


<b>DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES</b>	<b>Mon. June 26th, 2023 9:30-noon CVRD Boardroom 175 Ingram Street, Duncan</b>	
--	--	---

**Meeting Chair:** CVRD Chair Aaron Stone (partial)

**Participants:** Darin George, Alison Nicholson, Michelle Staples, Tim Kulchyski, Kristine Sandhu, Shannon Waters, David Anderson, David Slade, David Froese (Partial) and Oliver Brandes (Advisor)

**Regrets:** Chief Lydia Hwitsum, Stuart Pagaduan, Linda Higgins

**Staff/Project Leaders:** Jill Thompson, Lisa Maria Fox, Tom Rutherford, Shiming Huang

**Guest Speakers:** Jesse Patterson (Chair of Cowichan Estuary Environmental Management Plan committee, Min Water, Land and Resource Stewardship biologist); Thomas Reid and Steven Henstra (Nature Trust)

**Audience members:** Working group members, volunteers, interested public. (13)

**Minutes/Tech Support:** Shiming Huang/Jill Thompson

Meeting Start time: **9:35am**

#	Item	Discussion	Decisions
1	<b>Welcome from co-chairs</b>	Welcome from co-chair Aaron Stone, Chair of CVRD	
2	<b>Agenda review/revisions</b>	Alison Nicholson moved to adopt the agenda. Seconded by Kristine Sandhu. Approved without changes.	Approved
3	<b>Review of May 2023 Minutes</b>	No changes to the minutes were requested. Minutes approved by consensus.	Approved
4	<b>Announcements &amp; Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Jill Thompson referred the Board to their agenda for correspondence, announcements and reading materials.</li> <li>b. Jill announced the <a href="#">Koksilah Watershed Meet and Greet event at The Hub happening June 26<sup>th</sup> 2023 evening.</a></li> <li>c. Shannon Waters spoke about the Risk to Resilience project she is involved in and suggested a speaker might attend the CWB board meeting in July to introduce their work.</li> </ul>	Information.  Action - Shannon to invite representative from Risk to Resilience.
5	<b>Public Input (Rogers Wiles)</b>	Roger Wiles raised concerns about earth work done in the Tzouhalem Creek wetlands ( <a href="#">More info in the meeting agenda package</a> ). He asks if there is any more information on this and what authority permitted it.  Co-Chair Stone thanked Roger for bringing this forward and noted that the Board will discuss return to this topic later in the agenda.	Information

