


Cowichan Watershed Board Meeting	Monday Feb 25 2019 9:30-11:30am CVRD Boardroom	 Cowichan Watershed Board
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Co-Chair: Chief William Seymour

Participants, Ian Morrison (co-chair), Alison Nicholson, Debra Toporowski, Tim Kulchyski, David Slade, David Anderson, David Froese, Tom Rutherford

Regrets: Laura Brown, Shannon Waters, Tim McGonigle, Darin George, Lori Iannidinaro,

Guests: Jon Lefebure, Klaus Kuhn, Ross Forrest; 12 members of public /TAC/WGs

Minutes: Jill Thompson

1	Welcome	Information	
2	Approve Agenda	Moved by Debra; 2 nd David F	Approved
3	Review and approve Minutes of Jan. 28, 2019	Moved by Alison; 2 nd Ian	Approved
4	Correspondence and Announcements	Tom reviewed correspondence and announcements in agenda package Acknowledgement to Brooke Ballantyne, Defined by Design, for pro bono layout and design of new Pathways and Partnerships Framework report.	
5	Opportunity for public comment.	Barry Hetschko- note time change for Six Mountains event Bob Kopp, Cowichan River Neighbourhood Assoc. – advocating for BC Parks to start a Strategic Management Plan for the park. www.protectcowichanriver.com . Requested a CWB member to be in contact with him to arrange for him to give a presentation to the Board in the future.	Bob to connect with Tom RE making a presentation to CWB.
6	Discussion of CWB membership Tabled from January meeting	Letter from MNC requesting membership. Tom outlined CWB current structure as a partnership between CVRD and Cowichan Tribes as established in Governance Manual, with each party recognizing the authority of the other, which took considerable time to develop. Discussion (see below) Motion by David S to retain Board membership structure as it is. 2 nd Alison. None opposed to motion – carried.	Motion to retain Board membership structure as it is. Carried. Tom to draft response from co-Chairs to MNC
7	Draft 2018 Annual Report/ Draft	Tom presented draft copies of both of these new annual reporting documents to outline:	Tom to contact each Board member for

	Five Year Strategic Business Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last year's achievements - Strategic plan for current year and 5 year forecast - Financials. - To be ratified next month. <p>Request for Executive Summary in Annual Plan and clear strategic priorities at front of Business Plan.</p> <p>Add a written statement at the beginning clearly outlining the vision, including WSP.</p> <p>More discussion notes below.</p>	<p>input.</p> <p>Tom to present to March meeting for ratification.</p>
8	Weir / Flows Updates	<p>Weir update</p> <p>Co-Chairs and Tom updated the Board on recent progress and communications from the province that they do not intend to hold the new conservation water license as requested.</p> <p>Board members emphasized the importance of continuing to push for political meetings where a change in policy can be made.</p> <p>Joint meeting to be held with local parties and senior government staff. See discussion notes below.</p> <p>Koksilah Flows</p> <p>FLNRO Nanaimo staff (3 members) hosted a meeting with Koksilah farmers / large water license holders RE critical flows. FLNRO is using Koksilah as a pilot for implementing WSA critical flows tool. It was a well-attended meeting with progress on relationship building. People in the room committed to doing the right thing. FLNRO is putting a lot of resources into this work</p> <p>Tom working to see if there is interest in an Environmental Farm Plan on irrigation incentives for the dairy farmers.</p> <p>Update that FLNRO has granted a 3 year extension to the date for ground water license application in order to preserve your historical right to that water. Only 10% of the expected applications were received, which would mean that without an extension 90% of ground water users would be doing so illegally.</p>	<p>Tom to set up joint meeting between FLNRO staff, CT, CVRD, Catalyst, CWB and DFO.</p> <p>Invite MLA Furstenau to address a CWB meeting.</p>
9	<p>Recognition of former CWB Members.</p> <p>Everyone is invited to join the Board for cake and</p>	<p>Co-Chair Seymour presented a gift to Ross Forrest, Klaus Kuhn and Jon Lefebure and expressed appreciation for the number of years they have contributed and commented that it is significant that elected officials can sit together at this table to work together on long-standing water issues.</p> <p>Chair Morrison added his appreciation to Klaus and Ross who were also part of the first meetings at the lake in 2008 that led</p>	

	coffee.	to the inception of Cowichan Lake and River Stewardship Society.	
	Adjourn	Next meeting – Mon. March 25 th , 9:30am	Adjourned

