


<p>DRAFT BOARD MEETING AGENDA</p>	<p>Mon. May 27, 2024 9:00am-12:00pm Meeting held online by Zoom webinar</p>	
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Meeting Chair: Chair Aaron Stone. **Participants:** Calvin Swustus Senior (until 9:30 – lost connection), Christopher Alphonse, Alison Nicholson, Michelle Staples, Tim Kulchyski, Kristine Sandhu, Shannon Water, David Slade, David Froese. **Regrets:** Chief Cindy Daniels, David Anderson. **Observers:** Arlette Malcolm, Director, Resource Stewardship Operations, Coast Area – West Region (WLRS). **Staff/Project Leaders:** Danielle Paydli, Jill Thompson, Tom Rutherford.

Guest Speakers: Paul Fletcher (E.D.) and Paul Gowland (President), Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society; Genevieve Singleton, Nature Interpreter, Cowichan Stewardship Roundtable co-Chair.

Audience members: Barry Hetschko, Bob Day, Chris Steeger, Christopher Justice (MNC) Gretchen Hartley, Nick (CVRD), Robert Martin, Justine Gabias (Halfmoon Bay)

1	Welcome	9:02 Chair Stone called the meeting to order with a recognition of Quw’utsun territory.	
2	Agenda Review / Revisions		Calvin moved to adopt the agenda. 2nd by Kristine. Adopted.
3	Review April 29th, 2024 Draft Minutes		Michelle moved to adopt the minutes. 2nd by Alison. Adopted.
4	Announcements & Correspondence (see below)	Jill reviewed the announcements and reading materials (bottom of agenda).	
5	Public Input	<p>Two students introduced their work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nava Sachs - invasive species and Quw’utsun food plants in Cowichan Estuary. ● Alyssa Zandvliet – historic ecologist. 	

6	Hul'qumi'num Watershed Lesson	Councillor Christopher Alphonse provided a lesson on the Sounds of Hul'q'umi'num' (see Meeting package). Vowels are pronounced differently – focus on learning that.	
7	<p>Presentations:</p> <p>a) Paul Fletcher and Paul Gowland: Somenos Marsh Wildlife Society – Parrot's Feather</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Philomena Williams provided a welcome from the SMWS. She emphasized the hul'q'umi'num' teaching that <i>Each person is important</i>. Kindness doesn't cost anything but it's the richest thing we can offer and we need to offer it to humuhw. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Paul Gowland provided a presentation (see agenda package). ● Paul Fletcher outlined that SMWS is seeking partnership to clear parrots' feather and do riparian restoration in the lower part of the creek between Cowichan River and Tsouhelem Road. The goal is for the river to be clear enough for fish to get in and out. Would like to be able to solicit funding with Cowichan Tribes as an indigenous partner to be eligible for more grants. ● Tim lauds the work of the SMWS: the fact that there is still coho is due to SMWS and is appreciated. 	<p>Actions:</p> <p>Tim recommended that SMWS should bring this presentation to the Natural Resource Cttee (taking place of the former Fishery Committee).</p> <p>Tim will put the request forward.</p> <p>Tim – requested that if SMWS has pH data using loggers, please share that with Tim.</p>
	b) Genevieve Singleton: Salmon and the Forest Programme & Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul	<p>Genevieve introduced the history of River Day and showed a video of the 2022 Quw'utsun Sta'lo' Skweyul (Cowichan River Day): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Od1piYO-W6g&list=PPSV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Robert Martin will assist on behalf of Cowichan Tribes. 250-732-2046 / Robert.martin@cowichantribes.com 	<p>Action:</p> <p>CWB members all encouraged to attend from 10-3 Sept 22.</p> <p>Q: Genevieve is looking for funds and volunteers for this event.</p>
		<p>Genevieve provided a presentation on her work as an educator and nature interpreter with Quw'utsun knowledge holders. See slidedeck. St'seelhtun and Forest Nature Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tim spoke as a parent to the value of kids being able to be hands-on with fish and fish eggs. 	<p>Q: Genevieve is looking for funds for the Fall program.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave F spoke of the importance of this work. 	
	c)Danni Paydli: Cowichan Watershed Board — River Clean Up	<p>Danni provided a presentation on the history of the Lower Cowichan River Cleanup. Need whole community to chip in and be part of it. Great community of people who show up. Very welcoming. Also, it takes significant resources. Is it worth doing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron, Dave S, Chris spoke in favour. No dissent. • Dave F asked us to make sure our volunteers’ value that there are living things on everything that we take out of the river so take care and recognize that its a privilege to have this river to care for. 	<p>Action: CWB members please volunteer to help at River Cleanup in August.</p> <p>Action: Coun. Chris to bring the request for hosting to Chief and Council. Danni to send an email to Chris with details. (Vernon Canute has already offered to volunteer again as site host).</p> <p>Action: During Route Leaders’ meetings, include advice to respect benthic invertebrates; leave anything deeply embedded there.</p>
8	<p>Updates & Discussion on CWB Projects and Initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review Staff Report. Staff available for Q&A <p>Items arising from Staff Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> BBQ/Watershed Tour Watershed Security Fund application. Draft Annual Report for final edits and adoption. 	<p>Danni provided an overview of the Staff Report (in package).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Alison - Cold Water refugia project – value that - and asked for more information. <p>Tom responded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> create a map of where we think cold water is. insert thermal recorders to build baseline data. work with CWB members to look at policy tools to protect them. perhaps include a landowner education process. <p>b) Danni asked who might contribute what to a BBQ</p>	<p>Action: Danni to confirm June 24 or July 29th;</p> <p>talk to Danielle MW to confirm with the CVRD calendar.</p> <p>Tim to check in with the Chief on CT providing the salmon for BBQ.</p> <p>Genevieve offered to help with the tour.</p> <p>Action: WSF letters of support before the June 26 deadline.</p>

