Cowichan Watershed DRAFT Minutes **Board Meeting**

April 27, 2015 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

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



Participants: Cowichan Watershed Board

Chair: Jon Lefebure

Guests: Wilf Luedke, Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Welcome; Introductions, Opening Remarks	Chair Jon Lefebure welcomed Board members and guests and led a round of introductions.
2) Approval of Agenda	The agenda was approved as presented.
Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2014 meeting and Business Arising from Minutes	The minutes were approved as presented.
CWB Governance Survey Tool Description	Rodger Hunter described work that is being done regarding the governance survey tool. It should be finalized with the help of the Polis for testing with a few members.
	It was recommended that the survey and pilot project proposal utilizing the funding made available by BC Ministry of Environment through the CVRD to complete the project.
5) Target Updates and Related Discussion	
Flows Update	Brian Houle described the current situation with regard to lake level and flows. Unfortunately anticipated flows have not materialized. River flows were reduced to 20 cms and inflows are estimated at 25 cms so the lake level is rising. It is now about 10 cm below the weir. Catalyst will attempt to reduce the ramping down rate to 1cm per day. Discussion concerned the impacts of reduced flows on fish. On April 24 based on a recommendation from the Flows and Fish Working Group Catalyst has sought approval of a rule band if the lake level rises above full supply. It was recommended the Coordinator prepare a letter alerting the Ministry to the current situation and requesting a meeting.
• Riparian	Jean Atkinson provided an update on the amazing work by CLRSS regarding restoration of riparian habitat. A summary and full report on the riparian restoration work can be found at www.cowichan-lake-stewards.ca/ . Klaus Kuhn noted that progress is being made regarding protection of the property around the mouth of Shaw Creek at the northwest side of the Cowichan Lake. Klaus Kuhn noted that we have bylaws but

	enforcement is weak. It was suggested that signage reminding the public of bylaws would be valuable. CLRSS representatives noted that the Society intends to mount a communications campaign.
Conservation/Communications	David Slade reported that 7 local purveyors have accepted the water conservation challenge. Work is proceeding to ensure that apples to apples comparisons. David spoke at the BC Water and Waste Association meeting earlier this year and submitted an article in the Canada Waste water magazine. [LINK]
	It was noted that efforts should be made to utilize the same standards for water restrictions across the region this year. A student will be hired under the Canada Employment program to assist with water conservation/communications this summer.
6) Salmon Status Update and Discussion	Wilf Luedke provided a comprehensive presentation of Cowichan salmon with emphasis on Chinook Salmon and in particular the impacts of water levels, flows, temperature and critical habitats during various stages of their life history. [LINK] It was made clear that flows are particularly important and that because the Cowichan is lake headed there is a great opportunity to enhance conditions for Chinook by restructuring the weir.
7) Other Issues –Next meeting –date, time etc.	Dr. John Ford of DFO a noted Cetacian expert and Deborah Curran of the UVic Law Faculty will be the next two presenters at the CWB/VIU Speakers Series. The next Cowichan Watershed Board meeting was tentatively scheduled for May 25, 2015.