


DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES	Mon. Jan 29 2023 9:00am-12:00pm Si'em Lelum Gymnasium 5574 River Road, Duncan	
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Meeting Chair: Chair Aaron Stone. **Attendees:** Chief Lydia Hwitsum, Tim Kulchyski, Linda Higgins, Kristine Sandhu, Alison Nicholson, David Slade, Michelle Staples (phone), David Anderson (phone for item 12), David Froese (10:30 am). Oliver Brandes (Advisor). **Staff/Project Leaders:** Danielle Paydli, Jill Thompson, Tom Rutherford, Heather Pritchard. **Audience members:** Approximately 30 guests.

Guest Speakers:

- Dr. Kobby Awuah and Dr. Angela Eykelbosh - Healthy Environments Team, Island Health
- Mike McCulloch – Anadromous Fisheries Specialist. BC Fisheries, West Coast Region, WLRS

1	Welcome.	Co-Chairs welcomed everyone. Chief asked Tim to begin the meeting with a prayer. Tim spoke about the word for doorway/path (?Shakue) - knowing your path, learning from ancestors and those around you, and working to be 'worthy' (ready) when these moments come.	
2	Agenda Review / Revisions -	Motion to confirm Agenda by David S; second by Kristine.	Approved
3	Review November 2023 Minutes	Motion to confirm November 2023 Minutes by Kristine; second by David S.	Approved
4	Announcements & Correspondence	Jill reviewed the Announcements & Correspondence in the Board package. Added Tom Rutherford will present to a Pacific Salmon Action Dialogue webinar this week RE his research with PSF into how Washington State is addressing salmon (Update: event recording here) Board announcements: - Chief Hwitsum had a meeting with Ministers Rankin and Cullen. Weir license was granted in the 1950s without consultation; finally recognizing Cowichan authority.	

		- Chair Stone offered thanks and recognition for working together, and those who keep the water flowing during difficult times.	
5	Public Input	Xwulqw'selu Connections' Jennifer Shepherd announced that they have a job posting for a field research assistant.	
6	Hul'qumi'num Watershed Lesson	Tim provided a lesson about Quw'utsun snuw'uy'ulh - truths/origin stories/lessons. He spoke about how these lessons are rooted in specific physical places (the mound, Octopus Point, Mt. Prevost) etc that demonstrate the long history on the land, and that there is more to the places around us than many people might know.	
7	<p>Updates & Discussion on CWB Staff Initiatives</p> <p>a) Review Staff Report. Staff available for Q&A.</p> <p>Items arising from Staff Report:</p> <p>i) CWB current commitments and future roles in the Xwulqw'selu Watershed Plan in 2024</p>	<p>See staff update in meeting package. Danni added that Chief Hwitsum and Mayor Staples gave a great talk together on our behalf about our Collaborative Governance model. It was very well received and stimulated good discussion about breaking down systemic barriers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle (on phone): thanked the Chief for the presentation. Chief Hwitsum: reciprocated thanks and that it was an excellent opportunity. <p>i) Danni outlined that Xwulqw'selu Watershed Planning (XWP) Government to Government Table is reviewing/refining the CWB / CWS roles in the process, including a potential role for CWB to lead the Workstream into community planning (e.g. development, bylaws, etc)</p> <p>Chair Stone proposed a draft motion that CWB staff explore the scoping and catalyzing of a community planning workstream with authority holders, under the direction of the G2G table, and that CWB staff explore ways to leverage additional philanthropic and/or local government funds in support of the above.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief: spoke to the need to prioritize indigenous Right and Title work as part of that. Alison: asked for clarification on "community planning"? Chief: commented on the need for alignment between Cowichan Tribes and CVRD with regards to the XWP Tom: clarified this Workstream is about other levers we can pull RE how we live on the land (E.g. residential 	<p>Motion: CWB staff explore the scoping and catalyzing of a community planning workstream with authority holders, under the direction of the G2G table, and that CWB staff explore ways to leverage additional philanthropic and/or local government funds in support of the above. Passed by consensus.</p>