Discussion Details – Comments from Board members

6. Letter from MNC(MNC) requesting membership.

CWB is a partnership between CVRD and Cowichan Tribes – gov manual outlines how each party recognizes the authority of the other. Relationship of trust.
MNC is the largest land holder so makes sense but if MNC, then what about other municipal partners?
Letter was sent because a MNC councillor expressed interest in sitting on CWB
All CWB meetings are open so they are welcome
Partnership has a long history; unique in province.
Board membership is open to MNC by way of appointment by CVRD so this is CVRD decision.
Process by CVRD clarified – Chair sat down with each CVRD Director to discuss key priorities and goal.
There was not a strong expression by any MNC member of CVRD; would have had to have been a designated seat outside of the reps on CVRD.
City of Duncan is completely within the watershed whereas MNC isn't.
Caution to protect balance of membership – could leave Cowichan Tribes in minority situation.
Co-chairs can constantly review what is best for representing the watershed in various ways.
Financial contribution from CVRD to CWB is regional, so about 1/3 of the funding to CWB is from MNC.
Perception is that there is taxation without representation.
A lot of work has been done by CVRD to accept the authority of Cowichan Tribes – not a small accomplishment, unique in BC
Tom clarified that MNC can and does participate on TAC and Working Groups.

7. Annual Report and Business Plan

Annual Report is quite long; request for an Executive Summary

Clarification that Cowichan River water supply is # 1 priority
Staff is asking whether these the right components to emphasize within those broad categories introduced last month? E.g. where does water supply in Koksilah fit in? Looking for priorities – 1,2,3
Raising the weir in the Cowichan River is #1
Be conscious to create a report that can be easily quantified and replicated. Need to report out on these priorities at this time next year. Consider using check boxes to estimate % completion etc.
Priority 3 is critical to priority 1 and 2 - ecological systems and impacts - consistency across jurisdictions – can we get consistency / synchronicity between municipalities.
Need a reporting out on org health
Suggestion to keep content general in Business Plan; just the Annual plan would be detailed
Annual work plan is similar to past. We dropped the 3rd level of priority because its unreasonable that we will get to it if we are prioritizing a top 3.
There are a lot of references in CBWMP RE forestry practices in watershed and supporting riparian health.
We have active engagement from forest companies on TAC and WG's; don't want to see forest

management practices fall off the table. Make sure forestry companies know that we care and think things could be done better.

Q: Any hope that new CVRD watershed service might help with RAR enforcement?

A: Was not included in communications around service bylaw.

Don't expect a lot of engagement on forestry in 2019 due to focus on weir. Exception is Murray Ball's study. Point taken but it's a capacity issue.

Need a strong statement about the strategic priorities at the front end. Maybe water flows is all we can handle. We need to use this as a guiding principle.

End game should be Water Sustainability Plan. Can we set this up to gather info to support that? Want a clear statement in here committing to a date that we intend to have a WSP.

Farmers brought that up too – WSP would be the tool for this.

Add a written statement at the beginning clearly outlining the vision, including WSP.

8. Weir updates

Chief clarified that we got a letter from Minister Donaldson's staff that they will not consider holding a license for the weir.

FLNRO Larry Barr was instructed to work with us.

Co-Chairs had a meeting with Catalyst and CVRD about how to move forward.

Next steps are: a) set up a joint meeting with CWB, CT, CVRD, Catalyst and DFO and FLNRO Nanaimo.

b) continue to try to meet with Ministers, including Min MIRR Scott Fraser.

MLA has been very instrumental and supportive.

Believe that political meetings and discussions are the best possibility of movement.

Request to have Sonia attend a meeting with us to discuss

Catalyst is organizing cost estimates from companies to use in funding proposals for engineering phase.

Opinion has shifted that we need license before engineering/social impact piece – pursuing in other order now.

Fed election in fall means we should seek funding before June election cycle. Should we be asking for full \$15 million or just the funding for the next step? (~\$1.5million)

Engineering funding is easy to turn down because there is no principal who will move it forward after the engineering is done. That's the biggest issue. Has to be handled with more pressure at top level.

No other entity is willing to take on the license. We have a decision to reverse and the mechanism to reverse it is political.

Until we have the entity in place, there is a resolution on CVRD books to explore a tripartite LLP to be the owner of such. Seeking a resolution from CVRD to pursue the legal research into options.

Letter to public said to contact Pat Lapcevic if you have questions. David S offered that he plans to write on his own to ask them what they think the solution is.

Next step is to meet with FLNRO staff (Larry Barr).