		<p>Aaron - CVRD might be able to provide a bus; possibly funding if needed through UBCM community to community funding.</p> <p>Possible Elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - weir tour - Koksilah stop - BBQ on the river <p>c) Alison asked staff to consider including funds in the WSF proposal to work more collaboratively with the other watersheds on the eastern side of VI. Some of the solutions are going to be similar – funding for sharing and collaborating on that.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Danni to send draft letter with a deadline to CVRD, CT, ToLC, MNC, Duncan. - Add Eastern VI watershed group collaboration to the content. <p>Decision: Alison moved to adopt the 2023 Annual Report, pending signatures from CoChairs. Seconded by Tim. Adopted by consensus.</p>
9	Other Business	<p>Dave F – dismayed by the change in river bottom this year. Sand in the refugia – huge sections of sand. Look up in the hillside for where that is coming from. Between Lake Cowichan and Duncan. We are too silent in my opinion on the impacts of logging in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Board members agreed that this is a significant problem in the region, and throughout the eastern Vancouver Island / E&N zone. - Would like more learning/dialogue about this at the CWB table as it seems to be getting worse rather than better. - Danni asked for a recommendation of a Fall speaker on this issue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - ? missed something here?? - -Estelle/Mike/Sarah Morales’ research on the E&N area? - - Retired DFO biologist familiar with Carnation Creek? <p>Aaron acknowledged and thanked Arlette for being present (missed her arrival). Arlette looks forward to talking about issues around drought and fish habitat, leveraging partnerships and bolstering the science.</p>	<p>Action: Danni to bring in a speaker on private forestry in the Fall; follow up with suggestions.</p>

10	Adjourn.	Aaron closed with thanks for the presentations and good discussion.	Next CWB meeting - June 24 at CVRD Board Room.
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Meeting materials will be available at: <https://cowichanwatershedboard.ca/meetings/>

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