		<p>and industrial development) using powers available to Cowichan Tribes, CVRD, perhaps other levels of government that influence how we use the water.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This work would require us to increase our capacity and bring resources to support that. • Staff is looking for support to look into that – no commitment other than scoping what it would look like. <p>The motion was seconded by Kristine, and carried by consensus.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief: added a concern about the capacity of the CWB to take on more. We already ask a lot from our team. We want to plan for success. She asked staff to let CWB know if it's beyond our capacity. 	
8	Governance Manual	<p>Chair Stone directed attention to the last pieces we would like to finalize in the Governance Manual update before taking forward to the CVRD and Cowichan Tribes councils for ratification, and moved approval of the following:</p> <p>i) Clarifying role of BC and Fed Government seats on the CWB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief: asked for it to be more clear that this role is within the spirit of Nutsamat. She referenced that it was always the intention to have Federal and Provincial seats, but also wanted to ensure the colonial perspective didn't get in the way of the Nutsamat way of doing things – these seats are intended to contribute a valuable voice, but not “the” voice. The intention is to recognize all the authorities at the table, and lift up the relationship to each other and the natural world. • Oliver: add that in the past, these positions have not necessarily been filled by BC/Fed staff. They have been members nominated by the Province but not Provincial staff. The manual should be clear whether CWB is requesting staff or not. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jill clarified that the CWB revision also created 2 new ‘at large’ seats to accommodate this shift, so the current members appointed on behalf of BC could be re-appointed through that mechanism. • Chief added that these Gov't seat nominations should be someone with influence in the realm of authority they are representing, and in the spirit of Nutsamat. Chief also clarified that the Co-Chairs actually make the appointments, so this is a nomination. 	<p>Motion: to accept the new language clarifying the role of the BC and Fed. Gov't seats on the CWB, pending an amendment to lift up Nutsamat as a primary statement with the other 4 points flowing from that. Passed by consensus.</p> <p>Motion: to adopt the new revised Organizational Structure Diagram in the Gov Manual. Passed by consensus.</p> <p>Motion: that the revised Governance Manual be adopted with above changes, and that the Manual will be presented to both partner councils for adoption with the 2024 Impact Plan in March. Passed by consensus.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Slade seconded the motion as amended, lifting up Nutsamat as a primary statement with the other 4 points flowing from that. Passed by consensus. <p>ii) the revised Organizational Structure Diagram:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was discussion about the new statement reflecting accountabilities, and how it is difficult to balance the accountabilities that members have to their home organizations vs to the CWB and the watershed. Chief and Linda both accepted that this statement works for them. David Slade moved adoption of the new diagram, seconded by Alison. Passed by consensus. <p>Chair Stone sought a motion that the revised Governance Manual be adopted with above changes, and that the Manual will be presented to both partner councils for adoption with the 2024 Impact Plan in March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Alison, seconded by Linda. Passed by consensus. 	
9	Impact (Business) Plan	<p>Danni quickly introduced the 2024-2026 Impact Plan, which was just added to the Board package on Friday as a first draft. Board members thanked the staff for the clear plan. Danni asked the Board to take time to review, and provide any input by Feb. 12. Staff was invited to join a zoom call to review the plan and give feedback in person if preferred. Linda, Kristine, David and Aaron raised their hands to be involved - everyone will be invited.</p>	<p>Board to send feedback by Feb 12th.</p> <p>Staff to organize a zoom meeting on Feb 12 for anyone who prefers to review the plan in person.</p>
10	Island Health's new Healthy Environments Team: Introductions and Lessons Learned at the Climate Change & Health Community Gathering	<p>Presentation by Dr. Kobby Awuah, Dr. Angela Eykelbosh.</p> <p>Discussion followed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> food security vs food sovereignty, and access to traditional foods for indigenous people. need help to resume shellfish collection - FN food doesn't 'fit the buckets' of a commercial resource. pharmaceuticals entering water from sewer systems drought infrastructure - Island Health could work on this? Island Health (Angela) would like to join any 'data' discussions happening locally. 	

		- Alison suggested this health/climate lens belongs in the XWP workstream scoping.	
11	Break		
12	Mike McCulloch: The BC Fisheries Perspective on the Cowichan fish kill in 2023	See presentation by Mike McCulloch. - Extensive discussion and Q&A followed. (Captured on audio but not yet transcribed)	
13	Adjourn. Next CWB meeting - February 26th (Zoom)	Chair Stone adjourned the meeting at 12:26 with apologies that there wasn't more time, and an invitation to anyone who was able to stay for more discussion.	Adjourned.

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

Correspondence

- Letter from Bryan Senft RE Joint Utilities Board sewage
- Letter from Jay White RE Quamichan Lake water quality solutions.
- [tentatively] Draft input from CWB RE the draft [Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework](#)

Announcements/Events

- Speaker Night resumes March 18 with “**Becoming a Friend of the Watershed: the value that every single person has.**” Slides and Stories with Tim Kulchyski (Cowichan Tribes Biologist) and Barry Hetschko (Photographer/Naturalist/Volunteer)

Media/Reading

- [Year End Review](#)
- [Staff Updates](#)
- [Citizen Thank you Ad](#)