

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes



Nov. 1, 2012
6:00 pm to 8:15 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom

175 Ingram, Duncan, BC

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Guests: Harold C. Joe, Independent Filmmaker, Oliver Brandes -Polis Institute, University of Victoria

Co-chair: Co-chair Rob Hutchins

1. Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks	Co-chair Hutchins led a round of introduction which included members of the audience.
2. Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
3. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2012 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	The minutes were approved as presented.
4. Wisdom of the River film	Harold C Joe a local film maker introduced and presented a film about the he Cowichan River. Board members commented on how insightful and powerful the film was. It is anticipated that the Chair of the CVRD's Regional Services Committee will be approaching Mr. Joe about presenting the film to the Regional Service Committee at some point in the future.
5. Watershed Governance Update	Oliver Brandes, Special Advisor to the Board provided a summary of watershed governance for a provincial and global perspective. Oliver reiterated that the Cowichan Watershed Board was an excellent candidate for piloting a new form of watershed governance within the Province and recommended that the Board begin to consider what powers that it would wish to draw down from the Province.

<p>6. Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Flows and Flood prevention/protection update • Brief Update on Water Quality Sampling 	<p>Rob Hutchins reported that progress on getting the Province to respond to local concern has been slow. However recently there have been some positive signs that the Province is beginning to engage.</p> <p>Lorna Medd reported that low flow water quality samples were collected this past summer (2012) and that three weeks of samples have been collected after fall rain events. MoE is sampling for turbidity, coliforms, ammonia, phosphorus and metals. Sampling locations include the Cowichan and Koksilah Rivers and Cowichan Bay. Board members have been sighted in the field participating in sampling. Environment Canada is also sampling for fecal coliforms in Cowichan Bay. In addition Cowichan Tribes intends to sample shellfish in the Bay for metals and hydrocarbons. Year 2 will focus on the upper Cowichan River and Cowichan Lake.</p>
<p>7. General Comments and Next meeting– Date and Agenda Items</p>	<p>The next Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 6 along with the Technical Advisory Committee.</p>