6	<b>Language Lesson</b>	<p>Tim Kulchyski guided the board through the pronunciation of the word for prayer in hul'qumi'num. He helped the group pronounce difficult sounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● slhap' (soup)</li> <li>● Shelh (door, path)</li> </ul> <p>Tim also shared his grandfather's teaching about his daily prayer through the phrase 'Uy' skewyul tun'u kweyul! (Today is a good day). What does it take to make today a good day? He shared that the saying helps us face the day with the strength to say kind words and ability to halt your words if something offends you.</p>	Learning
7	<b>Project updates:</b> a. Weir b. Koksilah Watershed Planning c. WIKD (Data Sharing)	<p>a) Tom Rutherford provided an update on the Cowichan Weir, noting low water level in Cowichan Lake means tough decisions and conversations need to happen. A Crofton Paper Mill work curtailment will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>, reducing their water take to 0.1 cm/s. Regarding the licensing process, Tom indicated that 3 options are being negotiated between the parties, with the next meeting being on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The [FROG?] Working group is still in conversation with the Province to match funding secured by Cowichan Tribes from the federal government. Estimated cost now up to ~\$28M million at least \$14M more is still needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ David Slade asked if there had been changes with the federal funding since most of the information had been about the provincial ministries.</li> <li>○ Tom indicated the federal funding deadlines were the only changes. The other concern was that federal funding would be released once more concrete decisions are made.</li> <li>○ Chair Stone expressed gratitude for Tom's updates, particularly the point about leverage and highlighting the urgency of the matter.</li> </ul> <p>[David Froese arrival.]</p> <p>b) Tom provided a Xwulqw'selu (Koksilah) WSP Update:</p>	<p>Action: Tom to provide an update to the Board after the June 30 weir meeting.</p> <p>Action: Include time to discuss WIKD project findings during the October Board meeting agenda.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Government to Government (G2G) Agreement was signed.</li> <li>• The first Planning Team workshop was held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by a watershed tour on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Tom noted special gratitude toward Cowichan Tribes for providing the bus.</li> <li>• In the coming months, a Community Advisory Table will be formed. There will be an application process to select members of said table.</li> </ul> <p>c) Lisa provided a WIKD (Watershed Information, Knowledge and Data) update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• phase 1 of the project is wrapping up, the key questions were about what data and info will be/is available for sharing, and what challenges are likely.</li> <li>• the project itself is guided by appreciative inquiry.</li> <li>• the project will have an advisory committee. Members of the committee will include Cheri, Tom G, Pamela, and Elodie.</li> <li>• They will be working with key parties, BC, Cowichan Tribes, and CVRD, to look for better models of knowledge and info sharing across the watershed.</li> <li>• Early fall or October, they will be exploring models to share and store data/knowledge/info, and protocols.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>Operational Updates:</b></p> <p>a. Governance manual update for review and input</p> <p>b. Input to BC Watershed Security Strategy and Fund</p> <p>c. Staff Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lisa provided a presentation on the Governance Manual Update (<a href="#">here</a>). Recommendations from the Setting the Course workshop indicate the need to clarify roles, scope, and mandate of the CWB. Notable recommendations were that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ reference to the Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan (CBWMP) be reframed since the CWB’s purpose has expanded,</li> <li>○ that “advisor” roles be added to the Board, and</li> <li>○ a mission statement be developed and adopted, which the Leadership Team proposes as: <i>Nutsamat kws yaay'us tu qa'. We come together with one heart and mind to work for</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Jill to circulate clean copy of Governance Manual with list of edits.</p> <p>Present edits in July for approval.</p> <p>Present Governance Manual to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD in September for review and approval.</p>

		<p><i>the health of the watershed and the people who live here.</i></p> <p>[agreed]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Details on the Governance Manual Update presentation found <a href="#">here</a>. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tim K added, “It is telling that we worked as a team that we came full circle. It really is <i>Nutsamat kws yaay’us tu qa’</i>”</li> <li>○ Several Board members spoke to express gratitude for Lisa’s work on this.</li> <li>○ Lisa added that a clean copy of the edits will be sent to the board for review and adopt. The final vote on adoption will be in September.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Oliver Brandes, CWB Advisor, encouraged the CWB to provide input to the BC Watershed Security Strategy as per the draft letter included in the agenda package. Oliver noted the province has a mandate to address the watershed issues but is silent regarding the management of private forestry land in watersheds in this strategy and that input by CWB would start the dialogue about that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● David Slade requesting formatting/editing improvements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Oliver pointed out that some sections are ‘verbatim’ so should not be corrected.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Motion by Alison to approve sending the letter with minor edits as articulated by David Slade. Second by Michelle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oliver: recommended starting a private forestry task force to explore this area.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion about the Watershed Security Fund that the strategy would fund.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Oliver: general consensus that there needs to be about \$50M- \$100M for watersheds each year.</li> <li>● Aaron: clarified that would mean about \$1B in seed funding would be needed to allocate interest earned and use the funds.</li> <li>● Oliver: funding would be from licensing and other sources for an ongoing fund. This is</li> </ul>	<p>Seek final approval in September Board Meeting]</p> <p>Action: Jill to edit and prepare the letter RE the Watershed Security Strategy for signature by the CoChairs.</p> <p>Action: Oliver to provide regular updates on the Watershed Security Strategy and Fund.</p> <p>Action: Oliver to support the creation of a CWB task force to consider private forest policy.</p>
--	--	---	--

