target.</p> <p>Heather noted that cCommunications materials are about to be developed with the support of Vancouver Island University students for summer community engagement so we have a need to finalize what we can.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Two targets were previously approved - <u>Watershed Connections</u> and <u>Water Flows</u>. ● <u>Riparian Health Target</u> - interim indicators were proposed to pull together the science and to develop a baseline indicator for how much to protect/restore. The CWB has adopted the approach to use Interim Targets and Indicators while we review. ● <u>Fish Health Target</u>- we are seeking to add a new Indicator (#2) which will direct us to collect additional base-line data. A new indigenous fish health indicator is also being proposed (#3), reflecting indigenous values and culture. For the short term, we propose that the Board approve Indicators #1 and #2, with indicator #3 pending further work. ● <u>Estuarine Health Target</u> is paused, with the intent to create a broader indicator that reflects the need to protect shellfish, and address “whole of estuary” health , including restoration work in inter-tidal zones. <p>Proposed Motion: To adopt interim targets /indicators with the specified changes to Riparian Health, Water Quality, and Fish Health pending. (Motion not moved)</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>Chief Hwitsum commented that the Fish Health indicator really only addresses fish abundance in the Cowichan and should go beyond that defined by fisheries agencies which is a colonial framework. The Fish Health Indicator should also address meeting the needs of Quw'utsun mustimuhw, and integrate traditional knowledge and cultural values. Indicator #1 should be changed to include Cowichan Tribes, government and fisheries agencies.</p>	
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	b) New “Whole of Watershed” Target.	Deferred due to time constraints.	
10	Other	Information	
11	Next CWB meeting - Monday March 27th 9:30am on Zoom	Request to add 30 more minutes to our meeting in future, to go to Noon. Further discussion. No motion. Motion to adjourn. Moved by Michelle Staples. Seconded by Aaron Stone.	Action for Staff: Increase future Board Meeting times to 2.5 hours.

Meeting materials are available at <https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/meetings/>

Additional/Detailed Discussion Notes:

5. Public Input- MP Alistair McGregor RE anchorages

- Chief Hwitsum noted that she has been working with the Indigenous Leaders Advisory Committee to establish the Watershed Security Fund and encouraged Alistair to support this

work in Ottawa, noting that they are seeking matched funding from the federal government to address the cross cutting jurisdictional pieces with regards to watershed security.

- Chief Hwitsum also noted that funding is needed for the Weir and we would appreciate Alistair's continued advocacy.
- Chair Stone noted a lack of good faith engagement with regards to anchorages, noting the Port of Vancouver report did not demonstrate real engagement with the community.
 - Alistair is willing to dig deeper on those items and will be requesting permission to present to a number of local governments, including North Cowichan, Duncan, CVRD, and Cowichan Tribes.
- Tim noted that because Cowichan Tribes now has a marine department, they are more able to stay on top of the issues. There is limited capacity but they are trying to be sure that First Nations are supported to be able to know what is happening on their own beaches. Some of the issues are being dealt with, but it's problematic because First Nations don't fit into the response plan. Tim noted that there isn't a process to follow because it is not a commercial beach.

7. Setting the Course

Jana stated that:

Overall, what we heard during surveys and interviews prior to the workshop was that the Board should continue doing the work it is doing.

Weaknesses related to the Board had to do with lack of clarity about relationships and roles. The workshop was designed to address this lack of clarity and identify next steps to build clarity and strengthen the relationships between the partners.

Jana noted that it is important to develop a common language and understanding about governance concepts.

- The work of the Board is an example of collaborative governance. The mechanism for this collaborative governance is the Board and the process is Natsumat.
- Through the interview process, Jana heard that the Board should not pursue legal authority, but that its role is to support governance.
- The Board is involved in many governance activities, but it is not a government-to-government relationship, as there are others involved.
- Because the Board does not have shared jurisdictional authority, it is not indigenous co-governance, it is collaborative governance. More of a parallel authority rather than joint authority.

Chief Hwitsum: agreed that it is important to have a common definition of governance. Messaging around this needs to be careful. For example, stating that the CWB is anticipating decisions to be made, versus CWB is making decisions. As we get into more projects, with the amount of work that is coming, it's important to keep the language clear.

Jana reviewed a draft Mission Statement that was discussed at the workshop, noting that it needs to be clear and concise but also flexible, with a focus on coming together, being stronger, acting, working, and reconciliation.

- Recommend that the mission statement be in both Hul'q'umi'num and in English.

Natsumat kws yaay'us tth qa

A possible English version could be: We bring together decision-makers and communities to be stronger and work respectfully to advance whole of watershed health and reconciliation.

Chief Hwitsum noted that this really is a close translation, and speaks to the versatility of Natsumat as a verb, and likes how we are using it to explain how we are moving forward.

Jill asked Chief Hwitsum for clarity about the use of **Natsumat kws yaay'us tth qa** in the Mission statement, recalling that the permitted use of Natsumat in the Core Principle reflected a commitment between the two Partners, and this is a broader application, including those who haven't reciprocally committed or perhaps even understand the term.

Chief Hwitsum noted that Natsumat can expand to accommodate that we can bring other authorities to the table, and that we are still trying to draw the province into this table, and expanding Natsumat in and of itself. Together we can be more. How formal do we need to be to engage communities to come together? Chief Hwitsum will think about this a bit more.

Michelle Staples noted that she supports the use of Natsumat as a mission statement. It reflects the commitment that we have made to bring community together, and also reflects why it's important to come together.

Shannon Waters noted that using Natsumat as a mission statement explains what we are doing with collaborative governance.

Tim noted that it's worth discussing with Quw'utsun about using Hul'q'umi'num language translation. For example, how are you "generally" vs "specifically" – with meaning and intent? You can take a narrow definition or expand it to be more general. How deep are we willing to go, and what does that mean when we are working together. Jurisdictional tendencies should be considered. We need a discussion around this further to provide clarity and comfort of the use of Natsumat so people understand where everyone else is at and how they are coming to the table.

Aaron Stone noted that it is not a direct translation and will need to be instructed by an understanding of the language.

Jana reviewed the following recommended next steps:

- CVRD and Cowichan Tribes to share the report with their Boards/Council along with a cover letter restating their commitment to working together.
- Staff to help put together the Business Case of the CWB, demonstrating the return on investment and efficiency of the Board for communicating to Partners, and funders.
- Ensure equitability of partner contribution to the CWB.
- Reaffirming partnership through a letter from Cowichan Tribes to the CVRD which clearly identifies the role of the CWB.

- Maintain momentum of the work of the Setting the Course workshop, by developing a strategic plan with a shared vision.
- Finalize the Mission Statement.
- Exploring Key issues and updating current trends things that need to be done.
- Create Member Protocols
- Update and produce communications about Natsumat, the role of the Board, and its accomplishments.

Aaron Stone noted that the report helps to focus the direction coming out of the workshop. The recommendations reflect some of the core work needed to reaffirm the foundation of support among the partners. The workshop felt like a strategic focus session.