



# DRAFT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mon. Feb 26, 2024

9:00am / Zoom

## Attending

Chair: Chief Hwitsum. Board Members: Aaron Stone (until 10:30), Tim Kulchyski, Alison Nicholson, Michelle Staples, David Slade, David Froese, Kristine Sandhu, Oliver Brandes(Advisor)

Staff: Danni, Tom, Jill

1	Welcome	Chief Hwitsum called the meeting to order at 9am. Chief expressed gratitude for where she was calling from, in Samuna village, and called for a pause to invite good energy into the meeting.	
2	Agenda Review / Revisions.	Motion to approve agenda by CoChair Stone, 2nd by Michelle.	Approved by consensus.
3	Review January 29th 2024 Draft Minutes	Motion to approve minutes by CoChair Stone, 2nd by Kristine. Correction: Chief Hwitsum clarified that she had asked staff to “Let us know if you need more capacity” rather than “let us know if you don't have capacity.” (Corrected and approved minutes <a href="#">here</a> )	Jill to correct January minutes. Approved by consensus with that change.
4	Announcements & Correspondence	The CoChairs reflected on the March 22 media event at the weir where the Premier and Minister Cullen announced \$14 million in matching Provincial funds for the weir. Chief Hwitsum acknowledged the relationship building with CVRD as key to this progress. Chair Stone shared Minister Cullen’s commitment to a “new and novel approach” to solving the liability and licensing issues, and expressed confidence in this Government to do that with CWB as the example.  A moment of silence was observed for former Chief William ‘Chip’ Seymour. Chief Hwitsum acknowledged his important work to keep the relationship and partnership strong, and lifelong contributions to this community and the Cowichan people.	

		Jill reviewed correspondence and announcements as per the bottom of the agenda. <a href="#">See additional correspondence here.</a>	
5	Public Input	<p>Danni acknowledged the request for public input sent on Friday and invited Roger Wiles to speak. Roger declined and referred to the materials added to the agenda package.</p> <p>Danni clarified that the intent of the public input space is to address the CWB members in person, so for online meetings, please send correspondence one week previous to be included in the meeting package.</p>	See input from Roger Wiles in the meeting package.
6	Hul'q'umi'num' Watershed Lesson	<p>Tim shared some Hul'q'umi'num' words and invited those attending to practice our annunciation, particularly of the glottal-stop('). He provided some of the spellings here:</p> <p>xatsa' - lake  sta'lo' - river singular  stul'ta'lo' - rivers plural  stat-lo' - creek (so diminutive)</p>	
7	<p>Updates &amp; Discussion on CWB Staff Initiatives</p> <p>a) Review Staff Report. Staff available for Q&amp;A.</p> <p>b) Items arising from Staff Report:</p> <p>i) Fish Kill Workshop update (Tom)</p> <p>ii) Potential listing of six Pacific salmon designatable units under the Species at Risk Act (Tom)</p>	<p>i) Tom reviewed the CWB work to respond to fish kill – collaborative effort to try to avoid a repeat of last year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First workshop will be March 12 - Cowichan Tribes, academics, gov't agencies, etc. Will include learning who is doing what - e.g. there are 9 organizations doing water quality sampling in isolation of each other. Looking for an Ideal WQ regime to give us gap analysis then develop strategies and resources to fill the gaps. We will also brainstorm possible response strategies.</li> <li>Second workshop will be dig into that.</li> </ul> <p>Will include Ken Ashley - BCIT snr biologist; agreed to come on his own time to spend the day with us; expertise in this area. Jessica Bratty will facilitate - fish biologist.</p> <p>Tom acknowledged funding from Pacific Salmon Foundation to support this work. That's systemic change - collaborative way of working; extremely valuable process. This is iterative work - we have never faced anything like this before.</p> <p>Bottom line -we're doing something to learn what levers we can pull collectively - water storage management, permitting, wastewater protocols, rec use, coldwater refugia protection, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chief Hwitsum expressed thanks to Tom and staff for organizing this. Stronger position to bring data together. Gap analysis. Action Traction.</li> </ul>	<p>Action: Tom to talk to Lulumexun staff and possibly fill in the Species at Risk survey on behalf of the Board.</p> <p>Board members to consider a Speaker Series topic they might like to see, co-host, or MC in 2024.</p>

iii) Speakers  
Night Input  
and Sign-up  
(Jill)

ii) Tom - Potential listing of six Pacific salmon designatable units under the Species at Risk Act. DFO is seeking input on listing Chinook populations (fall run only) in SARA - Series of Special Concern. This could include Cowichan chinook, DU21 - from Cowichan to Puntledge. Uncertainty on deadline for input. If DU21 is listed, a step on the road to listing. Cowichan chinook are doing pretty well. Tom seeking Board support to do 3 things:

- 1) research
- 2) sit down with Cowichan Tribes to see if they are submitting a response to ensure alignment.
- 3) craft input, possibly sending by email in advance but might have to submit before the next meeting.
  - David F - interested in why? Ramifications for SARA. Is this about killer whale? Important to be consistent with Cowichan Tribes.
  - Chief -Cowichan Tribes made an intervention on the governance and decision making. Lulumexun involved.
  - Tim - early run chinook have been acknowledged for both Cowichan and Chemainus, but no known genetic distinction. Something that we will be following up on. Implications are significant.

iii) Thanks to VIU-Cowichan for agreeing to host another year of Speaker Series (10th anniversary ~ 6x/yr since 2014 except for CoVid break).