		<p>envisioned to be for governance and management but not for infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oliver: offered to provide the Board with monthly updates on the fund.</li> </ul> <p>Motion Adopted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jill provided the board with staffing updates, introducing Shiming Huang as the new summer intern and Danielle Paydli who will be starting in July. She also noted that this was the last Board meeting for Lisa within the Managing Director contract, but that she is beginning a new Project Management contract until October. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tim acknowledged the contributions Lisa made to improve organization and administrative systems and gifted her with a Cowichan knit toque.</li> <li>○ Several members voiced their appreciation for Lisa’s work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>BREAK</b>			
<b>9</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Introduction to the Cowichan Estuary Environment Plan Committee	Jesse Patterson, Chair of CEEMP, provided an introduction to the Plan and Committee. <a href="#">See presentation</a> and detailed discussion notes below.	
11:30 Chair Stone passed the role of Meeting Chair to Alison Nicholson, CVRD Vice-Chair, as he had to leave for another meeting.			
<b>10</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> Cowichan Estuary Restoration Project (Thomas Reid and/or Steven Henstra)	Thomas Reid and Steven Henstra introduced themselves. Tom Reid delivered a <a href="#">presentation</a> on the Cowichan Estuary Restoration Project that is expected to take place over the next two years. The project aims to restore the estuary marsh land by removing two of the existing dykes and constructing distributary channels. The project is expected to cost \$1 to 3 million dollars. By re-establishing the marsh, the max flood levels will be reduced. Read more here: <a href="https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3fe2a2c09cd84baeb9c60cb6cd9feee8">https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3fe2a2c09cd84baeb9c60cb6cd9feee8</a>	
<b>11</b>	Other: CWB family picnic with working group (planning)	Board expressed enthusiasm for a family picnic with the Working Group members.	<p>Action: Staff to plan a CWB family picnic.</p> <p>Action: Staff to research the</p>

		Board gave direction to staff to follow up on Roger Wiles presentation and the specific questions he posed at the end.	question posed during Public Input.
	Adjourn	Alison confirmed that the next meeting is July 31 @Siem Lelum Gym and adjourned the meeting.	Meeting adjourned.

## Detailed Discussion Notes

### 9. Cowichan Estuary Environment Plan Committee

Jesse Patterson – Ecosystem Section Head of the West Coast Region. Jesse gave a presentation introducing the Cowichan Estuary Environment Management Plan Committee (CEEMP) and the Cowichan Estuary Environment Management Plan.

- The plan is a 40-year-old plan to manage the Cowichan Estuary.
- The Committee was formed to manage the plan.
- Due to the provincial ministries reshuffling over the years, the CEEMP is currently under the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, but needs approval from Ministry of Forestry.
- Committee meets as needed to provide recommendations but has no regulatory power.
- Over 40 years a lot of the land under the CEEMP has been transferred to conservation efforts.
- Plan references companies that no longer exist, and does not consider reconciliation, climate change, current land use, nor current stake holders. While outdated, the framework is considered working.

#### Discussion

- Tim K: Noted that when this was created it was cutting edge, however Cowichan Tribes was not present. Would like to see it done differently and include reconciliation.
- David F: Asked why there was a reduction in log booming in the Cowichan Bay Estuary but expanding in the Chemainus Estuary? Was it the Plan that made that happen, or was it an external change in forestry activities? Commented on the lack of a provincial estuary plan.
  - Jesse: there are site specific plans but no overall plans.
- Alison: The plan “froze the estuary in time”. We have failed to move forward in changing the estuary in a positive way. The estuary is degrading, and there is a lack of leadership.
  - Jesse: Agreed that the plan is frozen in place, with no plan for changing. It does not ask what it needs to thrive.
- Tim: added that in the first CEEMP, “I wasn’t allowed to speak. I didn’t have a seat at the table. We need a unifying edge for the estuary to survive.”