

Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting

DRAFT Minutes



September 4, 2014
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location: CVRD Boardroom, 2nd Floor, 175 Ingram, Duncan, BC

Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board: David Anderson, Ross Forrest, Rob Hutchins, Lori Iannidinaro, Tim Kulchyski, Jon Lefebure, Lorna Medd, Ian Morrison, David Slade, Andrew Thomson, Debra Toporowski, Coordinator: Rodger Hunter

Chair: Chief William Seymour

Guests: Brian Houle, Catalyst; Clay Reitsma, North Cowichan; Willi Jansen, DFO; Brian Carruthers CVRD; Keith Richards, CVRD; Oliver Brandes, POLIS, UVic.

1) Welcome; Introductions, Invocation; Opening Remarks	The Chair led a round of introductions and thanked board members and guests for taking the time to attend the meeting.
2) Approval of Agenda	Decision: Agenda approved
3) Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	Decision: Minutes of July 3 rd and July 22 nd meetings were approved.
4) Recognition and Appreciation of Gerald Thom	David Slade recognized Gerald Thom as a watershed champion and noted that he will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of working with him.
5) CWB Progress Report	Rodger Hunter provided an update of activities since last Board meeting (see link). Ian Morrison added that the community of Honeymoon Bay had a very successful information road block over the Labour Day weekend. On the BC day long weekend the Honeymoon Bay area had experienced a shortage of water as a result of the influx of visitors. In the road block vehicles were stopped three separate times: 1. RCMP provided information on alcohol consumption, 2. Councilor Jane Ingra discussed safety, and, 3. Director Ian Morrison provided information on the drought and need to conserve water.
6) 2014 Drought a) Catalyst – Flows b) DFO-fish related impacts and water temperatures c) North Cowichan/Cowichan Tribes –	Brian Houle provided an update on Cowichan Lake levels and ongoing low flows (see link). Willi Jansen – DFO is doing quite a bit of work on the river regarding temperature and they are working on ensuring that all the data being collected by various agencies will be shared. Water temperatures are dropping with lower night temperatures as we move into the fall and fish are beginning to come in. There are some low water pinch points for the fish and data in particular is being collected in those locations. There is currently a Pinniped (seal) study in the estuary to understand the effects on fish.

<p>water quality</p> <p>d) CVRD – other drought related initiatives</p> <p>e) Funding and work plan</p>	<p>Clay Reitsma/Tim Kulchyski – impacts of low river flows on the Joint Utility Board. The river flows are about 40 times the outfall flow. The outfall has been extended farther into the river to ensure maximum mixing and dilution of treated effluent. The facility has a permit with restrictions that must be met. The treatment system has been in compliance throughout the summer. Monitoring is occurring at the Quamichan Village site as well as regular monitoring locations. One high coliform count after the August rain was likely due to storm drain issues.</p> <p>Rodger Hunter – described the CVRD’s proposed gas tax funding reallocation to assist the CVRD with drought management. It was noted that this would result in dropping related elements of the CWB’s work plan. There was consensus for up to \$45,000 to be reallocated – exact amount to be negotiated.</p>
<p>7) Governance and the CWB</p>	<p>Oliver Brandes provided an update on watershed governance. He distributed a recently released publication featuring the Cowichan Watershed Board as a Case Study. At the Watershed 2014 event Polis committed to work with partners on watershed governance across the country. The CWB should be inspired by their initiative here in Cowichan; the handout describes the reasons this governance model appears to be working well.</p> <p>To maintain momentum Oliver Brandes encouraged the Board to continue to think about how to ready for future water management – clarify desired outcomes so that the Board will be in a good position to take advantage of the new legislation. “Housekeeping” regulations regarding the new Water Act will likely come into effect over next couple of years. Demonstrating readiness for delegation of powers down the road will be important. Characteristics that will likely allow it to happen are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-governance with First Nations • Partnerships among local governments
<p>8) Other Issues: Next meeting.</p>	<p>Minister Thompson is visiting the valley for two hours on September 9th. He will tentatively be accompanied to three sites along the river. The objective is to help him understand and support raising weir and installing pumps at Lake Cowichan.</p> <p>Next meeting October 2nd 2:30 pm.</p>