Starting last year, CWB members are asked to participate by telling us what they would like to see featured and either co-hosting or MCing some events. Staff thanked everyone who has stepped forward so far. Please look at 2024 to see if there are topics you'd like to host:

- Stuart Pagaduan - storytelling and art evening
- Michelle Staples - film night but conflict with council meetings
- Tim - Elk speaker request - Jill working on it
- David Slade - active transportation - Tanya s?
- Alison - algae in river;
- Oliver - offered to host an event reflecting on Nathan Cullen's opening remarks (innovative decision body around the weir and flow); piece of governance on environmental flows; journey of weir and necessary governance needed to go forward

Draft motion connected to item: (b)iii:

		<p>that Tom Rutherford, as Strategic Partnerships Director, has permission to fill in the Species at Risk survey on behalf of the Board.</p>	
8	<p>Governance Document Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Approve Final Draft Revision of Governance Manual.</li> <li>b) Approve Final Draft of 2024-2026 Impact (Business) Plan.</li> <li>c) Review Draft Annual Report</li> </ul>	<p>a) Danni reviewed the latest updates to the draft Governance Manual and sought approval to finalize this draft, and send it to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD councils for their review and adoption.</p> <p>Discussion/edits requested:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Whole Governance Manual should be sent to a language table to review all the spellings before it goes to the Council table. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Decision to include a statement at the beginning about having made best efforts, working with the elders, to capture the hul'q'umi'num' correctly, and that spellings are subject to correction at any time under the guidance of Cowichan Tribes' council.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2) Rephrase "indigenous and settler" in description of Society member representation.</li> <li>3) Clarify how Society members are selected in the diagram. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● under the <a href="#">Society bylaws</a>, all CWB members are invited to be CWS members. It is up to each CWB member to decide if they can/wish to. However CVRD legal team has deemed it a conflict of interest for CVRD Directors to sit on the Society.</li> <li>● manual doesn't govern how Society members are selected - that is under Non Profit Society bylaws.</li> <li>● add reference/links to CWS bylaws where necessary to clarify how the Society functions.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4) Request to tighten up core partner funding reference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For nearly 15 years, core funding has just been from Cowichan Tribes and CVRD. Acknowledge that, while making room for other government contributions. e.g. historic core funders are CVRD/CTs but continue to seek support from other governments.</li> <li>● also acknowledge other key philanthropic and other partners who have supported the growth of the CWB</li> </ul> </li> <li>5) Clarify reference to strategic planning every 5 years.</li> <li>6) In Annual Report contents, don't remove reference to Message from the CoChairs. Try to maintain that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Add "when possible" to acknowledge that it isn't always.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Approved by consensus that the final draft of the Governance Manual, pending changes specified at left, will be moved forward to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD for their review and ratification.</p> <p>The final draft of 2024-2026 Impact (Business) Plan was adopted by Consensus.</p> <p>The Annual Report should be completed, including a Joint Message from the CoChairs, and circulated to the Board for review in advance of the next Board meeting.</p>

		<p>7) Clarify reference to 4 levels of government; name them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>David Slade moved to approve a final draft of the Governance Manual pending changes above, and move it forward to Cowichan Tribes and CVRD for their review and ratification. 2nd by Kristine. Carried by consensus.</li> </ul> <p>b) Final Draft 2024-2026 Impact Plan. Chief thanked the staff for this good work that sets forward what we do and the work we intend to do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kristine moved to adopt the Final Draft of 2024-2026 Impact (Business) Plan. 2nd by Alison. Carried by Consensus.</li> </ul> <p>c) The draft 2023 Annual Report is not ready for review. The Board was asked whether it needs to be adopted by the Board, or whether it can be submitted as complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Decision - staff to complete the Annual Report for distribution to the Board, including a Joint Statement from the CoChairs, and bring it back to the next Board meeting for approval.</li> </ul>	Jill to work with Tara on Message from CoChairs.
9	<b>Other</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joint statement - short and sweet, Jill to link with Tara to create a draft and send to chairs; focus on the strength of the relationship.</li> <li>Celebration is in order.</li> </ul>	
10	<b>Adjourn.</b> Next CWB meeting - March 25th (in person @ CVRD Boardroom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting adjourned at 10:30</li> </ul>	Adjourned